

March 2024

NJAES Designs Collaborative Statewide Resource Site



The [NJ ManureLink website](#) was developed as a collaborative effort between the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources, Rutgers NJAES Office of Research Analytics (ORA), and New Jersey Compost Council (NJCC) with support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Designed by ORA, the website was launched in January with NJCC scheduled to provide outreach and support for educational components including two webinars, and two composting field days in the summer. The website features manure and compost availability by geographic location within New Jersey. The goals for NJ ManureLink include recycling valuable nutrients, generating accessibility to organic materials, reducing animal waste excess, and protecting waterways through nutrient transfer.

Regional Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Available Online

The new [2024-2025 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Guide](#) is currently online. The publication includes contributions from 44 Extension personnel from seven states (NJ, PA, DE, VA, MD, WV, and NY) and from eight universities. Completely revised every two years, the guide is used by tens of thousands of commercial vegetable farmers representing more than 225,000 acres in the mid-Atlantic region. Overall coordination for the 502-page publication was provided by **Andy Wyenandt**, and other NJAES agents provided content, including **Michelle Infante-Casella**, **Wesley Kline**, **Peter Nitzsche**, **Richard VanVranken**, **Thierry Besancon**, **Kris Holmstrom**, **Joe Ingerson-Mahar**, **George Hamilton**, and **Patricia Hastings**. The new guide includes up-to-date information on pesticide safety, production practices, pesticide recommendations, variety selections, and more. It's available through University Extension Services and industry organizations, and can be purchased in hardcopy form or available online for free through University Extension websites.

Start-up Innovator Joins Rutgers EcoComplex's WindIgnite Program

Rutgers EcoComplex, the university's Clean Energy Innovation Center, and W² Climatech, a start-up focused on developing eco-friendly anti-icing technology for wind turbines, [announced its collaboration this month in the Rutgers WindIgnite Offshore Wind Supply Chain Accelerator Program](#). W² Climatech is a woman-, minority-, and veteran-owned enterprise and this partnership with Rutgers will advance their shared goals and objectives in the fields of renewable energy storage and sustainable development. The EcoComplex is dedicated to moving inventions from the lab to successful real-world applications and to promoting New Jersey as a center for clean energy and environmental innovations and enterprises. Support for the WindIgnite program, which fosters collaboration among industry innovators to accelerate offshore wind development, is provided by Atlantic Shores.

Of Interest

The following new or updated fact sheets and bulletins are available on [NJAES Publications](#):

[FS554: Fad Diets: Healthy or Hazardous?](#)

Ensle, K., Zellers, C., France, C., and Shimomura, K.

[FS1123: Vegetable Insect Control Recommendations for Home Gardens](#)

Nitzsche, P. and Ghidui, G.

[FS1356: 2024 Vegetable Integrated Pest Management Delivery Program](#)

Hamilton, G. and Holmstrom, K.

[E265: 2024 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey](#)

Besancon, T., Oudemans, P., Pavlis, G., Polk, D. and Rodriguez-Saona, C.

[E308: 2024 Commercial Cranberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey](#)

Besancon, T., Oudemans, P. and Rodriguez-Saona, C.

Recent Hires

Janine Spies joined RCE's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources as the [Statewide Program Leader in Fruit IPM](#), effective March 1. Janine coordinates programming and supervises staff delivering IPM scouting, grower education, and adoption of new technologies in fruit production across the state.

Kate Brown [is an agricultural agent with RCE of Somerset County](#), effective March 1. A former Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Associate in Burlington County, Kate's new role focuses on agricultural viability and on-farm food safety.

Recent Grants

Christopher Obropta, extension specialist in the Department of Environmental Sciences and director of RCE Water Resources Program, was awarded funding of \$63,753 from The Nature Conservancy for the project, "Fair Street Green Street: Implementation of Green Infrastructure for Paterson, New Jersey," for the period March 1, 2024 to August 7, 2026. In addition, Obropta received a two-year contract for \$61,594 from the City of Jersey for the project, "Addressing Environmental Injustice and Combined Sewer Overflows with Green Infrastructure in Jersey City," which started February 9, 2024.

Recent Honors

Brooke Maslo, associate professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources, was presented with the American Society of Landscape Architects' New Jersey Chapter Award, in the Research and Communication category, for "[Creating Flood-Resilient Landscapes: A Primer for New Jersey Communities](#)." A guide for municipalities to help redesign flood-prone landscapes, the publication is the product of eight years of research by Maslo and a resilience team that includes an interdisciplinary group of collaborators from both Rutgers and South Dakota State University.

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.