

A REPORT FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
April 2016



*Board of Managers and guests in mint greenhouse. Jim Simon, far left.*

Members of the NJAES Board of Managers (BOM) invited fellow county board of ag members as well as county and state ag officials to attend a tour of NJAES facilities and research. The 2016 tour took place on March 24 and encompassed research conducted on the George H. Cook Campus in New Brunswick and at the Snyder Research Farm in Pittstown. The county representatives were joined by Al Murray, assistant secretary of agriculture, NJDA, and Peter Furey, executive director, New Jersey Farm Bureau. The on-

campus portion of the tour was hosted by **Jim Simon**, distinguished professor of plant biology, and director of the New Use Agriculture and Natural Plant Products Program. A leading global researcher for his work in horticulture, **Simon** also focuses on medicinal and aromatic plants, and specializes in plant natural products and new crops. The group first toured the campus greenhouse where much of his breeding work with botanicals, such as basil, mint and catnip, is done. **Simon** introduced doctoral student in plant biology **William Reichert**, who discussed research on catnip lines he and **Simon** have developed with custom-designed essential oil composition. The BOM tour group then traveled to the Rutgers Snyder Research Farm where they were welcomed by farm director **John Grande** and Hunterdon County agricultural agent **Win Cowgill**. **Grande** and farm supervisor **Ed Dager** took the group on a wagon tour of the farm. **Grande** explained the history of the farm and how it was acquired by Rutgers. **Cowgill** discussed his tree fruit research, which focuses on rootstock trials, variety trials, growth regulator work and exploring different growing and methods/training systems. Fruit IPM agent **Dean Polk** spoke about the tree fruit integrated pest management research conducted on the farm.

Professor **Win Cowgill** retired on April 1 after 38 years of service. **Cowgill** started his extension career in 1978 as a county agricultural agent in Warren County and transferred to Hunterdon County in 1989. He served as the area fruit agent for North Jersey for most of his career. **Cowgill** helped establish the Rutgers Snyder Farm when it was donated to Rutgers in 1988. He built a state-of-the-art tree fruit research and extension station at Snyder Farm, conducting over 200 applied research projects on various tree fruit crops on 14 acres of orchard he helped establish. **Cowgill** was promoted to full professor in 1993 and has published over 500 articles and papers during his career. He plans to continue as editor of *Horticultural News*, write regular columns for *American and Western Fruit Grower Magazine*, and consult for fruit growers worldwide. He can be reached at [cowgill@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:cowgill@aesop.rutgers.edu).

Agricultural Agents **Rick Van Vranken** (Atlantic County) and **Meredith Melendez** (Mercer County) were interviewed by *American Farm Marketer* for the article, "Farmers' Market Friendly Laws Can Be Trumped by Health Boards."

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Of Interest:

*Revolutionary for  
250 Years*



Enos Perry

Rutgers Revolutionary: **Enos J. Perry** was a Rutgers extension specialist in dairy husbandry from 1923 to 1956. His great contribution to agriculture was the establishment of the first cooperative artificial breeding association for cattle in New Jersey and the U.S., and the practical application of the technique of artificial insemination (AI) of farm animals. **Perry** initiated the first dairy cattle AI co-op in the U.S. in 1938, and his book, *“The Artificial Insemination of Farm Animals”* published in 1945, was the standard reference manual on the subject, providing vital information on artificial insemination for thousands of workers and students. This made it possible for small farmers to eliminate the use of dangerous bulls and focusing instead on select, proven dairy bulls leading to improved genetic makeup, milk production, and physical conformation. To read more about **Perry’s** legacy, visit:

<http://sebsnjaesnews.rutgers.edu/2014/03/100-years-of-cooperative-extension-rutgers-dairy-specialist-enos-j-perry-making-agricultural-history>.

New Fact sheet available: “New Jersey’s Right to Farm Act - What It Is and How It Works” (FS1253) by David Kimmel, agricultural resource specialist, SADC; Jeffrey Everett, chief of agricultural resources, SADC, and **Brian Schilling**, extension specialist in agricultural policy.

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1253>.

The “2016 Fungicide Resistance Management Guidelines for Vegetable Crops” is now available. This free publication helps New Jersey and Mid-Atlantic vegetable growers understand and manage potential fungicide resistance development on their farm

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=E001-F>.

Events:

**Food Waste-to-Low Carbon Energy Conference, April 27-28, 2016**, New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health, Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ <http://ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/conferences>

**Vegetable Integrated Crop Management Twilight Meeting, April 28, 2016**, 6–9:00 p.m., East Vineland Fire Hall, Landis Ave., Vineland, NJ, UAV’s rules, remote sensing, training, and licensing; WPS; soil organic matter; insects, disease; and hot water seed treatment. Contact: RCE of Atlantic County at 609-625-0056.

**Empowering Woman Farmers with Agricultural Business Management Training, May 12, 2016**, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County, Bridgewater, NJ.

This one-day workshop includes one-on-one financial consulting; presentations from ag industry leaders; international speakers for a global perspective; social media marketing training; and time to begin a written business plan. <https://ce-catalog.rutgers.edu/coursedisplay.cfm?schiD=60967&check=1>.

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