



Agent's Overview

Our times continue to change – especially weather patterns, crops and culture. This fall issue features the first **NJ Farm Brewery** which opened this summer in Cream Ridge (article below). On August 25, a great Open House event kicked off this exciting new agri-business; showcasing **Made in Monmouth** Products to the media. Hopefully the craft beer trend follows a similar path as the wine grape industry with **Grown in Monmouth** products as hops, grains and vegetable flavors. Check their website at www.screaminhill.com/ Read about disease resistant hazelnut and pepper tested in **Rutgers field trials** showing considerable promise (page 3 & 5).

How about a **new catnip** for your feline pets. Yes, Rutgers' **Dr. Jim Simon** is at it again with a superior cultivar. I remember helping Jim get the first plots established, maintained and harvested at the Rutgers Research and Education Center in Cream Ridge. It may have taken his breeding program ten years but it was worth the wait for cat owners and possibly local growers. Imagine marketing **Grown in Monmouth**, Jersey Fresh Super Catnip! (page 4).

Finally, the **Open Space Pace and Equine Festival** held its fourth annual County Fair in Freehold. Perfect weather combined with a tremendous amount of pre-event coordination and effort led to a great day. *Bill Sciarappa*

NJ AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS TOUR STATE'S FIRST FARM BREWERY Screamin' Hill Brewery Opens at Bullock Farms in Cream Ridge

(CREAM RIDGE) - New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today toured Screamin' Hill Brewery in Cream Ridge, **the state's first on-farm brewery**. The brewery is part of **Bullock Farms**, a 100-acre permanently preserved farm in western Monmouth County.

The brewery, owned by Brett Bullock, a sixth-generation farmer, and friends Ryan Cole and Patrick Jones, is currently producing five varieties of beer using homegrown ingredients.

"We have a thriving farm-winery industry and we hope to see more craft breweries connected to farms and using local farm products," said **Secretary Fisher**.

"Being the first farm-brewery in New Jersey, Screamin' Hill is the example of how our state's agriculture and craft brewery industries can work together to create unique products consumers can enjoy."

New Jersey had been home to many breweries before Prohibition and the Great Depression. New Jersey's beer industry is growing steadily, with many unique beer varieties. A limited brewery, known by some as a craft brewery, is allowed to brew up to 300,000 barrels of beer a year. In addition to its wholesaling privileges, a limited brewery is allowed to sell, with certain restrictions, its product directly to retail consumers on its premises.

Screamin' Hill is one of 33 limited breweries operating in New Jersey. Brett Bullock said he, Jones and Cole had been **home brewing for 10 years** when they got the idea of opening the brewery on his family's farm. **They grow their own hops, a key beer ingredient, wheat for their**

wheat beer and pumpkins and habanero peppers as flavorings for their beers; currently producing five varieties of beer.



"What makes our brewery special is the location, being on the **family farm with the tasting room** on the farm, while many breweries are in industrial areas," said Brett Bullock. The name Screamin'

Hill comes from the hill overlooking the farm called **Screamin' Hill**, which got its name from a boisterous preacher at a church that once sat on the hill.

The **New Jersey Department of Agriculture** encourages the use of Jersey Fresh agricultural products in processed foods and beverages through the Made with Jersey Fresh program. Cape May Brewing Company in Rio Grande makes a "Made with Jersey Fresh Honey" Porter. For information visit <http://bit.ly/1Estkly>.

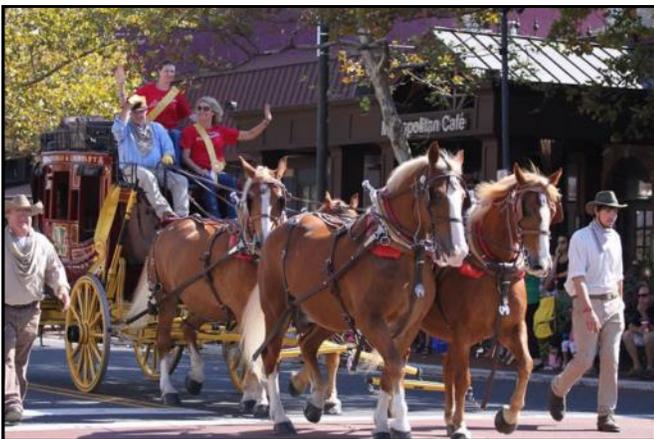
Open Space Pace proves to be Record Breaker

Celebrating its fourth year, the Open Space Pace Parade and Festival of Horses continues to grow. Festivities began with a **parade down Freehold's Main Street**, followed by a day of racing, live music and other activities at **Freehold Raceway**.

