

**August 2024**

### **Rutgers Earns “Innovation and Economic Prosperity” Designation**

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) designated Rutgers New Brunswick as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University in recognition of its substantial and sustained commitment to economic engagement in the region. The prestigious APLU designation, awarded to only about 80 higher education institutions in the U.S., highlights [Rutgers role as an economic catalyst through transformative innovations](#) in academic initiatives, pioneering research and impactful community outreach programs, including business incubators that have launched thousands of startups as well as technologies addressing agricultural challenges. **Peggy Brennan-Tonetta**, Director, Economic and Resource Development (NJAES), Jackie McGlynn (Chancellor’s Office), and **Amy Mandelbaum**, Senior Program Administrator (NJAES) led the self- study and submission of Rutgers-New Brunswick’s IEP application.

### **Rutgers to Lead \$16 Million in Climate Projects Along New Jersey Coast**



Rain gardens that create temporary ponds during storms will be constructed as part of the grant-supported project.

Rutgers University has been awarded [\\$16 million of a five-year, \\$72.5 million initiative funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), which awarded the grant to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the [Building a Climate Ready New Jersey](#) program. The project seeks to enhance climate resilience across the state’s coastal counties through projects ranging from flood mitigation to workforce development training and student education. According to **Lisa Auermuller**, Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences and administrative director of Rutgers’ Megalopolitan Coastal Transformation Hub, Rutgers researchers will lead several program components that

will help build physical resilience and develop the next generation of climate resilience experts by providing hands-on experience for Rutgers graduate and undergraduate students across these projects. **Christopher Obropta**, extension specialist in water resources in the Department of Environmental Sciences, will lead many of the shovel-ready green infrastructure projects. His team will install these resilience strategies in urban communities to manage stormwater and mitigate flooding.

### **Rutgers-led Report Details New Jersey Climate Trends and Impacts**

“The State of the Climate: New Jersey 2023” [provides a glimpse into how climate change may affect future environmental conditions in the state](#) based on the impact of the Canadian wildfires on air quality in New Jersey and other regions of the U.S. in June 2023. According to co-author, **James Shope**, applied climatologist in the Department of Environmental Sciences and the [New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center at Rutgers](#), the report illustrates the unique challenges global climate change presents to residents of the state and details specific New Jersey climate trends. It also provides an updated resource for how climate change hazards can affect human health, ecosystems and agricultural production in New Jersey.

## Of Interest

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

[FS945: Bison Husbandry](#)

**Westendorf, M. and Stahl, T.**

[FS1358: Developing Your On-Farm Food Safety Worker Training Program](#)

**Melendez, M., Matthews, J. and Kline, W.**

[E291: Feeding Nitrate-Containing Forages](#)

**Westendorf, M. and Stahl, T.**

## Soil Health is Always a Good Investment

**William Errickson**, agricultural agent, RCE of Monmouth County, writes about [the important qualities that make a soil ideal](#) for plant growth and how growers can help their soil reach its full potential.

## New Hires

**Claudia Urdanivia**, is the [new agriculture and natural resources agent](#) in urban agriculture and community horticulture in Essex County, effective August 1. She was a former Senior Program Coordinator with the 4-H Youth Development Department serving youth in Hudson County.

**Kendrin Dyitt**, is the [new Atlantic County 4-H agent](#), effective August 1. A former 4-H Program Associate, he's experienced in STEM programming and volunteer development and had provided leadership of the Atlantic County 4-H program for more than five years.

## Honors

**Sal Mangiafico**, agricultural agent, RCE of Salem and Cumberland counties, received a 2024 Distinguished Service Award (*for individuals with more than 10 years of Extension service*) and **Timothy Waller**, agricultural agent, RCE of Cumberland County, received a 2024 Achievement Award (*for individuals with less than 10 years of Extension service*) from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at the association's annual meeting on July 17.

## Events

**Rutgers University Marine Field Station** and the **Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve** will each host an Open House event on Sept. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more and reserve your tickets at the link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/WSjQSWc>.

## Food Business Basics for Food Entrepreneurs

**Food Innovation Center** at Rutgers is hosting a Food Business Basics session for early-stage entrepreneurs on Sept. 25, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at **Rutgers EcoComplex**. Early bird registration through Sept. 12 is available at the link: <https://ce-catalog.rutgers.edu/coursedisplay.cfm?schID=93209>.

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