

A REPORT FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
February 2017

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (formerly the Department of Agricultural and Resource Management Agents), has announced the availability of two tenure-track faculty positions that have recently been vacated due to retirement. A County Agent III position at Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) of Ocean County will have programmatic responsibilities in Ocean, Atlantic, and Monmouth counties. The agent will provide leadership to develop, implement, and evaluate educational programming, as well as applied and evaluative research for clientele in aquaculture and commercial fisheries in the areas of production, marketing, post-harvest processing, management, and stock assessments; and environmental stewardship and coastal resource management. A County Agent III with RCE of Hunterdon County will have programmatic responsibilities in Hunterdon and northern New Jersey counties. This position will provide leadership to develop, implement, and evaluate educational programming, and applied and evaluative research for clientele in commercial tree fruit production with a focus on management and marketing, and maintain knowledge and provide assistance to commercial small fruit, wine grape, and related commodities.



Andy Wyenandt

Extension specialist in plant pathology **Andrew Wyenandt** and Mercer County farmer Scott Ellis were honored February 8 with Distinguished Service to Agriculture citations by the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture during the New Jersey State Agricultural Convention in Atlantic City. In a press release, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher said, "New Jersey is fortunate to have outstanding individuals who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of the Garden State's agriculture industry. The leadership and experience of Scott and **Dr. Wyenandt** have had a lasting impact on farmers and young people interested in agriculture." **Wyenandt** has been an extension specialist at Rutgers since 2005 and is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Biology. **Wyenandt** and colleagues produced the book, *Fungicide Resistance in North America*, which was published in 2016. He has also contributed to more than 20 electronic publications and journals on topics that include fungicide resistance, skin separation in bell peppers, cucurbit viruses in commercial fields, and the effects of nitrogen fertilizer on pumpkin yield. He has chaired several organizations and activities, including serving as chair of the Fungicide Resistance Development in North America for the 21st Century Workshop and chair of the Northeast Vegetable IPM Working Group. **Wyenandt** has been president of the Northeast Division Phytopathological Society, serves on the board of directors for the New Jersey Agribusiness Association, and is a member of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Vegetable Working Group and the Mid-Atlantic Vegetable Working Group.

Win Cowgill, retired Hunterdon County agricultural agent, was honored by the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture at its annual dinner meeting in November. **Cowgill** received the Board's 2016 Hunterdon County Distinguished Service Award, which was presented by Board President Meredith Compton. In honoring **Cowgill**, the board praised the way he approached his job "with dedication, enthusiasm and a

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great deal of work,” particularly his work at Rutgers Snyder Research Farm, where he confronted “the same goals, concerns and constraints that any commercial grower has.” The practical aspects of the endeavor “allowed him to understand the grower needs and relate new approaches with a background of true experience.” **Cowgill** retired last April after serving 38 years as a county agricultural agent for Warren and Hunterdon counties and was the regional North Jersey fruit agent.

Jerry Baron, executive director, IR-4 Project, is the principal investigator of an award totaling \$356,559. The project, titled “Development and Utilization of Sufficient Residue Data to Satisfy International Data Requirements for Establishment of Appropriate Maximum Residue Levels to Facilitate Exports of U.S.-Grown Specialty Crops,” is being supported by the USDA.

Of Interest:

“Critical Updates for the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Vegetable Recommendations Guide” for entomology, weeds and pathology are available at njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/commercialvegrec/e001-updates.pdf or at county extension offices.

The following fact sheets are now available on NJAES Publications:

FS1265 (Spotted Wing Drosophila in Spanish) La mosca de alas manchadas: Una plaga de frutos pequenos in Nueva Jersey. **Michel, C., Nielsen, A., Polk, D., and Rodriguez-Saona, C.**

njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1266

FS1266 Managing Liability on Agritourism Farms. **Schilling, B., Bamka, W., Infante-Casella, M., and Komar, S.** njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1265

FS1267 Ultra-Niche Crop Series: High Tunnel Winter Lettuce. **Melendez, M.**

njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1267

Events:

Grape Expectations Symposium, March 4, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Twp., NJ. The symposium is a daylong series of lectures by professionals in grape growing, winemaking, and marketing. Contact **Gary Pavlis**, agricultural agent, Atlantic County, at 609-625-0056.



Ethnic crops specialist Albert Ayeni examines hot pepper crop.

Ultra-Niche Crops Series: Specialty Peppers, Tuesday, Mar. 7, 2017, 5:30 – 8 p.m. Live speakers will present from Rutgers EcoComplex, with remote participation in Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May and Somerset counties. Learn about the different types of specialty peppers and what customers are looking for. The cost is \$20 and includes dinner. For more information visit njaes.rutgers.edu/ultra-niche-crops.

The Rutgers Equine Science Center is hosting “Horses 2017”, a weekend-long equine extravaganza on March 18 and 19, 8 a.m. –5 p.m. at the Rutgers Livingston Student Center, Piscataway, NJ. For more information, visit:

esc.rutgers.edu/outreach-events/horses-2017.