Fittingly, a harness racing starting car led the parade, followed by "**sheriff**" and **OSP founder Sam Landy** riding Rainbow, "**cowgirl**" **Suzanne D'Ambrose** and her Standardbred Independent Act, and "**horse thief**" **Kate Vogel** riding her mustang, Fez. The parade featured the famed **Wells Fargo stagecoach**, Miss Teen N.J. Rodeo Queen Kelsey Wallace, Lil Miss Rodeo New Jersey 2015, Kaycee Clanton, Lil Miss Kids Rodeo Round-Up 2015, Kylee Clanton, "Hambo Tony" from the Meadowlands Racetrack and various local equestrian groups. The Freehold Township Marching Band and Freehold Borough Marching Bands provided music. **Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Landy**, of Rumson, N.J. **served as grand marshals of the parade**.

The Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township has participated in the parade since the OSP's inception. This year, 10 riders, one driver and three walkers took part, according to HAMT president Ron Harning. "I think the OSP has grown to a comfortable **10 to 15** clubs in the parade over the past four, probably averaging between **60 and 70 equines**," said Harning. He added that it is a **good showing for the desire to increase open space**.

Steve Luoni, of Highland Lakes, N.J., demonstrated tandem riding in the parade with his **Tennessee Walkers**, DJ and Pavo. DJ, now 24, was on the long lines while Pavo was ridden under saddle. "Tandem riding is a great way to start young horses without the added weight of tack and rider to preserve their joints in the long run. It's also a fun way to keep older horses active out on the trail."



This was the first year that riders from **Allaire Community Farm** — an organic produce farm and riding stable in Wall Township — were in the parade. ACF representative Melissa Smith said, "We are very proud of how they all behaved. I always look forward to doing the OSP and Festival of Horses parade every year." Smith said she's been lucky enough to participate with a different group since the first one and "**It's amazing to watch it grow bigger and bigger every year**." She said it is very well put together and organized and always runs smoothly.

It was also the first time at the OSP for **Christopher McErlean**, vice-president of **Penn National Gaming**, which owns **Freehold Raceway**. He said there was a **great turnout**, and the organizers hope to keep building the event each year and add new things. "It lets people learn what racing means to this state," said McErlean. He added that horse racing in general is struggling, and **it's hard for New Jersey to compete with surrounding states with tracks that offer gaming**. Gaming revenues help increase purses and investment in facilities, he said. "People are going where the money is. Unfortunately, that's not New Jersey right now," according to McErlean. Currently, gaming is not allowed in the Garden State outside of Atlantic City. If a referendum to permit gaming in other parts of the state is put on the ballot and passed, some of the revenue could help the racing industry. McErlean said he thought video lottery terminals, or "slots," at Freehold Raceway would be a great revenue generator for the state, open space preservation and racing. By [Jane Meggitt | For NJ Advance Media](#)

PS - Many thanks for helping plan & implement this growing event go to Monmouth County RCE, 4-H & Master Gardeners.

Rutgers Hazelnut Tour

On August 13, the **Monmouth County Board of Agriculture** enjoyed a twilight tour of the hazelnut research plots of **Dr. Tom Molnar on Cook Campus**. Growers are always interested in new specialty crops of high value. Special interests were **disease resistance to hazelnut blight**, land requirements, production costs, perennial culture, productivity and maintenance. Many answers were encouraging as **experienced growers seek to change farm practices** for their next generation who may wish to take over a farm with new market opportunities. New farmers may find hazelnut production to their liking as well. We have seen about **ten years of good growth in Monmouth County**. Bill S.



