

A REPORT FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
May 2013

Ray Samulis, Agricultural Agent of Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension (RCE) of Burlington County, is the New Jersey state director for the USDA program, AgrAbility, which provides assistance to injured and handicapped farmers. AgrAbility was originally funded through the 1990 Farm Bill and was led by Purdue University in partnership with Easter Seals to enable a high quality lifestyle for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities. For more information on the Mid-Atlantic chapter of the AgrAbility program, visit their website at <http://www.mid-atlanticagrability.com> or contact Samulis at Samulis@aesop.rutgers.edu or 609-265-5050.

Meredith Melendez, Senior Program Coordinator, RCE of Mercer County and Wesley Kline, Agriculture Agent RCE of Cumberland County, conducted a Food Safety for Direct Marketers course through NOFA-NJ in April. This course focused on Good Agriculture Practices and farm food safety plan creation. Thirty three participants attended this certificate course held at the Extension office in Mercer County.

Downy mildew (*Peronospora belbahrii*), a new disease of basil, was first reported in Florida in October 2007. Since then, basil downy mildew has resulted in significant losses throughout the US. Very little is known about the epidemiology of the pathogen. Since 2010, at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center (RAREC) in Bridgeton, NJ, conventional and biological fungicides have been evaluated for their efficacy for basil downy mildew in field trials run by Kathryn Homa, Robert Pyne, Andy Wyenandt, and Jim Simon of Department of Plant Biology and Pathology. Efforts in the breeding of resistance to downy mildew in sweet basil are currently being done on campus in New Brunswick.

Of Interest:

- Newly updated, the Factsheet *Periodical Cicadas: "17 Year Locusts"* by George Hamilton and Lou Vasvary is available at county offices or: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS220>
- New Rutgers NJAES Factsheet: *The Facts about Bats in New Jersey* by Brooke Maslo, Extension Specialist, Wildlife Ecology and Karen Leu, Wildlife Technician. Factsheet available at county offices or: <http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1207/bats-in-nj.asp>
- Remember that a pesticide label is a legal document. Those who apply or use the products need to read the label. Changes are often made to pesticide labels, and often those changes are not well publicized. Also, not all labels with the same active ingredients have the same wording. So read the label for the specific product you intend to use. Use rates and use restrictions can vary with geography, so information you get off the internet may not be accurate for your farm. You will only know that if you read the label. [Source: Plant & Pest Advisory, Field & Forage Crops Updates](#)
- **Q:** From a winegrape grower: Is the use of helicopters among the accepted standard operating procedures in fruit growing regions during Inversion Layer Freezes? **A:** While

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noise from helicopters might inconvenience some residential neighbors near a farm, this is an accepted practice associated with living in a rural setting. Frost protection via propellers is infrequent. But when needed, it needs to happen without delay. It is a good community courtesy to notify your local municipal police, and health/noise ordinance official on those infrequent times when helicopters are needed to save the vineyard crops in NJ. Read more response at:
<http://sustainingfarminguf.blogspot.com/2013/04/farm-calls-vineyards-helicopters-frost.html#more>

Events:

Blueberry Twilight Meeting

Thursday, May 30, 2012

5:30 pm

Atlantic Blueberry Company, 7201 Weymouth Rd.

Hammonton, NJ, 08037, NJ

For commercial growers only.

Gary C. Pavlis, at pavlis@aesop.rutgers.edu or 609-625-0056

Landowner Workshop - Making Your Land Available for Farming: Leasing 101

Saturday, June 1, 2013

10:00am – 12:30pm

Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ

Contact the State Agricultural Development Committee at hillary.barile@ag.state.nj.us or call 609-984-2504. See flyer at:

<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmlink/resources/leasing101course.pdf>

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Certification

June 5, 6, 7, 2013

Rutgers Food Innovation Center, South

Bridgeton, NJ

Contact Donna Schaffner at DFSchaffner@njaes.rutgers.edu or call 856-459-1900, ext. 4528.

Visit our Rutgers NJAES online resources:

Vegetable Crops Online Resource Center: <http://njveg.rutgers.edu>

Jersey Vegetable Crops Ag Updates: <http://jerseyvegscropsagupdates.blogspot.com>

Fruit Ag Updates: <http://jerseyfruitagupdates.blogspot.com>

Field & Forage Crops Nutrient Management Ag Updates:

<http://fieldforagecropsnutrientmanagement.blogspot.com>

Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe: <http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu>

What's in Season from the Garden State: <http://www.njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/archive.html>



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