

EXECUTIVE DEAN OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
July 2016



Presentation of the NJ Joint Legislative Resolution to the Rutgers Equine Science Center. L-R: Ann Dorsett, Liz Durkin, Sharon Ortepio, Karyn Malinowski, Carey Williams, Brad Hillman, and Wendie Cohick.

Close to 100 people participated in the July 13th kickoff celebration of the Rutgers Equine Science Center (ESC) Summer Showcase marking the center's 15-year anniversary. Welcoming remarks were given by **Karyn Malinowski**, director of the ESC, **Wendie Cohick**, chair of the Department of Animal Sciences, and **Brad Hillman**, director of research at NJAES. A congressional certificate from U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (NJ-01) was presented by Sharon Ortepio, chair of the NJDA Equine Advisory Board (NJEAB). Ann Dorsett, vice-chair of the NJEAB presented the ESC with a joint legislative resolution, sponsored by NJ senator Bob Smith and NJ assemblymen Joseph Egan and Joseph Danielsen. The center was also honored with a ceremonial proclamation from the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, sponsored

by Lillian Burry. Guests were treated to a high-speed equine treadmill demonstration and the laboratory, where **Malinowski** and graduate students **Dylan Klein** and **Kate Goodman** discussed the types of research currently under way. **Carey Williams**, associate professor and equine extension specialist, discussed the equine skeleton, using "Wishbone," the center's life-size model. The final station was fun and games with guests participating in "Equine Science Jeopardy," testing their horse knowledge with **Nettie Liburt** (SEBS '11), Ph.D. in endocrinology and animal biosciences.



James R. Johnson

Cumberland County agricultural agent **Jim Johnson** will retire on September 1. During Johnson's 34 year career at Rutgers, he conducted an extension education program for commercial producers of nursery crops in South Jersey. His programmatic efforts focused on maximizing productivity while enhancing environmental quality. He conducted research on soil fertility, water quality, and development of pest management monitoring and control techniques for use in commercial nurseries. Since 2004 **Johnson** had primary responsibility for developing and coordinating the nursery integrated pest management program for New Jersey and he was also the county extension department head in Cumberland County since 1999. A retirement open

house will be held for **Johnson** at RCE of Cumberland County on August 26. For more information, call 856-451-2800, ext. 1.

In the News:

The Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center (RAREC) in Upper Deerfield was featured on NJ.com in the July 13 article, "This South Jersey farm experiments to improve crops". RAREC director **Dan Ward**, extension specialist in pomology, was quoted, describing the center's mission: "Our

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purpose is to generate information for those in this region, provide leadership to the growers in the region and industry. We generate new info, research and deliver it."

Gloucester County agricultural agent **Michelle Infante-Casella** was quoted in the cover story of AAA World Magazine for July/August 2016 for the article, "Down on the Farm." The article mentions that New Jersey ranks first in the nation for agritourism, with **Infante-Casella** noting that despite its small land mass, the state's success is due in large part to New Jersey's dense population.

Of Interest:

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was first found in New Jersey in 2014 in Somerset County. EAB is now present in 25 U.S. states. It was first discovered in Michigan in 2002 and has since killed tens of millions of ash trees. The NJ EAB Task Force is comprised of representatives from the NJDA, NJ State Forest Service, USDA APHIS, Rutgers, and the US Forest Service. The Task Force works to collaborate on EAB management decisions and advice, and to consolidate and disburse information and resources relevant to EAB in New Jersey. **Rich Buckley**, director of the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab, has agreed to examine samples for EAB at no charge as long as they are brought to the lab. Contact information for the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab is at: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/plantdiagnosticlab/contact.asp>. Residents should bring the beetle, larvae, or sample of symptomatic tissue (chunk of bark with exit wound).

