

A REPORT FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
July 2014

Amy Lynn Raudenbush has been hired as Program Associate I in Atlantic County and will provide leadership and support, in collaboration with Fruit IPM Agent **Dean Polk** and other faculty, in identifying and conducting integrated pest management (IPM) program needs, coordination, and general program support for commercial blueberry and other fruit growers. She will hire, train, and supervise students and other hourly employees and lead grower education efforts relating to program recommendations and interpreting IPM data. **Raudenbush** will also evaluate pest, pesticide use, and program impacts. She will collaborate with researchers on integrating on-farm research and demonstration projects with industry practices, and work with county faculty in developing fertility practices and other 'non-pest' program components.

Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc can produce excellent wine grapes and wine in New Jersey, but the effect of cluster thinning on optimal yields has not been established. A study by Lawrence Coia, president of the Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association and owner of Coia Vineyards, and **Dan Ward**, extension specialist in pomology, suggests that high-quality grapes and wines can be made from these varieties under various climatic conditions and without the necessity of economically unsustainably low yields that can result from cluster thinning. The report, "Cluster thinning effects on crop yield and quality of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc grown in the Eastern US" can be found on the July 14 Plant & Pest Advisory post at: <http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/category/fruit/small-fruit/wine-grape>.

In a SARE funded project, grower Morris Globo, who immigrated to New Jersey from Liberia, is working with **Rick VanVranken**, Atlantic County agricultural agent, growing ethnic African vegetables like eggplant and Malabar spinach along with culinary pot herbs like jute and roselle hibiscus. Jute leaf is popularly eaten as a culinary herb in Africa and Asia and is cultivated worldwide for fiber for fabric like burlap and twine. In its native West Africa, roselle is popularly eaten as a culinary herb and the red calyces are widely used in rice dishes and infusions.

On July 17, an NJAES Board of Managers Listening Session was hosted by NJAES, the NJAES Board of Managers (BOM), the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey SBOA and the New Jersey Farm Bureau at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown. The NJAES BOM is an advisory body to the Executive Director of NJAES, with members appointed by Rutgers Board of Governors from each county. The session addressed the engagement of all NJAES stakeholders in the future make-up of the BOM. The six areas of the NJAES mission are: commercial ag; environment and natural resources; fisheries and aquaculture; food, nutrition, and health; home and garden; and youth, community, and economic development. Representatives from private industry and state and local organizations presented impacts of Extension programs on their operations, highlighting how essential the environmental and food safety services and cost savings are to their companies. Youth development representatives spoke of Extension's role in providing youth and teens direction through 4-H and TEEM Gateway programs. BOM representatives conducted and presented a member survey to determine their roles in other Extension areas outside of ag.

Professor Emeritus of Plant Breeding and Genetics **Bernard "Bernie" Pollack** passed away on July 14, at the age of 94. **Pollack** joined Rutgers in 1960 as faculty in the Department of Horticulture and Forestry, and retired in 1985. While his work in vegetable breeding extended to eggplant, pepper, and tomatoes, **Pollack** is most renowned for his development of the Ramapo tomato, which, in the 1960s, offered New Jersey fresh market growers a tomato with quality, disease and crack resistance, and durability. As the popularity of this tomato never waned despite its

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disappearance from the market, during his retirement, **Pollack** assisted NJAES in bringing this variety back to market. During the 1970s **Pollack** worked extensively with New Jersey growers doing vegetable variety trials and implementing trickle irrigation and plasticulture systems. Working with USAID, he travelled throughout Africa to further the development of trickle irrigation in African agriculture. During his travels, he collected eggplant germplasm and created one of the most extensive collections, containing 536 eggplant varieties. Donations can be made in **Bernard Pollack's** name to the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences Academic Excellence Fund: <http://makeagift.rutgers.edu>.

Of Interest:

The forum "GMOs: Questions and Answers for New Jersey Farmers" has been videotaped and is available for viewing online. Highlights of the forum and resources are also provided on the post: <http://sebsnjaesnews.rutgers.edu/2014/07/rutgers-njaes-hosts-gmo-forum-for-new-jersey-farmers>.

The recent wet weather has been ideal for development of late blight across most of the mid-Atlantic region. **Andy Wyenandt**, extension specialist in vegetable pathology, reports that late blight is spreading in Pennsylvania and was reported this past week in Clinton, Lackawanna, and Berks Counties. To date, no late blight has been reported in New Jersey on potatoes or tomatoes. However, New Jersey tomato and potato growers should be scouting and applying preventative fungicides on a regular basis.

Events:

Vegetable Twilight Meeting and Research Tour

Thursday, August 21, 2014, 5:30 p.m. (meet in parking lot)
Rutgers Agricultural Research & Extension Center
121 Northville Road, Bridgeton, NJ (Upper Deerfield)
Contact: 856-451-2800

Join Rutgers for a twilight meeting in the field to learn about recent innovations for successful control of key vegetable diseases and weeds. There will be a tour of research plots with presentations by the investigators. Pesticide credits have been requested.

Visit our Rutgers NJAES online resources:

Vegetable Crops Online Resource Center: <http://niveg.rutgers.edu>
Plant & Pest Advisory: <http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu>
Commercial Ag Updates: <http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/?cat=139>
Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe and blog: <http://sustainable-farming.rutgers.edu>
What's in Season from the Garden State: <http://www.njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/archive.html>



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