

# A REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DEAN OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
February 2020



*Robert M. Goodman*

**Robert M. Goodman**, who has led NJAES and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) since 2005 will step down at the end of June. In making the announcement at the recent Ag Convention, Dean Goodman thanked important partners, including the State Board of Ag, that have helped to keep New Jersey agriculture strong. During his 15-year tenure as executive director of NJAES, Goodman has skillfully managed the experiment station's dual mission of research and extension and steered NJAES to be more strongly focused on engagement and entrepreneurialism. Among the important highlights of his leadership of the school has been his resurrection of the teaching of agriculture to undergraduates through a reinvigorated and more contemporary Ag and Food Systems major.

**Bradley Hillman**, who for 14 years has served ably as NJAES director of research, will step down from this role effective June 30, 2020. He has overseen the seamless integration of experiment station research with extension and academic programs and has managed the research side of the experiment station during a time of the greatest reduction in state funding to the experiment station over a 10-year period in its recent history. NJAES, which maintains one of the strongest public plant breeding programs in the nation, has seen its programs grow under Hillman's leadership. Releases of new varieties of turfgrass, cranberry, strawberry, dogwood, basil, tomato, pepper, peach, apricot, apple, and hazelnut that benefit farmers and consumers in the state top the list. Hillman has also helped to connect more effectively NJAES research and extension programs in aquaculture and fisheries in the southern part of the state, and through coordination of research resources to the Haskin Shellfish Lab, commercialization of oyster and other shellfish varieties has increased substantially. Professor **Wendie Cohick** will succeed Brad as the next director of research for NJAES. She has run a federally funded research program since joining the Rutgers faculty in 1996. Cohick currently serves as chair of the Department of Animal Sciences and has served as graduate program director of endocrinology and animal biosciences. Cohick conducted her graduate training at major land-grant universities (Cornell and University of Illinois), and her postdoctoral training in endocrinology at UNC School of Medicine at Chapel Hill.

**Timothy Waller** is the new agriculture and natural resources agent in Cumberland County. Waller's position will provide leadership and support for the commercial agricultural industries in the county and the region in 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. He earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Rutgers–Camden and his doctoral degree in plant biology at Rutgers–New Brunswick under extension specialist in plant pathology **Peter Oudemans**.

On December 27, New Jersey was among the first three states to have its Industrial Hemp Program approved by the USDA. NJAES has established a Hemp Working Group with topic-area expertise covered by faculty members: (Department of Plant Biology) **Raul Cabrera** - controlled environment production of hemp, and **Jim Simon** and **Thomas Gianfagna** - hemp analytics and sampling; (Department of

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Agriculture, Food, and Resource Economics) **Ramu Govindasamy** - hemp marketing; and (agricultural agents) **William Bamka** (Burlington) and **Stephen Komar** (Sussex) - hemp agronomy and field production, and **Michelle Infante-Casella** (Gloucester) - web presence and social media. The new website for the Rutgers Hemp Program can be found at [sare.rutgers.edu/hemp.html](http://sare.rutgers.edu/hemp.html). Bamka and Komar organized a day-long educational program for hemp agronomy and regulations at the 2020 New Jersey Ag Convention and Trade Show.

### In the News:

Weed Science Society of America interviewed extension specialist in weed science **Thierry Besançon** (Department of Plant Biology) on Carolina redroot, a native perennial weed that competes with cranberry plants for nutritional resources and is now found in 70-80% of the bogs in the state, with nearly a third of growers battling large-scale infestations.

### Of Interest:



*Scarlet Sunrise*

The Rutgers NJAES tomato breeding team that developed the 'Rutgers 250' tomato—extension specialist in vegetables **Tom Orton** (Department of Plant Biology) and agricultural agent **Pete Nitzsche** (Morris)—released a new and unique bicolor grape tomato, 'Scarlet Sunrise.' This cultivar has firm, crack-resistant red/yellow fruit, and—representative of New Jersey's legacy of tasty tomatoes—an intense sweet flavor balanced by moderate acidity. The indeterminate plants are high yielding, with mid-late season fruit maturity.

Information for commercial growers on ordering seeds and point-of-purchase materials for 'Scarlet Sunrise,' 'Rutgers 250,' and 'Ramapo' tomatoes is available at [breeding.rutgers.edu/commercial-grower](http://breeding.rutgers.edu/commercial-grower).

The following publications are now available on NJAES publications:

FS1314 Ultra-Niche Crops Series: Beach Plum Enterprise Budget. **Brumfield, R.** [njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1314](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1314)

FS1315 Best Management Practices for Copper Fungicide Use. **Melendez, M.** [njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1315](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1315)

AGRS-13D Mid-Atlantic Field Crop Weed Management Guide, 2020.

[njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=AGRS-13D](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=AGRS-13D)

GROW1 A Practical Guide for Integrated Weed Management in Mid-Atlantic Grain Crops.

[njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=GROW1](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=GROW1)

E001 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations, 2020/2021.

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=E001>

### Events:

2020 South Jersey Commercial Tree Fruit Grower Meeting, March 5, 2020, RAREC – 121 Northville Road, Bridgeton, NJ. Contact: Karen Holton at [holton@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:holton@njaes.rutgers.edu) or 856-455-3100, ext. 4104

Central Jersey Turf & Ornamental Institute, March 11, Battleground Country Club, Manalapan, NJ. Call: 732-398-5262



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