

A REPORT FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
February 2015

The Northeastern IPM Center reports that it is estimated that growers in the Northeast could lose tens of thousands of dollars per farm each year as they try to manage spotted wing drosophila (SWD), a small vinegar fly that lays eggs on fruit such as raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, grapes, and late-season peaches. In a January update, the Center summarized progress in tackling this pest, including the Regional IPM Competitive Grant of \$175,000 awarded to Extension Specialist in Entomology **Cesar Rodriguez-Saona**, for research on sustainable management of SWD. The Center reported that scientists are trying to determine the best bait and trap design to control SWD and cited Fruit IPM Agent **Dean Polk**'s recommendation of a fermentation product (flour and yeast in apple cider vinegar) as the best type of bait, followed by Trece, a commercial lure. **Polk** added that researchers have not yet developed threshold limits for SWD management, because trap catches are inconsistent relative to infestation in fruit.

Rutgers NJAES was honored to have two Extension faculty awarded with the Distinguished Service Citation to New Jersey Agriculture by the State Board of Agriculture at the State Agricultural Convention, retired Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County Agricultural Agent and Professor Emeritus **John (Jack) Kupcho**, and **Richard VanVranken**, agricultural agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County. **VanVranken** was also recently the recipient of the 2014 Northeast Region Excellence in Extension award from the Cooperative Extension Committee on Organization & Policy.

The individual mandate to purchase health insurance has been in effect since 2014 and the employer mandate to provide coverage (aka, "shared responsibility provision") takes effect in 2015 or 2016, depending on the size of a business enterprise. Penalties for not providing health care coverage go into effect in 2015 for employers with 100 or more employees and in 2016 for employers with 50 or more workers. Extension Specialist in Financial Resource Management **Barbara O'Neill** presented the "The Affordable Care Act and Farm Families" seminar on February 18 which described how the Affordable Care Act affects farm families both as individual consumers and as employers.

Of Interest:



*Kristian Holmstrom (left), research project coordinator for Rutgers Vegetable IPM Program, works with IPM field technician Jeff Kane to identify signs of caterpillar infestation on sweet corn at Katona Farms in Chesterfield, NJ.*

The Rutgers NJAES Vegetable Integrated Pest Management Program helps farmers manage crop pests in a practical and profitable way. The program offers twice weekly visits for checking blacklight and pheromone traps to monitor insect pest population levels and field scouting of vegetable crops for insect and disease pests, weeds and other problems. The program is seeking to enroll new farms, especially in South Jersey. To enroll, go to <http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/Vegetable/index.htm> or email **Joe Ingerson-Mahar**, senior program coordinator at [mahar@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:mahar@njaes.rutgers.edu) or **Kris Holmstrom**, program coordinator at [holmstrom@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:holmstrom@njaes.rutgers.edu).

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The Ramapo F1 hybrid tomato continues to be a New Jersey favorite, especially for transplant sales. To buy bulk seed for commercial sales of Ramapo tomato, Rohrer's Seed in Smoketown, PA is handling Ramapo bulk seed sales. The contact person is Jim Gamber at (717) 299-2571 ext. 330 or [jgamber@rohrerseeds.com](mailto:jgamber@rohrerseeds.com). Rutgers NJAES continues to provide point of purchase plant tags and a listing for consumers of where to buy Ramapo tomatoes and plants. Find more information at <http://www.njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/CommercialGrowerInformation.htm>.

#### Events:

##### **On-Farm Food Safety Training**

February 25, 2015

Rutgers Snyder Research Farm

140 Locust Grove Rd

Pittstown, NJ

An on-farm food safety training for both wholesale and retail producers will focus on Good Agricultural Practices. The afternoon session will offer two tracks: third party audit specific information, and food safety plan writing.

To register call the Rutgers Cooperative Extension office of Cumberland County at 856-451-2800, ext. 1.

##### **Topics in Nursery Production**

Featured Speaker: **Raul Cabrera**, extension specialist in nursery production and management

"The Future of Rutgers Nursery Crops Program"

March 3, 2015

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County Extension Education Center

291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ

856-451-2800, ext. 1

Register by Monday, February 27. For more information go to:

<http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Nursery-Meeting-SoJersey-Mar3-2015.pdf>

##### **Visit our Rutgers NJAES online resources:**

Download the mobile application for Rutgers NJAES: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/app>

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

