

A REPORT FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
January 2014

When Rutgers College was designated the land-grant institution for New Jersey in 1864, early extension work was conducted through annual free public lectures on agriculture in each county. As the majority of New Jersey farmers could not be effectively reached this way, other methods of informing the public of agricultural research results were developed. By 1880, when the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) was established, bulletins were published, journals and newspapers carried informational articles, and faculty addressed gatherings at county agricultural meetings. Early extension efforts continued to develop throughout the late 19th century with the implementation of weekly courses in agriculture and 1–2 day educational “Farmers’ Institutes” that were conducted throughout the state. At the turn of the century, the experiment station provided speakers and exhibits for the regular agricultural trains operated by the State Board of Agriculture (SBOA). The SBOA also sponsored events like “Farmers’ Week” and “Field Day” at Rutgers’ College Farm where college and experiment station faculty conducted programs that delivered up-to-date agricultural information that reached a large number of farmers. Formal extension work began in New Jersey in 1912, with the appointment of a county agent in Sussex County and the organization of a Department of Extension in the NJAES. The Extension service was a natural development in the evolution of the institution, forming close linkages between the experiment station and the state, the laboratory and the field, and the scientist and the farmer. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act, which authorized the USDA and land-grant colleges to organize a nationwide system of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics. In 2014, we commemorate two significant anniversaries: the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act and the 150th anniversary of Rutgers’ designation as the land-grant institution of New Jersey. Join us as Rutgers Cooperative Extension celebrates 100 years of disseminating knowledge across New Jersey and looks ahead to another century of continuing and new initiatives that enhance New Jersey agriculture: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/extension100years>.

**Daniel Ward**, extension specialist in pomology, has been appointed founding director of the New Jersey Center for Wine Research and Education. **Ward** will continue in his role as specialist and associate research professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, in support of the tree and small fruit industries as well as the wine grape industry. In his role as Director of the New Jersey Center for Wine Research and Education, **Ward** will work with stakeholders in the rapidly growing New Jersey wine industry as well as colleagues at Rutgers and other higher education institutions in New Jersey to develop broad spectrum research and education programs to support the industry. **Ward** will continue to be based at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Upper Deerfield.

**Win Cowgill**, Hunterdon County agricultural agent, was an invited speaker at the 119th annual conference for the Idaho State Horticultural Society, where he spoke on “Tree Fruit Industry in New Jersey with Focus on Stone Fruit, Production and Marketing Trends.” He also participated in a panel discussion on “How Can we Minimize Biennial Bearing and Initiate Regular Cropping in Apples?” Society

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School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station  
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President Richard Bronson presented **Cowgill** with a plaque for his contributions to the science of pomology and his outstanding presentations at the conference, which was held November 4-5, 2013, in Napa, Idaho.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has been awarded a \$282,000 crop insurance education grant from the USDA's Risk Management Agency to ensure producers are equipped to effectively manage risk and ensure their businesses are productive and competitive. This marks the 13th year of the Garden State Crop Insurance Education Initiative partnership between Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County, NJDA, and USDA. The funding is designated for education and outreach to producers so they are fully informed of existing and emerging crop insurance products. All educational activities are structured to allow producers to have a true understanding of the kind of risks addressed by crop insurance; the features of existing and emerging crop insurance products; using crop insurance in managing risk; the impact of crop insurance on other risk management decisions; making an informed decision on crop insurance prior to sales closing date deadlines; and record keeping requirements of crop insurance. To learn more about crop insurance or a list of crop insurance agents in New Jersey, call the NJ Crop Insurance Education team at 1-800-308-2449 or visit <http://salem.rutgers.edu/cropinsurance>.

Several Rutgers NJAES personnel are featured speakers at *NJ Plants*, the Professional Landscape and Nursery Trade Show sponsored by the New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association in Edison, NJ, on January 21–22. Covering an array of topics and representing various departments and programs, speakers include: **Richard Buckley**, director of Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory, "Insect Management in Turf;" **Steve Rettke**, IPM program associate in greenhouse, nursery, and landscape, "Common Defoliators in the Nursery and Landscape Industry" and "Tree and Shrub Fertilizer vs. Arthropod Pest Management;" **Bruce Crawford**, director of Rutgers Gardens, "Native Plants that Sell;" **Richard Alomar**, assistant professor in landscape architecture, "Improved Adoption of Rain Gardens by NJ Residents;" **Tobiah Horton**, extension specialist in landscape architecture, "Reclaimed Materials in Landscape Design and Construction;" **Pedro Perdomo**, instructor for Office of Continuing Professional Education, conducting four sessions in Spanish; **Patricia Hastings**, pesticide safety education program coordinator for NJ, "Pesticide Safety;" **Nick Polanin**, Somerset County agriculture agent, "Stop the Mulch Madness;" **Cristi Palmer**, IR-4 ornamental horticulture manager, "Impatiens Downy Mildew;" **Chris Obropta**, extension specialist in water resources, "Storm Water Management in the Landscape;" and **James Murphy**, extension specialist in turf management, "NJ Certified Fertilizer Applicator Update" and "Soil Nutrient Management."

#### Events:

**Organic Land Care Certificate Course**, January 27-29 and February 3-4, Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ. For information, call 732-398-5275 or visit <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/organiclandcare>.



**2014 New Jersey Vegetable Growers Association Annual Convention and New Jersey Agricultural Convention and Trade Show**, February 4-6, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City. Executive Dean Bob Goodman will address the SBOA at its annual meeting on February 6.

**South Jersey Tree Fruit Grower Meeting**, February 13, Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Upper Deerfield. For information, contact Karen Holton, [Holton@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:Holton@aesop.rutgers.edu) or 856-455-3100, ext. 4104.

**North Jersey Vegetable Meeting**, February 20, Rutgers Snyder Farm, Pittstown. For information, call Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon County at 908 788-1339.

**Central Jersey Vegetable Meeting**, February 21, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County, Freehold, NJ. For information, call 732-431-7260, ext. 7261.

**The Ethnic Greens and Herbs Workshop** in Valley Forge, PA, on March 3, 2014, will focus on assisting produce industry members, researchers, and Extension personnel with better understanding of consumer perceptions and factors that drive the ethnic greens and herbs market. Funding provided by a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Specialty Crop Research Initiative grant is allowing researchers from Rutgers, Penn State, University of Massachusetts, and University of Florida to host the workshop at no charge. To register, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8XBXFHC>.

**North Jersey Commercial Fruit Grower Meeting**, March 7, Warren Grange #10, Asbury. To register, contact Diana Boesch at [boesch@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:boesch@njaes.rutgers.edu) or 908-788-1339.

**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>

