

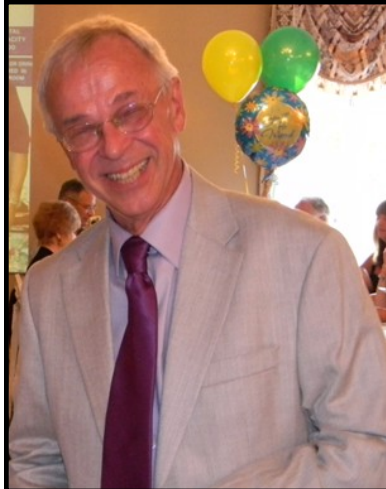


Over 150 people turned out Thursday August 19 to honor Rutgers Agricultural **Extension Agent Rich Obal** for his 34 years officed in Freehold NJ. The Our House Restaurant in Farmingdale set the stage for this evening dinner affair with a white linen set-up, flowers, balloons, signs, a poster and a photo projection of Rich's Rutgers Extension career over the years.

Guest speakers detailed various slices of Rich's career and they expressed their gratitude for his outstanding service, professional advice and informative instruction. **Freeholders Lillian Burry and John Curley** - proclaimed August 19 as **Rich Obal Day**. MC Board of Ag President Gary DeFelice revived his many years of gaining landscape knowledge in his discussions with Rich. The RCE leadership from campus Larry Katz, Mary Jane Willis and Dan Kluchinski provided a ceremonial plaque and proposed a heart-felt toast.

Local impacts and appreciation were expressed by Horticulturist Diane Larson for the RCE - Monmouth County Office, FFA/M.C. Career Center representative John Neyhart and Master Gardener Ellen Simonetti. Rich's extension skills in turf, ornamentals, greenhouse, arboriculture and agriculture were clearly evident in all

the formal presentations as well as the informal dialog that occurred among the knowledgeable audience throughout the night. All attendees contributed to a special engraved glass vase filled with all sorts of beautiful dahlia varieties.



Moderator Bill Sciarappa mentioned how Rich's 1977 Master's thesis at Rutgers entitled "Effect of Fertilization Level on the Quality of Four Inch Chrysanthemums and Poinsettias in a Peat-Lite Mix." was right in line with his extensive body of work in extension horticulture over the next four decades. A key impact of Rich's tenure was starting the Monmouth County Master Gardeners on their first class in 1999 that has continued annually to the present day; reaching over 600 graduates. In appreciation, the Master Gardeners announced their planting of a special tree dedicated to Rich at the Extension Office in

front of the Ag Building.

Fellow agents Ray Samulis and Bill Hlubik provided a lot of extension insight, gag gifts and collegiate laughter drawing from their decades of close contact with Rich. After a sincere thank you and vintage overview from the honoree, the appreciative crowd ended the event with a lively rendition of "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" - How appropriate.

Bill Sciarappa



Monmouth County Fair 2011

The 2011 Monmouth County Fair drew 65,000 people over the five-day-event. The fair, which the Park System holds in conjunction with the Monmouth County 4-H is an annual event with something for everyone. In addition to the numerous 4-H events, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

supports the fair with the presence of Master Gardeners and Family and Community Health Sciences volunteers and staff who assist the public with Rutgers fact sheets, displays and personal contact. See the adjoining article on the next page for more details.



Top photo - Best in Show giant pumpkin grown by Drew Madzin; left - Olivia with giant gagootz grown in the Master Garden Plant-A-Row garden; right - tall man; center— Master Gardener shed with rain barrel and rain garden plants on display (below are the two painted rain barrels, one lucky person won the rain forest barrel); the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture display and the very popular Master Gardener Helpline Booth; 4-H ducks and chickens enjoyed by fairgoers.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension at the 2011 Monmouth County Fair

This year's theme for the Master Gardener display at the Monmouth County Fair was **'Minimize the Impact of Stormwater on our Streams with Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens'**. Our talented MG's built a simulated house with a gutter that led into a rain barrel, then the overflow was shown to go into a rain garden through a hose. Two rain barrels were donated by Mike Haberland, a Environment and Resource Management Agent for RCE. Our in-house MG artist, Gayle Williams, painted a beautiful agricultural scene on the rain barrel used in the display, and we offered a free raffle of the second one on which she painted a tropical rainforest scene. In addition to the rain barrels, her artwork made the simulated house come alive with a beautiful garden scene, including a cat and insects. The display was enhanced further by plants in the rain garden which were donated by Coastal Nursery and Brocks Nursery in Freehold. A very happy homeowner from Long Branch, Stefanie Bierman, won the rain barrel after the fair. So many people enjoyed our display and we were able to talk to hundreds of people and give out numerous fact sheets on building rain barrels and rain gardens. As a result of the huge amount of interest,

Mike Haberland agreed to hold a Rain Barrel building workshop in the Ag building this fall.

