

EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
April 2011

New Leadership Announced for Rutgers Fisheries and Shellfisheries

Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources **Robert M. Goodman** announced new leadership at three Rutgers facilities that support fisheries and shellfisheries in New Jersey: the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory (HSRL), the Multispecies Aquaculture Development Facility (MADF), and the Cape Shore Laboratory. All three facilities are units of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) and now under the direction of the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS).



Dave Bushek

Dave Bushek, shellfish biologist and Rutgers professor of marine science, has been named director of HSRL. He succeeds Eric Powell, who has provided the laboratory with expert leadership for the last 16 years. During this time, Eric oversaw the expansion of the lab's finfish research while maintaining its internationally respected programs in shellfish stock assessments and shellfish research. HSRL is located in Port Norris, Cumberland County.

The Cape Shore Laboratory and the Multispecies Aquaculture Demonstration Facility are closely linked to the HSRL and have new independent leadership as well.

Greg DeBrosse, long-term facilities manager at the Cape Shore Laboratory, was appointed director of the facility, which is located in Green Creek, Cape May County. DeBrosse is responsible for managing shellfish broodstock, seed production, and general culture operations at the laboratory as well as MADF.



Greg DeBrosse



Mike DeLuca

Mike DeLuca, senior associate director of IMCS, was appointed director of MADF, a high-tech center in North Cape May, NJ. The facility promotes the growth and culture of finfish and shellfish, as well as training and outreach on species of commercial importance to New Jersey. DeLuca will manage all program activities associated with this facility.

The directors of all three facilities report directly to **Rich Lutz**, who was named director of IMCS in February.

According to Goodman, "These facilities operate seamlessly and collaboratively on program opportunities, each with its own clearly defined roles. The new directors will facilitate the scaling-up of seed production for both research and distribution, and will help diversify the research, education, and extension portfolio for aquaculture and fisheries development in New Jersey."



National Teach Ag Day Celebration

New Jersey celebrated National Teach Ag Day on March 31 with an event at the Essex County Vocational Technical School in West Caldwell, NJ, that was designed to encourage students to consider careers in agricultural education.

Rutgers Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources **Robert M. Goodman** joined New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher, Director of Career and Technical Education for the New Jersey Department of Education Marie Barry, as well as county, municipal, and school officials at the event.

Goodman highlighted the role of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences in preparing the next generation of leaders in the agricultural sciences and pledged Rutgers continuing efforts to educate teachers qualified to teach agricultural sciences in the state.



Robert Goodman delivering remarks at the event

New Jersey is one of only 18 states in the U.S. to implement the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) program into their school curricula. CASE is an instructional system that provides intense teacher professional development and curriculum that is changing the culture of agriculture programs.

Tiffany Morey, who earned a master's degree in teaching from Rutgers in 2010, is a first-year West Caldwell Tech agriculture teacher who is also a CASE-certified Teacher of Agriculture. Morey conducted a hands-on CASE lesson during the celebration at the Essex County Vocational Technical School, which offers students Introduction to Agriculture, Foods and Natural Resources, the first course in the CASE program. This summer, Morey is scheduled to take the training for the next CASE course, Principles of Agricultural Science – Plant, which will be offered at the school next year.

Frank Yesalavich, Essex County representative on the Rutgers NJAES Board of Managers, an agriculture teacher as well, also participated in the National Teach Ag Day celebration. The goal of Teach Ag Day is to celebrate school-based agricultural education and draw attention to the dire need for agricultural educators in the United States.

According to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, approximately 75 students are taking the introductory course at the West Caldwell center. In addition, seven other schools in New Jersey have implemented the CASE program into their curriculum this school year. The National Association of Agricultural Educators reports there are not enough agricultural educators graduating from college each year to fill all the open positions across the country.

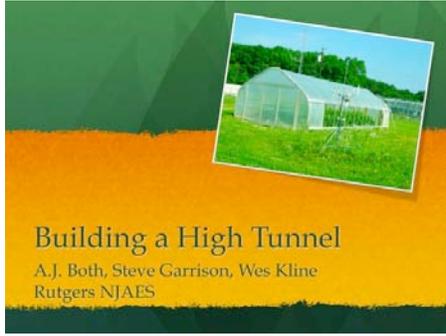
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Outreach Efforts: Public/Community Service

NJAES Web Instruction on How to Construct High Tunnels

Jack Rabin (associate director of farm programs, NJAES) recently unveiled a highly dynamic, re-tooled website containing extensive information on how to construct high tunnels, in an effort to



further assist commercial farmers in New Jersey to protect their high-value crops. Hosted on the NJAES "*Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe*" website, the web pages feature a wide range of information, including a step-by-step photo gallery describing the process of constructing a high tunnel.

