

EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
February 2009

Spotlights



The Ramapo Tomato was developed at Rutgers NJAES in 1968 by Dr. Bernard Pollack. Many years ago, it disappeared from seed catalogs. Seed companies favored varieties that produced higher yields for commercial growers. Despite its disappearance, Rutgers continued to receive many requests for this tasty tomato and produced small batches throughout the years. And now, the first commercial lot of organically grown, genuine Ramapo F1 hybrid seed is available through Rutgers NJAES. And Rutgers NJAES is bringing back another favorite. Moreton F1 hybrid tomato seeds were discontinued, but in cooperation with Eastern Seed Services and Harris Seed, they're back! Moreton is a tasty early-season tomato and is on the 2009 seed order form. For the 2009 growing season, Rutgers will be conducting consumer-driven research to find out how this early-season variety rates among gardeners and consumers for flavor and production. Both varieties may be ordered online at <http://njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/JerseyTomato.html>.



Rutgers NJAES now has resources on animal waste management available online. Please visit <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management/> for more information on animal waste management rules, training opportunities, and extension animal waste management updates.

Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

Gef Flimlin (Ocean County Marine and Resource Management agent) has been elected director of the U.S. Aquaculture Society (USAS). The USAS is a chapter of the World Aquaculture Society, a worldwide professional organization dedicated to the exchange of information and networking among the diverse aquaculture constituencies interested in the advancement of the aquaculture industry, through the provision of services and professional development opportunities.

Grants and Gifts

Luanne Hughes (Gloucester County FCHS educator) and **Linda Strieter** (Gloucester County 4-H agent) received \$28,000 from the Valero Benefit for Children Golf Classic in support of the Seeds to Success Youth Farmstand Project.

Jack Rabin (director of NJAES farm programs) received \$50,000 from Wickie Hom in December 2008 for vegetable research support.

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William Sciarappa (Monmouth County Agricultural and Resource Management agent) received \$2,500 from Rutgers Division of Continuous Education for the development of an online course in organic farming and gardening. This hybrid course will feature hands-on demonstrations at Monmouth County farms, gardens, and university research centers. Extensive online content and evaluation will be provided on E-College, in addition to video streaming of several extension faculty presentations (NJAES) with RU C-Box technology. Sciarappa also received \$10,000 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in collaboration with the Urban Coast Institute of Monmouth University to inform, provide outreach, and coordinate watershed remediation projects to the Wreck Pond municipalities.

Outreach Efforts: Public/Community Service

The North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium was held Jan. 6, 7, and 8 in Randolph. This program, known for decades as the Robin Hood Inn series, is the oldest continually offered educational program for green industry professionals offered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The 48th annual event was attended by nearly 400 professionals during Turf Day (Jan. 6), Tree Day (Jan. 7), and Landscape Day (Jan. 8). Participants were provided with training and information on emerging issues, pest management, best management practices, and regulations affecting their businesses. Speakers included RCE specialists, agents, and professional staff, as well as industry leaders and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection outreach coordinators. The RCE professionals who planned and delivered the training were **Madeline Flahive-DiNardo** (Union County Agricultural and Resource Management agent); **Brian Oleksak** (Sussex County Agriculture program associate); **Jan Zientek** (Essex County senior program coordinator); **Peter Nitzsche** (Morris County Agricultural and Resource Management agent); **Elaine Barbour** (Passaic County program assistant); and **Joel Flagler** (Bergen County Agricultural and Resource Management agent).

The 2009 Central Jersey Turf and Ornamental Institute was held at the NJNLA Conference and Trade Show at the Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, on Jan. 14 and 15. The team consisted of faculty and staff from Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Somerset, and Ocean Counties, which facilitated two half-day sessions for turf and ornamental maintenance professionals and pesticide applicators. Nearly 200 attended.

On Jan. 14, Monmouth County Agricultural and Resource Management Agent **William Sciarappa** and **Rick VanVranken** (Atlantic County Agricultural and Resource Management agent), developed and hosted a full-day session on organic crop production and marketing. The session was held as part of the 2009 Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention and Trade Show, sponsored by the Vegetables Growers Association of NJ and Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference. Approximately 75 participants heard presentations by **Joe Heckman**, **Jim Simon**, and **Bill Sciarappa** on organic raw milk, herb branding, and international developments, respectively. Invited guest speakers included NOFA-NJ Director Marc Bouvier, organic farmer David Winsberg from California, and Agriculture Marketing Specialist Stan Ernst from Ohio State University.



