Tree Planting Ceremony marks Rutgers Cooperative Extension 100th Anniversary

To commemorate 100 years since the signing of the Smith-Lever Act and the creation of Cooperative Extension in 1914, a Red Pygmy® dogwood was planted in the Foran Conservation Garden. The highlight of the ceremony was the presence of Rutgers Professor Emeritus of Plant Biology and Pathology Elwin Orton. Professor Orton developed new strains of hardy, disease- and pest-resistant hybrid dogwoods and introduced the Red Pygmy® as a rare dwarf red dogwood tree. A poster with photos of the beautiful deep pink-red flowers of Red Pygmy® was on display.

A large crowd observed as Larry Katz, Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Elwin Orton and Tom Molnar, breeder and assistant professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, performed the ceremonial tree planting. A plaque reading “Celebrating 100 years of Rutgers Cooperative Extension” and the name of the dogwood variety marked the spot alongside Foran Hall on Cook Campus. Refreshments were served and then everyone proceeded to continue their work toward the next 100 years of Cooperative Extension.

Vivian Quinn

June - New Jersey Month of the Horse

It’s equine time again. The month of June is dedicated to honoring our state animal – the horse (Equus cuballew), as designated in 1977 by Governor Brendan Byrne. This very appropriate selection is highlighted with NJ housing the USA Equestrian Team, having a dedicated Horse Park, several race tracks, a University Equine Science Center, thousands of recreational rides and hundreds of equine operations. To celebrate, a horse panel round table is scheduled at the Manalapan library on June 30th (see schedule pg. 2). Also the Open Space Pace Committee has planned the 3rd Annual Parade of Horses in downtown Freehold on September 20th. As always, our farmers are busy harvesting quality hay and forage to sustain our Jersey grown horses.

So, come and join in the activities and tip your hat to a horse, congratulate the owner and support the farm industry that simultaneously serves equestrian, agricultural, economic and open space needs.

Making Hay in Monmouth County—Bill Sciarappa
TRENTON) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today announced Governor Chris Christie has appointed Michael Gulotta, Dr. Richard S. Meirs and Mark Mullen to the New Jersey Sire Stakes Board of Trustees. “All three new members of the Sire Stakes Board currently serve as directors of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey and bring extensive knowledge of the harness racing industry to the Board,” said Secretary Fisher.

Michael Gulotta is the chief executive officer of Deo Volente Farms, LLC of Flemington, which was named “Farm of the Future” by the United States Trotting Association in 2009. Among the world champions he has raced are Worldly Beauty, Lis Mara, Holiday Road, and Crys Dream.

Dr. Meirs has served as the general manager of Walnridge Farm, Inc. with operations in Cream Ridge and Elizabethtown, PA. He is also a principal in the Walnridge Equine Clinic veterinary practice and has served as a past president of the NJ Association of Equine Practitioners.

Mark Mullen is the President and co-owner of Fair Winds Farm, Inc. of Cream Ridge. He was named co-bred of the year in 2009 by the United States Trotting Association and was the breeder of 2011 Hambletonian winner Broad Bahn.

The Sire Stakes Board is responsible for the administration of the Department of Agriculture’s stakes racing program for two- and three-year-old pacers and trotters sired by registered stallions at New Jersey breeding farms as well as the Standardbred Development Fund, which provides a stakes program for the progeny of mares who spend a minimum of 150 days in New Jersey and foal in New Jersey.

For more information on the Sire Stakes Program, visit wwwJerseyEquineNjGov/SireStakesHtm.

Monday
June 30, 2014
7:00 pm

Please join us for a panel discussion on Horses in New Jersey
Learn about open space initiatives & the care and feeding of horses

Moderator Dr. Bill Sciarappa of Rutgers’ NJ Agricultural Experiment Station will be joined by panelists including:

Harriet Honigfeld, Administrator, Farmland Preservation Program, Monmouth County Planning Board

Dr. Carey Williams, Rutgers Equine Center

Elden V. Klayman, DVM, CVA, Colts Neck Veterinary Services, P.C.

At 6:00 pm, before the panel, say “hello!” to Independent Act, affectionately known as Indy, a retired Standardbred, who was a champion harness racer and winner of several show ribbons.

