

EXECUTIVE DEAN OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
July 2019



Laura Eppinger

Laura Eppinger has accepted the position as county 4-H agent in Salem County, beginning July 1. She has a strong background in 4-H, having served for two years as a 4-H program associate leading the New Brunswick 4-H Program, and in 2017 transitioned to Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County as a 4-H program associate. Eppinger's areas of expertise include youth development, community partnership building, program delivery and evaluation, and leadership and project management. In her most recent role in Ocean County, she was responsible for program planning, implementation, and evaluation, as well as teaching educational workshops. She also helped manage the 4-H small animal, livestock, and horse programs, the volunteer association, Teen Council, and assisted with the year-round planning of the county fair. Eppinger has created effective community-based after-school partnerships with public libraries, military bases, and local nonprofits. She conducted programming in such areas as teen disaster preparedness, public speaking, civic engagement, theatre arts, and 4-H Yoga. Her vast experience will aid her in this transition to her new role in Salem County, where she can be reached by phone at 856-769-0090 or by email at Eppinger@njaes.rutgers.edu.

Carey Williams, extension specialist in the Department of Animal Sciences and associate director of outreach at the Rutgers Equine Science Center, was awarded the American Feed Industry Association's Award for Equine Nutrition Research. The award is given every other year in combination with the Equine Science Society Symposium. Williams has an active role in teaching, conducting research, and working with the equine and academic communities. Williams was instrumental in the creation of the Ryders Lane Environmental Best Management Practices Demonstration Horse Farm, the first of its type in the nation. There, she conducts research to develop best management practices designed to teach horse owners how to manage their horse farm in a manner that's consistent with environmental stewardship of the land. A herd of Standardbred horses that Williams maintains at Rutgers are the basis of her nutrition, exercise, and pasture research, which focuses on strategies for decreasing the stress of intense exercise through nutritional modification and antioxidant supplementation, as well as investigating different grazing systems and how they impact horse health and the environment.

Kenneth McKeever, professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and associate director of research at the Rutgers Equine Science Center, has been elevated to the rank of Fellow of the American Physiological Society (APS). McKeever has been a member of the society since 1992 and the elevation to Fellow recognizes his more than 30 years of work within the field of physiological science. McKeever has established one of the most active equine exercise physiology laboratories in the U.S. His research has focused on comparative exercise and cardiovascular physiology with a particular interest in the effects of aging on the integration of the cardiovascular, renal, and endocrine systems in the control of blood pressure, blood volume, and fluid and electrolyte balance. In addition, his research has focused on the effects of performance-enhancing practices on the physiological responses of the equine athlete.

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Of Interest:



The federally funded IR-4 Project provides safe and effective pest management solutions to specialty crop growers nationwide. Since it was established in 1963, its national headquarters has been located at Rutgers. Due to budget constraints faced by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and the university, hosting the national headquarters of the IR-4

Project is a major investment that has been increasingly difficult to sustain. North Carolina State University (NCSU), which is currently in a position of considerable strength at the institutional and state levels, submitted a proposal to host the IR-4 Project. On July 9, the IR-4 Program Management Committee voted to move forward with the proposal to relocate its headquarters from New Jersey to North Carolina. This move will take place over the next two years and is scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2021. While this move will be disruptive in the short term, especially for the 27 employees in the IR-4 headquarters office in Princeton, NJ, it will allow IR-4 to continue to fulfill its mission without interruption, and ultimately will allow IR-4 to expand some of its programs. Rutgers and NJAES administrators will work closely with NCSU to ensure a smooth transition of IR-4 and its employees over the course of the next two years. The services that the research, extension, and farming communities in New Jersey receive from the IR-4 Project will not diminish with the relocation of its headquarters from the Garden State. Rutgers and NJAES will continue to participate in this federally funded program and reap the benefits of its work. IR-4 research projects hosted at Rutgers Fruit and Ornamental Research Extension Center in Cream Ridge and Snyder Research & Extension Farm in Pittstown will continue uninterrupted.

The following NJAES fact sheets have been updated:

FS605 Accident-Proofing Farms and Stables. Margentino, M., Malinowski, K., and Malone, S. njaes.rutgers.edu/FS605

FS606 Safety Recommendations for the Stable, Barn Yard, and Horse/Livestock Structures. Margentino, M., Malinowski, K., and Malone, S. njaes.rutgers.edu/FS606

FS608 Fire Prevention and Safety Measures Around the Farm. Margentino, M., Malinowski, K., and Malone, S. njaes.rutgers.edu/FS608

Events:

Grape Camp, Tuesday, July 30, 4:30-8:00 pm, Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 121 Northville Rd, Bridgeton, NJ. This workshop will cover important topics on mid- and late-season vineyard management. For information, call 856-224-8029 or email gohil@njaes.rutgers.edu.