Thirty-eight Rutgers NJAES faculty and staff coordinated and/or presented at the 2009 Atlantic Coastal Agricultural Conference and Trade Show held Jan. 13–15 at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. Formerly the NJ State Vegetable Meetings, the three-day program, coordinated by RCE Vegetable Specialist **Mel Henninger** and the NJAES Vegetable Working Group, has expanded to include sessions on cut flowers, small fruit, blueberries, and grain/forage crops. Over 500 farmers, marketers and industry representatives attended sessions that covered production, pest control, alternative energy, labor management, the Internet, and other innovative marketing opportunities. This year, the program of the 26th Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference, coordinated by Atlantic County Agricultural Agent **Rick VanVranken**, was also incorporated into the event.

Thirty-seven farm market operators from New York to North Carolina visited a number of New Jersey farm markets in Atlantic, Cumberland, and Salem Counties, as well as the Rutgers NJAES Food Innovation Center on a full-day pre-conference tour on Jan. 12. An associated trade show coordinated by the Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey provided an opportunity to meet with and discuss products and services offered by more than 100 vendors.

The full program can be viewed at www.njveggies.org and proceedings of the educational program can be found at the new Rutgers NJAES Vegetable Resource website (www.njveg.rutgers.edu). The website is another project of the NJAES Vegetable Working Group spearheaded by **Andy Wyenandt** (specialist in vegetable pathology) and **Jack Rabin**.

Jenny Carleo (Cape May County Agricultural agent), **Nicholas Polanin** (Somerset County Agricultural agent), **Peter Nitzsche**, **Andrew Wyenandt**, and **Daniel Ward** (specialist in pomology) presented “Incidence and Severity of Powdery Mildew in Five Varieties of Zinnia,” at the Northeast Region American Society for Horticultural Science, Jan. 8–10 in Newark, DE.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is helping the children of military families to cope with the challenges of longer and more frequent deployments for parents who are active service personnel. Operation Military Kids (OMK) is a national initiative funded by the U.S. Army in partnership with the USDA - 4-H. Its purpose is to increase community support for military youth and their families.

New Jersey Operation: Military Kids has created or expanded programs that include:

- OMK Teen Speakers' Bureau
- Hero Packs - Care Packages for Military Children
- RSG! Trainings - Community Awareness Briefings
- Mobile Technology Lab - Connecting with Technology
- Project Young Heroes
- Teen Leadership Camp Out

Mark Your Calendars!

Fruit Tree Training and Pruning Demonstration for Commercial Growers

WHEN: February 26, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

WHERE: Rutgers Snyder Farm, 140 Locust Grove Rd., Pittstown

WHAT: Hands on training for commercial fruit growers

MORE INFO: \$10, register in advance; Diana Boesch, boesch@njaes.rutgers.edu, 908-788-1339



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Renewable Energy Training for Farmers (South Jersey)

WHEN: February 27, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

WHERE: Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County, Clayton

WHAT: Learn about the New Jersey Renewable Energy Incentive Program and how can it assist the farming industry in using onsite renewable energy.

MORE INFO: Contact Michelle Casella, minfante@njaes.rutgers.edu, 856-307-6450, ext. 1

Central Jersey Turf & Ornamental Institute

WHEN: March 4, 8:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m.

WHERE: Battleground Country Club, Millhurst Rd., Manalapan

WHAT: This event will benefit those who work in grounds maintenance, including school board members, maintenance supervisors, employees of highways, parks, cemeteries, industrial grounds, lawn and home ground services, garden center operations and nursery workers.

MORE INFO: \$40; Contact Rich Obal, obal@njaes.rutgers.edu, 732-431-7260.

Renewable Energy Training for Farmers (Central Jersey)

WHEN: March 6, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

WHERE: Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County, 4000 Kozloski Rd., Freehold

WHAT: Learn about the New Jersey Renewable Energy Incentive Program and how can it assist the farming industry in using onsite renewable energy.

MORE INFO: Contact Cyndi Surman, cyntha.surman@csggrp.com, 732-218-3417

North Jersey Fruit Meeting

WHEN: March 9, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

WHERE: Warren Grange No. 110, Asbury-Broadway Rd., Asbury

WHAT: For commercial growers only.

MORE INFO: \$20. Additional farm member registration: \$5. Lunch (optional): \$15 (pre-registration required for lunch). Contact Milly Rice, marnavy@hotmail.com, 908-475-6505

Horses 2009

WHEN: March 29–29, 2009

WHERE: Busch Campus Center

WHAT: Horses 2009 promises to be the most practical, informative event of the year. Designed as an intense learning experience, the conference offers the latest information on responsible horse ownership, equine health and behavior, nutrition, performance issues, equine facility operations, and other concerns.

MORE INFO: <http://www.esc.rutgers.edu/Horses2009/index.htm>

This report is produced by the Office of Communications. For information or to provide comments, please contact Amanda Kolling at kolling@njaes.rutgers.edu or 732-932-7000, ext. 4205.

