

RUTGERS

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
MONMOUTH COUNTY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from the County Extension Department Head

The past year has truly been one of transition, growth, and renewed momentum for our team at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County. We experienced several significant changes that have shaped both our work and our vision for the future. Our 4-H Agent, Matt Newman, has transitioned to a new role on campus, where he continues to support Extension priorities from a statewide perspective. After many years of dedicated service, 4-H Program Associate Virginia Kryzanowski entered a well earned retirement, leaving behind a legacy that has influenced the lives of many Monmouth County youth.

On a personal note, I completed my PhD this year and submitted my tenure packet. With that milestone, I now step into the role of County Extension Department Head (CEDH), where I can serve our community, our stakeholders, and the broader Extension mission in this new capacity.

This annual report highlights some of the exciting projects and accomplishments our team has been working on.



2025 Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners

Thomas A. Arnone, *Director* | Dominick “Nick” DiRocco, *Deputy Director*
Susan M. Kiley | Ross F. Licitra | Erik Anderson

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In the **Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)** section, you will read about our Native Plant Propagation Collaboration with the Monmouth County Park System, the statewide Nursery IPM Program, the wide ranging and essential responsibilities of our Agricultural Program Associate, and a remarkable student success story made possible through hands on Extension engagement.

Our **Master Gardener (MG)** section showcases the continued dedication of our volunteers, their community impact, and the innovative programming they have delivered throughout the year.

The **Family & Community Health Sciences (FCHS)** section highlights education and outreach efforts that continue to support nutrition, wellness, and healthy lifestyle initiatives across the county.



And in **4 H**, you'll find an inspiring look at the achievements of our youth, the leadership skills they continue to develop, and the programs that help them thrive.

As you explore this report, we invite you to celebrate the accomplishments of our staff, volunteers, and partners who make this work possible. We are energized for the year ahead and hope you will join us in 2026—whether by stopping by the office, volunteering, or attending one of our many programs.

Thank you for your continued support of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County and for being part of our growing and evolving community.

-Bill Errickson, *PhD – Agriculture Agent*