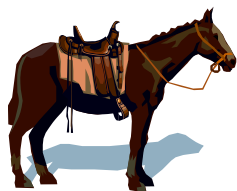
Kaitlin Everett, Monmouth County's 4-H agent, said "These talented youth bring their enthusiasm for life to the fair each year. "This year, fairgoers will once again be impressed by the accomplishments of our 4-H'ers. The County Fair is a great way that to encourage our youth to join 4-H."

"Gardener's Day" was again a big success and supported by Rutgers Cooperative Extension staff and Master Gardeners. The trend of growing your own vegetables for better quality, variety and health benefits along with enjoyment and sharing with others certainly were evident in the number of entries. There were heirloom, ethnic and unique varieties among the entries from adults, adolescents and children. The other Home and Garden categories were also well represented and enjoyed.

The Monmouth County website countdown to next year's fair on July 25-29, 2012, is 340 days, 07 hours, 17 minutes & 36 seconds away. Don't miss it.

Vivian Quinn & Diane Larson

An Open Letter to Horse Owners, Horse Buyers and Horse Lovers in NJ From Douglas H. Fisher, N.J. Secretary of Agriculture



Earlier this year, an outbreak of equine herpes swept across nearly a dozen Western and Midwestern states after horses from those states had gathered in one spot for a national show, became exposed to the illness, and then returned home.

As a result, more than 1,500 horses on 242 premises were reportedly exposed to **EHV-1**. Thirteen horses either died or were euthanized. Twenty-eight cases of EHV-1 infection and 26 cases of EHM were confirmed. Incidents like this make it painfully clear how quickly a disease outbreak can spread among horses and how tragic the consequences can be.

At the heart of New Jersey's laws regarding intra-state movement of horses the importation of horses into NJ from other states, and the sale of horses in NJ is helping preventing the outbreak of serious, contagious diseases. These laws are intended to prevent a tragic outbreak of disease among horses, and the costs, both monetary and emotional, to NJ horse owners. Anyone transporting horses for sale or other purpose, even if it is from one point in the state to another, **MUST** have a negative **Coggins test**. In addition, anyone bringing a horse in

from outside the state for sale must have the negative Coggins test AND a certificate of veterinary inspection. Exceptions include transport for slaughter or research or an immediate return to the home state.

Together, these steps would cost those bringing horses into New Jersey for sale a total of less than \$100 per horse. This protection is relatively small in cost when compared to the hundreds or thousands of dollars it costs to buy and keep a horse. It also helps greatly in avoiding the costs, both financial and emotional, of quarantining, treating, or worse yet euthanizing horses whose health could have otherwise been protected.

I share the compassionate concern for horses and their rescue. Responsible livestock dealers, animal owners and animal lovers are as concerned as we are with the health of horses in New Jersey and elsewhere, and we hope the number of horses without homes will decrease.

These rules exist for a reason - the horses. Horses serve us well and give us pleasure and enjoyment. But horses travel frequently - for shows, races, breeding, etc. and if New Jersey lets its guard down we would be complicit in endangering them. To invite the outbreak of vicious and even deadly diseases in our horse population would be the most inhumane act of all.

Board of Ag Bioenergy Tour

An excellent evening at the Rutgers Turf Research Farm in Adelphia was sponsored by the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture. President Gary DeFelice and Dr. Bill Meyer welcomed the group of over 50 people drawn from BOA members, NJDA, Farm Bureau and Rutgers Extension among others. After learning about the role and operations of the University Research Farm, the group jumped aboard golf carts and pick-up trucks to tour the 250-acre facility.

Researcher Dr. Stacy Bonos and her graduate student staff explained their variety and fertility trials with bio-energy grasses - switch grass and Miscanthus giganteus. Other sources of farm based bio-fuels were pointed out along the way such as tree sapling pulp and high oil nuts.



A truckload of BOA



RU's Helsel & Meyer - BOA's Pyle & DeFelice

The tour group returned to a wonderful BBQ arranged by Kauffman Farms which was followed by after dinner speaker Dr. Zane Helsel. Zane "wowed" the crowd with a specimen of another promising bio-energy crop - a 12 foot stalk of sweet sorghum that could still grow another 3-4 feet in height ! Applied studies are calculating and comparing these various renewable energy sources as to cost of establishment, crop budget, harvestability, yield and bottom-line profitability.