Monmouth County Library - HEADQUARTERS
125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726-3249 Telephone: 732-431-7220

FREE OF CHARGE www.monmouthcountylib.org
(MULLICA HILL) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher kicked off June as the Month of the Horse in New Jersey on Friday, June 6 by highlighting the state 4-H equine clubs. He observed a demonstration by the Gloucester County Equine Science Team at the Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds in Mullica Hill, organized by New Jersey Equestrian of the Year Angela Howard, a student at Kingsway Regional High School in Woolwich Township.

“New Jersey’s equine industry is extremely diverse, providing residents with many ways to interact with our state animal, the horse,” said Secretary Fisher. “I encourage people to venture out this month and enjoy a horse show or a race at one of our harness racing or thoroughbred tracks, take a trail ride, or drive through the countryside of our state and visit farms and equine operations.”

Angela Howard of Mullica Hill joined 4-H and started riding when she was 6 years old. In January, she won the Equestrian of the Year competition run by the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board. As Equestrian of the Year, Howard attends functions hosted by the Equine Advisory Board and represents the Board at functions. During the presentation for Secretary Fisher, Howard’s equine science team traced the skeletal system of a horse on a live horse and then gave a presentation on horse judging.

“The Equine Science Program develops skills that will last a lifetime, in and out of the ring,” said Howard. “Through this program I have become an accomplished scholar with communication and presentation skills that will no doubt help me in my future goals. I want to share this opportunity with younger riders.” Gloucester County 4-H offers 21 different clubs for youth interested in horses. Other New Jersey counties as Monmouth also offer 4-H equine clubs, all of which are open to all children whether or not they own a horse.

New Jersey is home to almost 28,000 pleasure horses, show horses, race horses and ponies. In 1977, to honor the important place horses play in New Jersey’s economy and quality of life, the horse was named the official State Animal. This is the fifth year Governor Chris Christie has proclaimed June the Month of the Horse in New Jersey. New Jersey has many top equine centers, facilities, and events. The Equine Science Center at Rutgers University, a valuable resource for everything equine in the Garden State, is dedicated to better horse care through research and education. The United States Equestrian Foundation headquartered in Gladstone funds programs that train and support top athletes and horses to compete at the Olympics, World Championships, Pan American Games and other top international competitions. The Horse Park of New Jersey at Stone Tavern in Allentown hosts the Jersey Fresh Three-Day Event, which has become one of the world’s top eventing competitions. And, the Gloucester County Dream Park is a state-of-the-art equestrian complex created to provide opportunities for horse owners to participate in shows and competitions and for the public to experience horse events firsthand.

“In New Jersey, we are lucky to have so many beautiful horses, horse farms and horse organizations you can participate in and benefit from,” said Howard. “Take time to appreciate and explore the best of what horses have to offer in our state. After all, our state animal is the horse.” Here a list of equine events planned during the Month of the Horse:

http://www.jerseyequine.nj.gov/equinecal.htm
What’s in Season from the Garden State: Celebrating Over 100 Years of Ag Innovation and the NJ Farmers that Helped
June 3, 2014 by Office of Communications

For a university that has been around for almost 250 years, big anniversaries are a good time to gauge progress and reflect on past accomplishments. While Rutgers University still has another two years to go before its actual 250th anniversary (it was established in 1766), the year 2014 marks two milestones that reflect the university’s mission of supporting New Jersey agriculture and disseminating practical knowledge to promote the well being of the residents it serves.

First, this year marks the 150th anniversary of Rutgers being designated New Jersey’s land-grant institution, leading to the establishment of the Rutgers Scientific School (now School of Environmental and Biological Sciences) in 1864. This was enabled by the passage of the federal Morrill Act in 1862, which created at least one institution in each state that received a land-grant to fund education in the liberal arts, agriculture and the mechanic arts. When the New Jersey legislature designated Rutgers the state’s land grant institution, Rutgers’ connection to the state’s agriculture and its role in scientific research was greatly enhanced.