Left - Dr. Tom demonstrates a hazelnut sweeper for harvest in his 30 + acre research site
 Center - ground harvest of fallen hazelnuts with “sweeper” makes easy work for smaller operations
 Right - Monmouth County Board of Ag tours the young new plantings and older established tree nuts



Left - Hazelnut blight of a traditional old hazelnut variety
 Center - new resistant varieties being screened annually
 Right - nut size, yield & quality assessments for each disease resistant variety



Left to Right - BOA President Pat Butch digs in to taste the new nuts. Brothers Wicki and Frank Hom sample different varieties. County Ag staff enjoy the Jersey Fresh style Nutella. Monmouth County’s “Grown in Monmouth” Suzanne Folta and John Ciufu eye agri-business potential

Researchers create Heartier Catnip breed for specialized commercial farmers September 21, 2015 by Robin Lally in Biology / Biotechnology

A **super catnip** has been developed by Rutgers that will allow commercial farmers to grow bigger yields at more affordable prices. A bigger more hearty catnip plant – whose enriched oil not only promises to **drive cats crazy with pleasure** but also may be a **safer, more effective mosquito repellent** – has been developed for specialized commercial farmers by Rutgers University. The Rutgers **New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES)**, which has spent more than a decade developing the new breed, CR9, for the insect repellent and pet toy industries recently licensed the product to **Ball Horticulture**, an Illinois company that will produce the **seeds for commercial farmers**. "In the past catnip wasn't grown much because the plant itself was never developed to generate commercially acceptable yields from its leaves and flowers which produce its aromatic volatile oils, and thus, wasn't profitable" said **James Simon, professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology** at the Rutgers School of Environment and Biological Sciences who led the plant breeding in the development of the new catnip variety. "We developed a super catnip that can survive northern winters and produce copious amounts of aromatic oil with a special composition that is rich in the bioactive compound that repels the mosquitoes away and drives cats wild." Catnip is a short-lived perennial herb and a member of the mint family. The aromatic oil consists of many compounds but it is the **nepetalactone**, the chemical in catnip that **triggers the flipping out response** experienced by some cats that react by rolling around and becoming hyperactive. Cat owners give catnip to their pets as a treat to play and have fun. The problem, however, is that this bioactive compound found in the **essential oil of the catnip breaks down fast** and the product then appears old or stale, Simon said. This means catnip toy products lose their potency quickly. **The new CR9 variety has bigger leaves and flowers that can be dried, processed or distilled producing three times as much enriched oil** which results in a longer shelf life. Its size makes the CR9 catnip ideal for harvesting mechanically—allowing it to be collected twice a



year instead of just once annually. Simon said research conducted by others shows that the **oil from the catnip plant is as efficient if not better than DEET**, the most common pesticide in standard mosquito repellent, which is used throughout the world to prevent malaria, yellow fever and West Nile virus. "These new studies have identified that this extract from catnip is very effective in repelling mosquitoes," said Simon. "While mosquitoes are an inconvenience to us here in the United States when we are outside and need to use an insect repellent lotion, or feel forced to go inside due to the mosquitoes, in other countries, people have to worry about the deadly diseases that are being transmitted by mosquitoes." **Catnip oil has also been**

shown to repel flies, cockroaches, termites, dust mites and deer ticks and is being suggested as an organic pesticide for peach orchards and potato fields. The problem is that it has been too expensive to use as a repellent. Simon developed this new variety of catnip with **William Reichert, a Rutgers graduate student in plant breeding** who is studying the biology and genetics of catnip as part of his doctoral research. The new Rutgers CR9 variety catnip will provide a plant with a custom designed essential oil composition that will help make developing these products more profitable for commercial suppliers. The new breed of catnip, which should be **available as seed by 2017**, outperformed all other commercial catnip lines now available on the seed market, Simon said. **The NJAES expects to release a line of smaller catnip plants also with unique essential oils for the home gardeners.** "It is smaller and a pretty plant that can also serve as an aromatic ornamental good for the home gardener who wants to put it in the backyard or a container on the patio," Simon said. "Both the commercial and the plants for home gardeners are exciting new lines that will enable catnip oil to be used in many different ways." Provided by Rutgers University "

PS - CR 9 catnip stands for Cream Ridge cultivar #9 - first grown at Rutgers Research Farm in Monmouth County with field assistance from County Agent and Ag staff.



Boyd Carey, Ph.D. discusses disease-resistant pepper Turnpike at RAREC's Vegetable Twilight Meeting & Research Tour.