The beautiful balmy evening under the oaks was especially enjoyable and the event slowly ended with lots of energized attendees as the sun set slowly over the farm pond. *Bill Sciarappa*



Growers and advisors tour plots



Helsel hoists sweet sorghum



Bonos describes switchgrass varieties & growth



Wikoffs eye next BBQ serving



IGERT'S Linda Anthony, Dean Bob Goodman & grass breeder Bill Meyer



Debi Kauffman serves up the tasty pulled pork to Paul Hlubik & Robin Bruins

New Members Take Seats on State Board of Agriculture

Norz, Swanekamp sworn in to 4-year terms

(TRENTON) – A diversified fourth generation farmer from Somerset County and a flower and plant grower from Monmouth County were sworn in as the two newest members of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture during the board's reorganization meeting in Eastampton on July 27. Richard Norz and Robert A. Swanekamp were selected for the positions at the February 2011 State Agricultural Convention and later nominated by Governor Chris Christie and confirmed by the State Senate.

“Rich Norz and Rob Swanekamp, and the farms they operate, exemplify the diversity of agriculture in New Jersey and are welcome additions to the State Board for their first-hand knowledge ranging from cow herding to agritourism,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. **“Their individual strengths and considerable experience will enhance the Board's efforts to formulate policy to keep New Jersey agriculture viable and thriving into the future.”**

Also during the reorganization meeting, Pittsgrove vegetable farmers **Henry DuBois Jr. was selected to serve as Board President** and East Brunswick fruit and vegetable farmer **James Giamarese as Vice President.**

Norz, a fourth-generation farmer, grows more than 1,100 acres of corn, soybeans, alfalfa, hay, rye, pumpkins, sweet corn and vegetables on **Norz Hill Farm** in Hillsborough. He also operates a profitable agritourism business, including hayrides, farm tours, a corn maze, and U-pick pumpkins in fall and a produce stand stocked with Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables in the summer. Norz was a 2010 recipient of both the **National Outstanding Young Farmer** and NJ Outstanding Young Farmer

Awards and the April 2009 Outstanding Community Service Award in Hillsborough. His previous leadership experience includes serving as President of the NJ Holstein Association, Vice President of the Central Jersey Holstein Association, President of the Somerset County 4-H Association, President of the Somerset County Board of Agriculture, and an appointed member of the Somerset County Ag Development Board and the Hillsborough Agricultural Commission.

Robert A. Swanekamp operates **Kube Pak Garden Plants**, a state-of-the-art wholesale greenhouse in Allentown, one of the top 10 producers of plugs and rooted cuttings in the U.S. Kube Pak produces a diverse range of plant life year-round from poinsettias to young vegetable plants.

Swanekamp serves on the Board of Trustees for the **New Jersey Agricultural Society** and as a committee member for their **Learning through Gardening** program. He works with Allies, Inc. of New Jersey as an advisor to their community supported agriculture program for individuals with special needs in the state. He also was on the Board of Directors for the NJ Plant and Flower Growers and is a member of the NJ Nursery and Landscape Association.

The State Board of Agriculture, comprising eight members, is the policy-making body of the NJ Department of Agriculture. Its members serve for four years, with two members being replaced each year. By law, at least four of its members must represent the top commodity groups in the state. Members serve without salary, but may be reimbursed for expenses. For more information, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba

Lynn Richmond - NJDA



<http://www.njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/>

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Jersey Fresh Information Exchange

<p>Home</p> <p>Jersey Tomato</p> <p>What's in Season</p> <p>Buying Local</p> <p>Wholesaling Local</p> <p>Jersey Fresh Restaurants</p> <p>Homegrown Memories</p> <p>Resources</p>	<p><i>Welcome</i> to the Jersey Fresh Information Exchange.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's in Season from the Garden State - August, 2011 (420K PDF) To receive monthly What's in Season reports: The newsletter season runs from spring to fall, but you can sign up any time of year. Please put "subscribe" in the subject line. If you're already on the distribution list, no need to re-subscribe. <p>New Jersey farmers grow some of the best produce in the country. But these juicy tomatoes and peaches, sweet corn and melons and plump blueberries don't always get into the groceries and restaurants where you shop and eat.</p>
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<http://www.nj.gov/jerseyfresh/agritourismhome.htm>

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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New Jersey Agri-Tourism Events and Attractions



Enjoy the NJ Fall Agritourism Season

AGENCY UPDATES



NJDA, VEGETABLE GROWERS MERGE CONVENTION TO SHINE BRIGHTER SPOTLIGHT ON NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURE

(TRENTON) -- Two of New Jersey agriculture's most influential annual gatherings are joining forces for the first time in January 2012 to create a formidable showcase of the Garden State's agrarian advances.

The **New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA)** and the **Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey (VGANJ)** jointly announced today the merging of their respective conventions into one massive convention/trade show. While both groups will conduct separate programs, the combined convention will appeal to New Jersey's diverse agricultural industry by promoting greater participation and interaction among a wider cross-section of industry members from all sectors.

