

A REPORT FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
January 2015



*Hemant Gohil*

**Hemant Gohil** began service on January 1st as County Agricultural and Resource Management Agent in Gloucester County. **Gohil** earned a B.S. in Agriculture from Gujarat Agricultural University, M.S. in Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences from Texas A&M, and PhD. in Applied Sciences-Plant Pathology from University of Florida. He most recently served as Technology Transfer Specialist in wine grape production at the University of Washington. Before that he was a Field Technical and Research Intern with Valent BioSciences, and a post-doc at California State University. At RCE, **Gohil** will provide leadership to develop, implement, and evaluate educational programming, as well as applied and evaluative research appropriate to the needs of the clientele in commercial perennial crop production and management, specifically tree fruit, wine grapes, and nursery. He can be reached at the RCE office in Gloucester County at 856-307-6450 and by email at [gohil@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:gohil@njaes.rutgers.edu).



*Kaneshia Reynolds-Allie*

**Kaneshia Reynolds-Allie** began service on January 1st as County Agricultural and Resource Management Agent in Warren County. **Reynolds-Allie** earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Northern Caribbean University, M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Tuskegee University, and Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Auburn University. She most recently completed a post-doctoral Extension Economist position at Auburn University related to the marketing of local and international food products. At RCE, **Reynolds-Allie** will provide leadership to develop, implement, and evaluate educational programming and research appropriate to the needs of the clientele in agricultural centered economic development, including farm-to-market business development, production and marketing of traditional and new agricultural products, enterprise analysis, agritourism, and related economic and community development activities. She can be reached at the RCE office in Warren County at 908-475-6505 and by email at [kallie@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:kallie@njaes.rutgers.edu).

The New England Nursery Association (NENA), in cooperation with the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI), announced that Associate Extension Specialist in Nursery Production and Management **Raul Cabrera** is the first recipient of the association's Industry Growth Fund grant award. After a review of 60+ grant applications, NENA selected **Cabrera's** research project, "Use of Alternative Irrigation Water Sources for Urban Landscapes and Nursery Crops," as its top recommendation for funding.

**Kenneth McKeever**, professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, and director for research at the Rutgers Equine Science Center, was recently appointed to the Association of Racing Commissioners International's Scientific Advisory Board.

**Nicholi Vorsa**, research professor and director of the Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension, has been named fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

Extension Specialist in Entomology **Anne Nielsen** presented "How To Manage BMSB and Not Abandon IPM," at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo in December in Grand Rapids, MI. **Nielsen** reported that trapping is an effective way to monitor and manage the pest. **Nielsen's** research team tested a coroplast pyramid trap from AgBio, Inc. and found it was effective in attracting the pests. Growers can benefit from reduced insecticide use, costs, and impact on the environment. Other traps are available from RESCUE!®.

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In New Jersey, most organic producers and land care providers are required to have a pesticide applicator license. At the annual NOFA-NJ Winter Conference held January 23 – 25, Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator **Patricia Hastings** conducted sessions on “Safety, Licensing & Pesticides in Organic Farming Systems in New Jersey” and “User’s Guide to Personal Protective Equipment: Interpreting Label Statement.”

#### Of Interest:

The new *2015 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* guide is now available at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=E001>. Hard copies can be obtained at the New Jersey Ag Convention and Trade Show or from county Extension offices. Ever wonder how the guide is updated? Every year, horticulturists, plant pathologists, entomologists, and weed specialists from Rutgers, Penn State University, the University of Delaware, Virginia Tech, the University of Maryland, and West Virginia University meet to discuss what changes should be made to the guide based on new research results and changes in the vegetable industry. To update the guide for 2015, the horticulture group met at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Upper Deerfield in the fall of 2014. It takes the team about four hours to go through the guide to discuss updates that should be made and determine who will be responsible for each section. According to Elsa Sanchez, associate professor of horticultural systems management at Penn State University, “We have some great interactions and leave more knowledgeable about vegetable production than when the meeting started.”

The factsheet “Fundamentals of Container Media Management: Part I” (FS812) **Cabrera, R., & Johnson, J.** has been updated and is available at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS812>

#### Events:

Join us for informational sessions and NJAES updates at the NJ Agricultural Convention and Trade Show and the 2015 Annual State Ag Convention at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, February 3 – 5.

Rutgers NJAES partners with the University of Maryland and the University of Delaware Extension programs to organize the annual Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture Conference, which this year will be held on February 13 at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino in Delaware. Rutgers Senior Program Coordinator **Meredith Melendez** with RCE of Mercer County, is on the planning committee and will present “Farm Food Safety: Are Germs Hiding on Your Farm?” Cape May County Agricultural Agent **Jenny Carleo** has been on the conference planning committee since 2008 and assists with advertising. On February 12, there will be a half-day pre-conference on Agritourism. For more information, go to <http://extension.umd.edu/womeninag/2015-conference>.

Four out of five New Jersey farmers do not have written estate plans. Who will inherit your farm when it is time? A written will is not enough. To help you ensure that your wishes are honored when the time comes, RCE is hosting three “Preparing for Later Life Farming” workshops, which will be held regionally in New Jersey: February 9, 2015 @ RCE of Somerset County; February 10, 2015 @ the Rutgers EcoComplex; February 11, 2015 @ RAREC, Bridgeton. For more information visit: <http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/workshop-preparing-for-later-life-farming>

The Central Jersey Vegetable Meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the RCE of Monmouth County Ag Bldg., 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold. Contact Joanne or Dorey 732-431-7260, ext. 7280.