Seminis bell pepper breeder Bill McCarthy has worked for many years to develop Turnpike, seen here in the foreground.

"Phytophthora blight and bacterial leaf spot are issues for growers; Turnpike has performed well and looked strong in the test field" [\[Read more in American Vegetable Grower/Growing Produce\]](#)

Phytophthora blight (*P. capsici*) and bacterial leaf spot (BLS) are the two greatest pathogen threats to pepper production in New Jersey. Articles in the Plant & Pest Advisory, such as [Phytophthora Control During Wet Weather](#), [Controlling Phytophthora Blight in Pepper](#), and [Bacterial Leaf Spot Update](#), have talked about why growers are experiencing increasing crop losses due to *P. capsici* and BLS. Work on mitigating the impact of these pathogens has been on-going for decades at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Among the many pepper varieties evaluated at the farm, the new **Seminis hybrid, Turnpike**, has generated excitement for its fruit quality, yield potential, and resistance against both Phytophthora blight as well as bacterial leaf spot races 0-5 and 7-9.

NJ FOODBANKS RECEIVE \$31,000 FROM COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY CHECK-OFF FUND

(TRENTON) – New Jersey **Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher** today announced the distribution of more than **\$31,000** to New Jersey's six food banks to supplement their food supplies. The funding represents contributions through the Community Food Pantry Fund, a state income tax form check-off program.

"The generous donations made by New Jersey taxpayers will have a direct impact on the lives of many Garden State families in need," said Secretary Fisher. "When filing your taxes, please seek out this fund and donate to this worthy cause." Funds were distributed to: Community Foodbank of New Jersey, Hillside, \$20,261; Food Bank of South Jersey, Pennsauken, \$4,021; **FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Neptune, \$3,583**; Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, Ewing, \$1,368; Southern Regional Food Distribution Center, Vineland, \$1,302; and NORWESCAP, Phillipsburg, \$541.

The fund was the **result of recommendations from the state's Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee** in an effort to create an on-going funding stream to assist with the acquisition of emergency food to enhance the emergency food provider system. Since its inception in 2010, **\$117,195 of taxpayer-donated money** has been distributed to the food-banks through the fund.

Governor Christie and the State Legislature allocated \$6,818,000 for the current fiscal year's New Jersey Department of **Agriculture State Food Purchase Program (SFPP)**. That money is distributed quarterly to the state's six food banks for the purchase of healthy foods, **with an emphasis on buying produce from New Jersey farmers**. The SFPP is in its 10th year. The Department also distributes United States Department of Agriculture-donated food to the six food banks through the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

New Jersey Educator Donates Historic U.S. Soils Collection

On Aug. 19, fifty people including staff from the **University of Maryland**, Natural Resources Conservation Service (**NRCS**), Agricultural Research Service (**ARS**), National Agriculture Library (**NAL**), members of the Mid-Atlantic Association of **Professional Soil Scientists**, **Rutgers University**, and the Firman E. Bear Soil and Water Conservation Society gathered at the NAL for a ceremony to convey a historic **1916 U.S. soils collection**. The donor, **Jill Guenther**, a **Vineland, NJ educator**, donated a historic collection of U.S. soils to the Library where the collection will be archived for safekeeping, included in Library exhibits, and available upon request for onsite inspection.

After a welcome from Acting NAL Director Stan Kosecki and opening remarks from ARS National Program Leader Sally M. Schneider, NRCS Assistant Chief Kirk Hanlin and Deputy Chief for SSRA David Smith shared their insights into the importance of soil education in the past, present and future and their enthusiasm for this donation. Jill Guenther spoke and was then presented with a certificate commemorating her donation.

Stephanie Murphy, director of the **Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory** and president of the **Firman E. Bear Soil and Water Conservation Society**, attended the event. “The staff at the National Agricultural Library and invited speakers provided a wonderful welcome and proper celebration in receiving the 1916 soils of U.S. collection.”

Dr. Murphy added that “Jill Guenther was amazed at the ceremony and the appreciation that she was given for the discovery and donation of the “treasure”, and she was pleased at the enthusiasm that the speakers and audience displayed for the soil sample collection. Guests were provided a tour of the secure “Special Collections” floor where other treasures are curated and the soil samples will be preserved. I was very pleased to be included in the invitation list to attend the ceremony in Beltsville.”