The convention/trade show is slated for the week of **January 16, 2012 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City**. Held since 1914, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture conducts a legally mandated annual convention of the state's entire agricultural industry. Founded in 1955, the Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey's mission is to disseminate knowledge of the growing

and marketing of vegetables through cooperation with the **New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, the New Jersey and U.S. Departments of Agriculture**, and all other existing organizations and committees working for or interested in the vegetable industry of the Garden State.

Each year, the VGANJ hosts a convention/trade show where farmers attend educational sessions, earn continuing education credits, and learn about the latest advances in fruit and vegetable research. The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension plan and coordinate these sessions. **New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher** said the State Board determined that a VGANJ proposal to merge the conventions would benefit all sectors of New Jersey agriculture by bringing the policy aspects of the State Convention together with the broader educational elements of the VGANJ gathering. "Our convention is all about hearing the opinions and views of members of New Jersey's agricultural community to help us best utilize the Department's resources to serve this very important industry," Secretary Fisher said. "We welcome the opportunity to widen the scope of attendees and expand our ability to hold listening sessions. Hopefully, everyone will find the additional seminars and a trade show beneficial in helping them improve their individual operations."

Monmouth County RCE telephone change

Our county extension office is switching over to an automated system as a cost-saving measure.

We have reduced our 20 separate phone lines to only 2. For the **Main Office system dial 732-431-7260** and follow the instructions below. For **Master Gardeners dial 732-303-7614**.

After connecting to 732-431-7260, you can immediately dial your parties extension (see list below).



AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

- Agriculture Secretary..... 7280
- Horticulturist Diane Larson.....7262
- Ag Assistant Vivian Quinn..... 7273
- Ag Agent Bill Sciarappa..... 7278

4-H DEPARTMENT

- 4-H Secretary..... 7264
- 4-H Assistant Sabrina Brown..... 7265
- 4-H Associate Virginia Krzyzanowski..... 7267
- 4-H Agent Kate Everett.....7266

FCHS & SNAP ED DEPARTMENT

- FCHS & SNAP-Ed Secretary..... 7271
- SNAP-Ed Coordinator Amanda Nail.....7270
- Dept Supervisor Rachel Tansey.....7272



Calendar

AUGUST

31 - Great Tomato Tasting, Snyder Research & Ext Farm, Pittstown

SEPTEMBER

21 - VGANJ Director Mtg. - 6:00 PM
Charlie's Other Brother, Mt. Holly

OCTOBER

6-8 Bee-ginner's Beekeeping -
Rutgers Office of Continuing Education
732-932-9271

14 - 100th Anniversary of Plant Pathology at Rutgers. Gala event
Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick.
<http://plantpathology.100.rutgers.edu>

16-19 ISHS International Symposium on High Tunnel Horticultural Crop
State College, PA. Orzolek 814-863-2251

NOVEMBER

28-30 Southeast Vegetable & Fruit Expo, Kingston Plantation Embassy Suites Resort, Myrtle Beach. S.C.
Cathy Price 919-334-0099.

JANUARY 2012

17-19 Vegetable Growers Association of NJ - Taj Mahal, Atlantic City.

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA
7:30 PM
9-20, 10-18, 11-15

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING
CORE 9 am - 1 pm
9-13, 10-4, 11-1, 12-6

Category 3A - 9 AM - 3 PM
9-14, 9-20, 10-18

To register call 800-524-9942

Held at

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Building
4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ
732-431-7260

Photo credits: Beverly DeFelice, Bill Sciarappa, Vivian Quinn, NJDA, NJAES website

*Changing Times is produced and edited by Bill Sciarappa and Vivian Quinn
sciarappa@njaes.rutgers.edu*

Past Issues on the web <http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?id=3078>

August 31, 2011
3 p.m. to dusk

(Rain or Shine)

Rutgers Snyder Research
& Extension Farm
140 Locust Grove Road
Pittstown, NJ 08867

RSVP Online or
call 908-713-8980
Kids under 10 free!

Support
Rutgers Against Hunger!
Bring a non-perishable
food item to the tasting



Nursery and Greenhouse Plastic Recycling

NJ Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher encouraged all agricultural operations to recycle the plastic used in their businesses. Two regional sites accept film year-round – the Burlington County Occupational Training Center in Mt. Holly & the Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex in Deerfield.

To find out more about these recycling programs, contact Karen Kritz at 609-984-2506 or Karen.kritz@ag.state.nj.us or visit the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Agricultural Recycling webpage at:
www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/recycling.html

Vegetable Crops Online Resources Center



<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/plantandpestadvisory>

A new Rutgers online resource for vegetable growers. Easily access all vegetable info in one spot. Log in and sign up to receive new content as it becomes available.

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM WEBSITE

Go to website: www.pcpnj.org

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MONMOUTH COUNTY
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
PO Box 5033, 4000 Kozloski Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728

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Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent
Extension Department Head

New Jersey Agricultural
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