

A REPORT FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
December 2021



In addition to addressing facilities improvements and equipment needs, NJAES **Vision 2025** initiative is also focused on improving operational standards. Currently, the directors of NJAES farms are unifying operating guidelines, plot fees, and project proposal forms across all the farms. This will simplify the process for faculty seeking to conduct research at these locations and streamline the application process. An internal advisory board has also been established for the farms to provide guidance on operations, program development, and management.

The New Jersey Green Expo, hosted by the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), was held December 7 – 9. In honor of his upcoming retirement, the event celebrated the legacy of **Bruce Clarke**, extension specialist in turfgrass pathology and former director of the Center for Turfgrass Science. Numerous NJAES faculty and staff were featured as speakers. **Matt Elmore**, extension specialist in turf weed science, received the Recognition Award, and **Rich Buckley**, director of the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab, received the Member of the Year Award from NJTA. Over 1,100 people attended the education program and tradeshow, which had been delayed a year since the last conference.

Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) county agent **Wes Kline** (Cumberland) received the Distinguished Service to New Jersey Agriculture Award on November 15 at the New Jersey Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. At the 2021 Annual Awards Dinner of the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, ANR agents **Bill Errickson** (Monmouth) and **Tim Waller** (Cumberland) received NJLCA “Educator of the Year” awards. Waller also received the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association’s Distinguished Service Award on December 2 at the NJNLA Annual Awards Dinner. The event also honored the late [Bruce ‘Doc’ Hamilton](#), Department of Landscape Architecture faculty member and Director Emeritus of Rutgers Gardens, who passed away August 31. Marucci Center field technician **Baylee Carr** has been awarded the 2021 Northeastern Weed Science Society Outstanding Service Award and will receive the award in February.

#### In Memoriam

State 4-H agent [Jeannette Rea-Keywood](#) passed away on December 13. She joined Rutgers 4-H youth development department in 1990 as the Cumberland County 4-H agent and served as statewide agent over the past decade. Rea-Keywood believed deeply in the cooperative extension mission and was devoted to 4-H. The quality of her work in youth development, and the passion with which she performed it, were evident to all and reflected in numerous professional awards. Most recently she was a recipient of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension faculty excellence award and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences Team Excellence Award. Throughout her accomplished career, Rea-Keywood epitomized the spirit of service and leadership—within RCE, regional and national 4-H



systems, and Epsilon Sigma Phi. She chaired the National 4-H Hall of Fame program for many years, deservedly sharing the stage with the nation's most distinguished 4-H faculty, staff, and supporters.

### Of Interest

The following new publications are available:

[The New Jersey Turfgrass Industry: 2019 Economic Impact, Structure, and Characteristics \(rutgers.edu\)](#).

**Sullivan, K., Murphy, J., and Clarke, B.**, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science and Office of Research Analytics.

[FS1338: Carolina Redroot \(\*Lachnanthes caroliniana\*\) Identification and Control \(Rutgers NJAES\)](#).

**Besancon, T. and Carr, B.**

[FS1339: Crabgrass Integration in New Jersey Horse Pastures \(Rutgers NJAES\)](#). **Weinert-Nelson, J. and Williams, C.**

In June 2021, the New Jersey Legislature passed the Dual-use Solar Act, which establishes the Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program for unreserved farmland. Dual-use solar energy (also called Agrivoltaics) offers the potential to both create sustainable renewable energy and keep the precious farmland below it productive and profitable. The pilot program will enable a limited number of farmers to have agrivoltaic systems on their property while the technology is being tested, observed, and refined. Until recently, very little agriculture could be done on land with solar panels because of the difficulty in using farm equipment around them and the substantial shading that occurs from the panels. Properly designed agrivoltaic systems have the potential to be elevated to allow for farm equipment operation and relatively uniform ground-level illumination, resulting in lower impact on crop productivity. NJAES received \$2M in the 2022 State Budget specifically for building Research and Demonstration Agrivoltaic Systems on NJAES research farms. These systems will allow for detailed experimentation and engineering that would not be possible in a commercial setting. Read more at: [Rutgers/NJAES Agrivoltaics Research and Extension Program \(Rutgers EcoComplex\)](#)

### Events

[2022 North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Online Symposium](#) January 10-12, 2022, 10 a.m. to noon. Turf Day (Day 1), January 10; Tree Day (Day 2), January 11; Landscape Day (Day 3), January 12.

[Landscape Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Online](#), Office of Continuing Professional Education, January 12, 2022, 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

[Equine Science Center's 2022 Horse Management Seminar](#) will consist of three Tuesday evening webinars on February 8, 15, and 22, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

[2022 Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders \(IFISSH\)](#) sessions will meet weekly via Zoom webinar on Tuesday evenings (6:30 - 9:00 p.m.) from February 1 through April 5.

**BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON**

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