The soil sample collection was sent out by **U.S. Bureau of Soils** “for use of schools and colleges teaching of agriculture and physical geography” and represented the

“principal agricultural soils of the United States.” With the collection is a bulletin, “Important Soils of the United States,” which was already in the NAL – yet without a soils collection. **Murphy added, “It’s possible that some of the soils are from New Jersey; for example, Sassafras series is one used to represent ‘Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Province’.”**



On Aug. 19, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service formally transferred the 1916 U.S. soil collection and publication, “Important Soils of the United States,” to the USDA National Agricultural Library for safekeeping and archival purposes in Beltsville, MD

The 1916 U.S. soils collection will be preserved in [NAL’s Special Collections](#), available at special events and by appointment.

September 1, 2015

by Rutgers [Office of Communications](#)

CALENDAR

October 2015

21 - Pesticide Applicators Seminar - 10 am—2:30 pm - 3 locations: Burlington 609-265-5050; Gloucester 856-307-6450 X1; Sussex 973-948-3040. 4 CORE; 4 PP2; 41A & 4 3A credits. **29 - RCE- ARMA Meeting 10-4:00** Burlington RCE

November 2015

18 - RU Veg Group 2:30 - Burlington RCE
18 - NJVGA - 6:00 PM Mt. Holly
19 - FFA Career Event - Cook Campus

January 2016

4-7 Northeastern Plant, Pest & Soils Conference - Phila.
 A joint meeting of 6 northeast society branches
19-21 Empire State Producers Expo, Syracuse, NY. For more info visit: www.hort.cornell.edu/expo

February 2016

2-4 - Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention, Hershey, PA. For more info visit: www.mafvc.org
9-11—NJ Ag Convention & Trade Show, Harrah's Convention Ctr., Atlantic City, NJ. For more info www.njveggies.org
26 - Central Jersey Vegetable Mtg. - Ag Bldg., Freehold, More info 732-431-7260 X7280.

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA 10-20, 11-17, 12-15

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING

CORE 9 am - 1 pm - 10/20, 11/17, 12/8

3A - 9 AM—3 PM—10/6

3B - 9 AM—3 PM - 10/27

To register call 800-524-9942

Also NJDEP testing on 1/7, 2/4 & 3/3/2016

Held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Ag Bldg.

4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ 732-431-7260



Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report <http://www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov/>

**Newsletter printed courtesy of
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 of Chosen Freeholders**



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Revolutionary for 250 Years

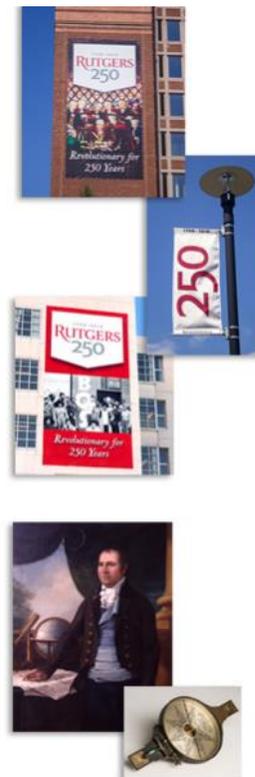
Rutgers' 250th anniversary is almost here! The celebration **begins November 10, 2015**, and continues until our milestone anniversary on November 10, 2016. With pride in our standing as one of America's original colleges and one of its most revolutionary, I invite you to take part in the wide array of anniversary-related events and activities scheduled for the coming year.

I will be in touch in October with additional details about upcoming anniversary events and activities. In the meantime, mark your calendars for November 10 and **help spread the word about Rutgers 250.**

If you have questions, please contact the Rutgers 250 office at rutgers250@rutgers.edu.

Sincerely, Bob Barchi

President Rutgers University



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

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MONMOUTH COUNTY

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

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Rutgers Cooperative Extension— Agriculture, Family and Community Health Sciences, 4-H Youth Development, Resource Management, and Marine Studies— welcomes this opportunity to send you the enclosed materials for your information and use. Educational programs and information are provided to all people without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political

**Bill Sciarappa, Extension Department Head
 County Agricultural Agent**

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

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