The website asks and answers several important questions like, "Are high tunnels a way to improve my farm's bottom line? Can they work for me, in my situation?" The answer: "High tunnel costs and management are "scalable,"

meaning they offer equal "farm size neutral" benefits to smaller as well as larger farms, rather than requiring a large farm economy of scale, to realize their benefits." Reportedly, there are 1.9 million acres covered by high tunnels worldwide; 4,400 acres in the U.S., with 3,000 acres in California alone.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension agents **A.J. Both** (extension specialist in bioresource engineering), **Steve Garrison** (Rutgers Agricultural Research & Extension Center in Upper Deerfield, NJ), and **Wes Kline** (agricultural and resource management agent, Cumberland County) provided hands-on instruction using a modified Penn State high tunnel design with improved end wall construction and automated roll-up side vents. [Rick Vanvranken \(agricultural and resource management agent, Atlantic County\) serves as the web contact.](http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu/hightunnels.html) Visit the website at <http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu/hightunnels.html>.



RCE agents demonstrate trenching of water and electricity to a high tunnel under construction

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Blog for Farmers and Agriculture Professionals Launched

Rutgers NJAES field and forage crops & nutrient management extension specialists, with support from Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, have developed a new set of outreach tools, launching the first professional blog for farmers and ag professionals on April 18.



With postings right from the field, the blog provides Rutgers field and forage crops & nutrient management updates that are designed to be read quickly and applied on the spot by growers and agriculture professionals. Content includes New Jersey field observations, pests to watch for, planting dates, or short comments about nutrient and waste management, energy, and other inputs, which are directly accessible in the field on smart phones and other devices. Bloggers include

William Bamka (agricultural and resource management agent, Burlington County); **Stephen Komar** (agricultural and resource management agent, Sussex County); **Mike Westendorf** (associate extension specialist in animal sciences); and **Zane Helsel** (extension specialist in agriculture energy).

Visit the blog at <http://fieldforagecropsnutrientmanagement.blogspot.com/>.

Discovery Workshop: Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens

On March 16, the Rutgers Office of Community Engagement conducted the Discovery Workshop: Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens to a sold-out group at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) office in Monmouth County. **William Sciarappa** (agricultural and resource management agent, Monmouth County) and **Vivian Quinn** (program assistant, RCE of



Monmouth County), presented the benefits and "how-to" of building rain gardens. One clear advantage was the ability of rain gardens to filter out toxins before stormwater enters local bodies of water. The RCE office in Monmouth County boasts a beautiful rain garden that functions in every season.

In the afternoon session, **Michael Haberland** (agricultural and resource management agent, Burlington and Camden counties) presented "Water conservation for homeowners using rain barrels." Surprisingly, a one-inch rain event can produce an average of 500 gallons of rainwater from a simple rooftop. Rain barrels not only conserve water, but save money, reduce runoff, and protect valuable landscape.

Following the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to purchase materials and build their own rain barrels to take home. The group broke into teams to drill and install spigots, overflow spouts, and mosquito netting.



Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

The NE-1025 Turf Regional Research Project won the 2011 Northeast Award for Excellence in Multistate Research for its multistate project titled "Biology, ecology and management of emerging pests of annual bluegrass on golf courses," from the Northeastern Regional Association (NERA) of state agricultural experiment station directors. The Rutgers members of this project include **Stacy Bonos** (Plant Biology and Pathology); **Bruce Clarke** (extension specialist, Plant Biology and Pathology; director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science); **Jo Anne Crouch** (Plant Biology; and USDA-ARS); **Brad Hillman** (Plant Biology and Pathology; director Rutgers Cooperative Research); **Albrecht Koppenhöfer** (extension specialist, Entomology); **Jim Murphy** (extension specialist, Plant biology and Pathology); and **Ning Zhang** (Plant Biology and Pathology). Participants in the project will receive a plaque at the NERA Northeast Joint Summer Session luncheon on July 11 at the Mystic Hilton, in Mystic, CT.

Cesar Rodriguez-Saona PI (Entomology) and **Dean Polk** (fruit IPM coordinator, Rutgers Fruit and Ornamental Research and Extension Center) were awarded \$18,500 in IR-4 biopesticide grants for "Field-wide oriental beetle mating disruption in blueberries: A new, more realistic approach for its control."

Mark Your Calendars!

Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day

WHEN: April 30, 2011, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: George H. Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ.

WHAT: The annual event started by the State Board of Agriculture in 1906 for New Jersey farmers to better acquaint them with the experiments being conducted at the experiment station.

MORE INFO: <http://agfieldday.rutgers.edu/>.

Weed Management Class

WHEN: May 3, 2011, 9 a.m. to noon.

WHERE: RCE of Cumberland County, 291 Morton Road, Rosehayn, NJ

WHAT: Includes site assessment, type of planting, and management options.

MORE INFO: Contact Viola Carson, 856-451-2800, x4.

Stormwater Management in Your Backyard

WHEN: May 4, 2011, 8:45 a.m. to noon.

WHERE: RCE of Gloucester County, 1200 N. Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ.

WHAT: Participants will learn about ways to control stormwater in their backyard through the installation of rain gardens and rain barrels.

MORE INFO: Contact Mary Cummings, 856-307-6450 x1, cummings@njaes.rutgers.edu.

This report is produced by the Office of Communications and is available online at <http://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/boa/>.

For information or to provide comments, please contact Paula Walcott-Quintin at quintin@aesop.rutgers.edu or 732-932-7000, ext. 4204.