The following fact sheet is now available on NJAES Publications:

FS1254: New Jersey's Agricultural Mediation Program. Kimmel, D., **Schilling, B.**, and Everett, J.
<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS1254>

Events:

Matt Elmore is the new extension specialist in weed science for turf, landscape, pastures, and forages. He will join the Rutgers faculty in November 2016, but prior to that, he will be speaking at both **Turfgrass Field Days** (August 2 and 3). His position is being supported over the next three years by the turfgrass industry. Golf and Fine Turf Day will be held at Rutgers Hort Farm II in North Brunswick on Aug. 2, and Lawn, Landscape & Sports Field Day will be at Adelphia Research Farm in Freehold on Aug. 3.
http://njta.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/FieldDaysReg2016_2pgs.pdf

A **beginner farmer training course** will be held in the fall at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown, NJ. This is the first in a series of classroom and hands-on workshops over the next two years that NJAES will provide to participants of all ages to get started farming on a small scale. The full day of training will provide overviews of resources available to the beginner farmer with various ag agencies on hand. There will be a program fee which covers a light breakfast, and lunch. Participants will be able to register and pay online. A detailed website with program materials will be posted when the class begins. The program is being hosted by agricultural agents **Bill Hlubik** (Middlesex County), **Ray Samulis** (Burlington County), and **Madeline Flahive- DiNardo** (Union County). Details on dates and locations will be announced soon.



Special Summer Happenings:

In Colonial days, the mid-Atlantic region was the epicenter of hops production in the U.S. During the early 1900s, disease and prohibition sent hops production to the northwestern states. The proliferation of craft breweries and a Rutgers study could help bring this crop back to New Jersey. The two-year study, funded by a grant from the USDA NESARE, focuses on identifying the best practices for growing and analyzing hops, a traditionally risky and expensive crop to grow. The project includes creating and maintaining a quarter-acre trial hops plot at the Snyder Research Farm in Pittstown, NJ, that is managed by two Rutgers doctoral candidates in plant biology, **Megan Muehlbauer** and **Robert Pyne**. They are directed in this project by **Jim Simon**, professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology and director of the Rutgers new-use agriculture and natural products program. In June, agricultural agents **Steve Komar** (Sussex) and **Bill Bamka** (Burlington) coordinated a “Malt Barley and Hops Research Twilight Meeting.” **Komar** and **Bamka**, who are running a spring malting barley trial at Snyder Farm, discussed the varieties at the meeting, while **Muehlbauer** and **Pyne** covered the hops variety trial. A representative from Double Eagle Malt House in Montgomery County, PA, spoke about the specifications for malt required by malt houses.



Rutgers’ yearlong celebration of its 250th anniversary is highlighted this summer at NJ county fairs. For generations, Rutgers Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program has been a vital partner in the state’s county fair tradition. In addition to annual favorites like Rutgers 4-H animal shows and Rutgers Master Gardeners home horticulture information booths, new features appearing at the county fairs will showcase the “Rutgers, Revolutionary for 250 Years” theme. At a special Rutgers 250 tent, fairgoers will have the chance to recreate the historic signing of the charter that launched Queens College, the precursor of Rutgers University, on November 10, 1766. Interactive cut-out figures for photo opportunities and Rutgers 250 NJAES plant breeding products are also featured.



The NJAES breeding products continue to be highlighted throughout the year, with one all-star product featured each month. So far this summer, the Scarlet Fire™ dogwood was featured in June and the TangOs® peach is being featured for July. The dogwood is the first *Cornus kousa* variety released in over 45 years to the ornamental nursery market. Associate professor in plant biology and pathology **Tom Molnar** continued the decades of work started by renowned breeder and professor emeritus **Elwin Orton** in the 1970s. Associate professor of plant biology and pathology and director of the Rutgers Fruit and Ornamental Research Extension Center **Joseph Goffreda** has dedicated nearly three decades of research to the tree fruit breeding program. Last year, he won an “Inventor of the Year” award from the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame for breeding a hybrid peach, ‘NJF16’. Marketed under the name TangOs®, this variety is less susceptible to pests and major diseases, particularly bacterial spot.

