

A REPORT FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
 OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
 October 2021

Of Interest

Rank	Year	Summer Avg. Temp.
1	2010	75.7°
2	2020	75.3°
3	2016	74.9°
4	2005	74.8°
5	2011	74.6°
6	2021	74.5°
7	2019	74.4°
7	2018	74.4°
9	1999	74.3°
10	2012	74.2°

The 10 warmest summers across New Jersey since 1895.

According to the [Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist's](#) 2021 summer overview, the June through August period was warmer and wetter than normal. The average temperature of 74.5° was 1.4° above the 1991–2020 normal and ranked 6th warmest. Summer precipitation averaged 17.97", which is 4.39" above normal and ranks 11th wettest since 1895. Scattered areas that were at one point or another subject to flash flood-inducing rains, emerged as the wettest locations over the entire summer, ranging from 20.00"–26.00". The majority of New Jersey received 16.00"–20.00". The southwest, far south, and extreme northwest were driest with 10.00"–16.00" of precipitation. State climatologist **Dave Robinson's** September recap noted that the momentous weather extreme of Tropical Storm Ida was the defining event of the month and likely the entire year. The storm delivered the most powerful tornado to strike the

Garden State since 1990, demolishing multiple homes and two farms in Gloucester County. Rainfall exceeding 3.00" per hour led to the most widespread flash flood event on record for the state, resulting in the tragic deaths of 30 individuals in central and northeastern locales.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place on Oct. 12 for the Brandt Behavioral Health Treatment Center and Residence, which will function as a treatment environment to address the mental health of adolescents and young adults. The center, which will be administered by Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, is situated on Rutgers University–New Brunswick's George H. Cook campus' Hort Farm III, near the university's agricultural research facility and the Equine Science Center's demonstration farm and horse pastures. The peaceful setting will be a beneficial part of the therapeutic environment.

[Groundbreaking Ushers in New Chapter for Youth Mental Health Treatment](#)



In honor of National Seafood Month in October, Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) faculty and staff from the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) and Family & Community Health Sciences (FCHS) departments collaborated with Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory (HSRL) to host the second annual program offering of "What's the Catch? New Jersey Seafood and Healthy

Living" to educate residents on the seafood grown or harvested in New Jersey and the health and nutrition benefits of seafood consumption. Additionally, a research publication on the program was submitted to the peer-reviewed *Journal of Extension* in September: "New Jersey Seafood Production and Health Benefits – A Virtual Educational Program." Featured speakers for the program and authors of the publication include **Christine Zellers**, FCHS (Cape May); **Lauren Errickson**, RCE; **Doug Zemeckis**, ANR



(Ocean County); **Joanne Kinsey**, FCHS (Monmouth County); **Rachel Tansey**, FCHS (Monmouth County) and **Lisa Calvo**, HSRL.

In the News

Representing the perspective of fisheries and impact on marine habitat, HSRL associate professor **Daphne Monroe** was interviewed by WHYY and NPR on the impacts of offshore wind farms.

[Can Jersey Shore’s fishing industry coexist with wind farms? - WHYY](#)

[Advocates Say Wind Farm Plans Interfere With Fertile Fishing Areas : NPR](#)

In the *Growing Produce* article, “[A Healthy Dose of Smart Farm Marketing Can Do a Grower Good,](#)” agricultural agent **Rick VanVranken** (Atlantic County) documents some innovations in the challenge to get people to eat more vegetables. He noted that Rutgers researchers and extension specialists, along with graduate and medical students, launched the program "Veggie Rx" to address this challenge. After a consultation, patients at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School’s HIPHOP Promise Clinic receive “prescriptions” (vouchers) for fruits and vegetables to “fill” (redeem) for free at the New Brunswick Community Farmers’ Market, which is administered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. VanVranken also gave examples where innovative growers turned produce “seconds” into nutritious, value-added products.

Daniel Ward, director of Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, was quoted in a *CNN* post, “[Apples 101: choosing, picking, storing and cooking fall's favorite fruit.](#)” Ward addressed the apple varieties that are best suited for different purposes and how to best store them at home.

Events

The Earth Day, Every Day (E2D2) Webinar Series is offering the workshop, “E2D2 In the City! Let's Stop As-Salt-ing Our Streams: The Impacts of Road Salt on Freshwater” on November 1, at 6:30 p.m. Participants discover the ecological consequences of road salting on freshwater streams and lakes, and how to help put their watershed on a "reduced-sodium diet." Community science efforts to measure chloride levels across the state will also be covered. <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Earth-Day.html>

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is celebrating 10 years of “Annie’s Project New Jersey” with a free, online workshop headlined by Bridget Behe, professor and extension specialist in marketing at Michigan State University. The training workshop, titled “*Annie’s Project New Jersey 10 Years of Empowering New Jersey Farmers,*” will be held via Zoom on November 4, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The workshop is free, but participants must register in order to receive the link to attend. [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Twilight Meeting: Cleaning and Sanitizing Grading Equipment and Sanitary Design, November 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 121 Northville Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302-5919.

[Twilight Meeting: Cleaning and Sanitizing Grading Equipment, Nov. 17, 2021 Tickets, Wed, Nov 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

