

A REPORT FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
February, 2013

Rutgers Extension Faculty Play Key Role at NOFA-NJ Annual Conference

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey held its 23rd annual Food and Agriculture Winter Conference at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ, this January. Classes on a wide range of topics were presented to over 400 attendees, making it the largest NOFA-NJ Winter Conference, to date. The two-day conference featured 50 speakers, 10 of whom are faculty from Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

Rutgers NJAES Reaches Home Gardeners and Landscapers through New Jersey Flower & Garden Show

At the 11th annual New Jersey Flower & Garden Show held on February 14 -17 in Edison, NJ, Rutgers NJAES was represented through event sponsorship, program outreach and teaching sessions. Bruce Crawford, director of Rutgers Gardens, taught several sessions on plants for home gardeners. Chris Obropta, extension specialist in water resources, spoke to gardeners and landscapers on harvesting rainwater for gardens. Rutgers NJAES Plant Diagnostic Lab and Soil Testing Lab staff and volunteers from Rutgers Gardens and county Master Gardeners were on hand to answer hundreds of questions from the public.

Anne Nielsen Receives Multi-Million Dollar USDA Award

Anne Nielsen, a new faculty member in the Department of Entomology, has been awarded \$2,672,327 by USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture in support of a multi-regional, transdisciplinary effort to develop and disseminate whole-farm organic management of the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). The invasive stink bug is causing significant economic losses in the Mid-Atlantic states and is increasingly spreading to Southern and Mid-Western states. Nielsen's study will help growers select and plan trap crops, enhance natural enemies and implement cultural control.

Breaking New Ground with Rutgers Organic Land Care Program

Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) graduated 27 New Jersey landscapers and land care providers from its first Organic Land Care Certification Course in January. Participants completed a rigorous four-day program where they learned new skills related to sustainable, environmentally-friendly land care practices that improve soil health, promote biodiversity and reduce negative impacts on home landscapes as well as New Jersey's natural resources.

Visit our Rutgers NJAES online resources:

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

Jersey Vegetable Crops Ag Updates: <http://jerseyvegupdates.blogspot.com>

Fruit Ag Updates: <http://jerseyfruitupdates.blogspot.com>

Field & Forage Crops Nutrient Management Ag Updates:

<http://fieldforagecropsnutrientmanagement.blogspot.com>

Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe: <http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu>

What's in Season from the Garden State: <http://www.njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/archive.html>

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