

**July 2023**

### **USDA-NIFA Grant Supports Next Generation of Diverse Agricultural Professionals**

Rutgers, in partnership with LaGuardia Community College (LAGCC), was [awarded a \\$4.5 million grant](#)



SEBS Animal Sciences students  
at the Rutgers Cook Farm.

from USDA-NIFA to support the five-year project, “The Animal Science Discovery (ANSCId) Program: A Summer Experiential Learning, Career Development, and Scholarship Pipeline Between LAGCC and Rutgers (ANSCId).” ANSCId strengthens an [existing articulation agreement](#) between LAGCC and the Animal Sciences program at Rutgers **School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS)**. The agreement enables LAGCC students who earn an associate’s degree in the animal science option—newly launched in February 2023 within the environmental sciences major—to seamlessly transfer and earn an undergraduate degree in animal sciences at Rutgers. LAGCC is a federally designated Hispanic-serving institution in New York City that serves low-income, inner-city students. A key component of ANSCId is a three-week annual summer residency on the Rutgers Cook campus for 20-25 LAGCC students, starting in 2024. Through ANSCId, LAGCC students in their first or second years will explore all aspects of animal sciences, including health professions; biomedical research; and companion, equine, and production animal science-related curricula and careers along with a focus on USDA workforce development.

### **Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak Tours Rutgers Research Facilities in Cape May County**



On July 14, Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak (LD18) visited the Rutgers [Aquaculture Innovation Center](#) and [Cape Shore Laboratory](#). Scientists shared their expertise on the wide range of research conducted at the research facilities, including living shorelines, beach restoration and sustainable commercial farming while highlighting the importance of preserving our coastal ecosystems.

HSRL Director David Bushek shows Asm. Karabinchak oysters attached to novel cements developed at Rutgers to facilitate the colonization of breakwaters designed to protect our shorelines while providing valuable ecological habitats (aka “hybrid living shorelines”).

### **Researchers Detect Bourbon Virus in Infected Lone Star Ticks in New Jersey**

**Dana Price** and **Nicole Wagner** of the **Department of Entomology**, and **Andrea Egizi** and **Robert Jordan** from the Monmouth County Tick-borne Disease Program co-authored a report in the *Journal of Medical Entomology* that has [important public health implications for New Jersey](#). NJ recently joined a select number of states to discover the emerging Bourbon virus (BRBV) in populations of the lone star tick. The virus, likely to be transmitted to humans via the bite of the lone star tick, was detected in a survey of these ticks in New York state. To assess the potential presence and abundance of BRBV in NJ, researchers from the Rutgers [Center for Vector Biology](#) and Monmouth County Tick-borne Disease Program screened more than 1,200 specimens of lone star ticks and detected BRBV in three ticks.

## **NJAES Partners with NJDA and New Jersey Compost Council to Develop Manure Link Website**

Rutgers NJAES [Office of Research Analytics](#) (ORA) will design and host the New Jersey Manure Link website [in a collaborative project](#) with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) and the New Jersey Compost Council. The website, which is expected to be launched in March 2024, aims to connect livestock farms (manure generators) and composters with farmers seeking these resources to provide an alternative option from purchasing fertilizer. The online resource will list manure and compost availability by geographic location within New Jersey. It will also provide the ability to those seeking manure or compost to sign up to be notified when the resource they are looking for becomes available within the designated radius they are seeking. The project will give the opportunity for smaller farms with limited land capacity a way to distribute their manure to composters and farmers who can use it to benefit their operations. The website is being funded by a Conservation Innovation Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service awarded to NJDA's Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources.

## **Recent Hires**

**Ann Gould** is the new [SEBS Dean of Academic Programs](#), effective July 15. Gould is an associate extension specialist in the Department of Plant Biology and for the past three years served as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Rutgers.

**Veronica Jones** joined Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) as [a Family and Community Health Sciences \(FCHS\) Educator for Essex County](#). A Certified Health Education Specialist since 2011, Jones is committed to advancing health equity and justice through multi-disciplinary, community-based health programs, education, research and policy change.

**Ricardo Kairios** joined RCE as an [FCHS Educator for Mercer County](#) and will be part of the Community Food Systems working group within FCHS. Ricardo has more than 10 years of experience in community nutrition and working with diverse populations with limited financial resources.

**Shailja Mathur** is the new [FCHS Educator in Somerset County](#) and will be part of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Management working group within FCHS. Shailja has provided leadership to nutrition education outreach projects on behalf of RCE at national, state and county levels for the past 20 years.

## **Recent Honors**

**Jason Grabosky**, extension specialist in urban forestry and professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources program, was [elected to the Board of Directors](#) for the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), which serves the tree care industry.

**Daniel Van Abs**, professor of professional practice for water, society, and the environment in the Department of Human Ecology, was [awarded the Edmund W. Stiles Award for Environmental Leadership](#) by the Watershed Institute. The annual award recognizes a community leader who demonstrates outstanding leadership, dedication and passion in advancing the cause of environmental protection and stewardship.

## **Event**

**Tomato Tasting and Open House** at Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm, 140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown, on Aug. 30 from 1-7p.m. Wagon tours and tasting of more than 50 varieties of tomatoes. Registration required online at <https://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/open-house/>.

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