

# EXECUTIVE DEAN OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
February 2019

Rutgers NJAES was honored to have retired Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County agricultural agent **Ray Samulis** awarded with the Distinguished Service Citation to New Jersey Agriculture by the State Board of Agriculture at the 2019 State Agricultural Convention. NJAES specialists and agricultural agents provided a wide array of educational sessions and workshops, while executive dean **Bob Goodman** and extension director **Brian Schilling** provided updates on the experiment station at the board's annual convention. New Jersey State Climatologist **Dave Robinson** was the featured speaker, discussing "New Jersey's Evolving Climate." Robinson stated that New Jersey's average temperatures are rising, with much of the rise due to increased nighttime temperatures. The state is also experiencing increased average rainfall.

Searches are underway to fill four county agent positions in Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) for: 1) Salem County (forage and grain; agribusiness planning, risk and financial management; with working knowledge of animal agriculture systems); 2) Cumberland County (commercial production of nursery stock, both containerized and in-ground, with emphasis in plant pathology, entomology, soilless media, invasive/native species and soil sustainability/crop rotation); 3) Monmouth County (commercial nursery, Christmas tree, and greenhouse production with emphasis, expertise, and research in innovative practices in field and container production; IPM management for field and greenhouse pests and diseases; and the general horticultural industry); 4) Salem County (4-H youth development).

In response to a multistate outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 illnesses linked to romaine lettuce grown in California in Fall 2018, the NJDA, in cooperation with the RCE Food Safety Team, held a Town Hall meeting, "Romaine: What happened and where do we go from here?" The meeting highlighted the roles of the FDA, NJDA, and the New Jersey Department of Health during the outbreak and future plans. The meeting was held February 15 at RCE of Cumberland County. Secretary of Agriculture Doug Fisher; Tom Beaver, director of NJDA Division of Marketing and Development; Chris Kleinguenther, bureau chief of NJDA Division of Marketing and Development; and **Wesley Kline**, agricultural agent, RCE of Cumberland County, discussed steps that were taken for past outbreaks and strategies needed for future outbreaks. Forty people attended including growers, processors, wholesalers, and Farm Credit representatives.

## Of Interest:



Developed by **Tom Orton**, specialist in vegetable breeding in the Department of Plant Biology, and **Pete Nitzsche**, Morris County agricultural agent—and released in 2016—the 'Rutgers 250' tomato and the NJAES-developed 'Ramapo' variety continue as popular selections for home gardeners seeking spring transplants. Commercial growers interested in bulk quantities can obtain seed for these varieties from Rohrer's Seed. Contact and marketing information is available at [breeding.rutgers.edu/commercial-grower](http://breeding.rutgers.edu/commercial-grower).

The following fact sheet is now available on NJAES Publications:

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School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station  
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FS1300 Five New Peach and Nectarine Varieties for New Jersey Commercial and Home Orchardists.  
**Gohil, H., Goffreda, J., and Ward, D.** <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1300>

**Events:**

**Grape Expectations Symposium**

March 2, 2019, 8:30 am – 5 pm, Forsgate Country Club, 375 Forsgate Drive, Monroe Township, NJ  
The daylong seminar includes lectures given by professionals in viticulture (grape growing), enology (winemaking), and marketing. Lectures are designed to present new and relevant information to professionals and amateurs involved with any aspect of grape growing or the wine industry. For registration fee and more information, contact: [Pavlis@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:Pavlis@njaes.rutgers.edu) or call 609-625-0056

**North Jersey Commercial Fruit Grower Meeting**

March 7, 2019, 8:30 am – 4 pm, Hunterdon County Complex, 314 State Rt. 12, Bldg. 1, Flemington, NJ  
Contact: [ctriolo@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:ctriolo@co.morris.nj.us) or call 973-285-8306

**2019 South Jersey Nursery Meeting**

March 11, 2019, 8:30 am – 4:15 pm, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County, 291 Morton Avenue, Millville, NJ  
Contact: [mangiafico@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:mangiafico@njaes.rutgers.edu) or call 856-451-2800

**South Jersey Commercial Tree Fruit Grower Meeting**

March 6, 2019, 8 am – 3:30 pm, Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 121 Northville Rd., Bridgeton, NJ  
Registration: [holtan@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:holtan@njaes.rutgers.edu) or call 856-455-3100, ext. 4104

**NJ Livestock Summit**

March 21, 2019, 6 – 9 pm, Rutgers EcoComplex, 1200 Florence-Columbus Rd., Bordentown, NJ  
Local experts will discuss current and emerging topics on animal health and animal processing related to small ruminants, swine, and fowl. Small producers and backyard hobbyists will be able to ask questions of the expert speakers and meet other small producers. Sponsored by the livestock committee of the NJAES Board of Managers. Registration: <http://go.rutgers.edu/5usuvz68>

**New Jersey's Evolving Climate – Where Do We Go from Here?**

April 10, 2019, 8:45 am – 12:30 pm, with light lunch after program  
Rutgers EcoComplex, 1200 Florence Columbus Road, Bordentown, NJ  
An interactive forum to discuss current climate research and how the climate system is affecting agriculture, the coastal environment, community resiliency, and public health. This event is sponsored by the NJAES Board of Managers as part of the "Discovering the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station" initiative.  
Contact: TBA