The other noteworthy event this year is the 100th anniversary of the signing of the federal Smith-Lever Act in May 1914, leading to the creation of the national Cooperative Extension service. Essentially, this Act paved the way for the research and expertise of the land-grant institutions to be disseminated to state residents through county Cooperative Extension offices.

Rutgers tagline, “Jersey Roots, Global Reach,” aptly describes the impact of agricultural innovations at the university. The development of new methods, equipment and plant varieties coming from Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) has been robust. Few may realize that some of the ag products and technologies in use worldwide today were developed at Rutgers NJAES. Even less well known is the fact that while university agricultural researchers toiled in their labs or research fields on their developments, NJ farmers were working closely with the scientists to test these advances on their own farms, providing essential data to the researchers. These growers took the financial risks to test these innovations on the good faith that they would lead to improvements in their commercial production. Some of these farmer-university connections developed into more than just on-farm trials; they became enduring relationships.

One of the early ag innovations from Rutgers was the introduction of artificial insemination (AI) of dairy cows in the U.S. in 1938 by Rutgers dairy specialist Enos Perry. Prior to that, dairy farms dealt with the hazards of handling dangerous bulls, and injury or death was common on farms. When Enos Perry introduced to North Jersey dairy farmers a procedure from Denmark to artificially inseminate dairy cows, the concept was readily accepted and a farmer co-op was formed. These North Jersey farmers would be the first to test artificial insemination in the U.S. According to the publication Pennsylvania and New Jersey AI Cooperatives: The First Forty Years, “The dairymen who entrusted their cows to artificial insemination, using semen from a test tube, were truly pioneers, and they were the first to use cooperative artificial breeding in this country. Therefore they deserve to be listed for posterity. (Veterinarian) Dr. Henderson inseminated cows that day (in November 1938) for Fred Mayer in Somerset County, Kingman Brothers at Three Bridges, and Clifford Snyder at Pittstown in Hunterdon County, and for Hans Schanzlin at Montana in Warren County. The first page of AI history in the USA was recorded.”

The involvement of one of these farmers serves an example of a farmer relationship that developed into a further connection with the university. After the passing of Clifford Snyder, his widow Melda bequeathed the Snyder farm to Rutgers. The Clifford E. & Melda C. Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown serves as the Rutgers Center for Sustainable Agriculture and carries on the Snyders’ legacy of facilitating advances in agriculture.
Another frontier of Rutgers ag innovation was in farm technology. Some modern agricultural applications in use today resulted from Rutgers NJAES innovations and the NJ farmers who tested them.

In the early 1960s, as an extension agricultural engineer at Rutgers, Bill Roberts was working with some NJ growers who were using low-cost polyethylene film on simple wooden frames to construct greenhouses used primarily for spring transplant production and bedding plants. Using two layers of plastic on the greenhouses improved function and efficiency, but was still cumbersome. When Roberts had an innovation in 1964 to use a small air pump to introduce air pressure between the two layers, the first Air-Inflated, Double-Layer Polyethylene Greenhouse (AIDLPG) was developed and eventually revolutionized the greenhouse industry throughout the world.

In the early stages of the development, after applying the concept to a test structure on campus, this model was next tested on a portion of a large commercial greenhouse in Allentown NJ at Kube-Pak, Inc., which was then owned by growers Fred and Bernie Swanekamp. Roberts’ cautious approach for application to a commercial greenhouse was overruled by Fred Swanekamp’s unbridled enthusiasm for the new technology. Roberts recalls, “I asked Fred if he wanted to try it on one bay and he said that he wanted to do one half the greenhouse, which was a greenhouse of six acres. I told him I wanted to sleep at night but he was so excited about the idea that he proceeded to cover one half of the structure with the air inflated system.”

Roberts’ fears were quickly put to the test. “I distinctly remember in the spring of that year on a very windy Saturday staying away from the telephone because we were having hurricane force winds. I didn’t want to hear about the damage to the greenhouse. I heard on the radio that the roof blew off the Polestra, a large basketball arena in Philadelphia and I still received no call from Fred. Finally when I could stand it no longer I called him on Monday morning. He said ‘It was no problem’. The original method of covering on one half of the roof blew off during the storm but the new section was not damaged, so he covered the remaining 500 feet of the entire 1,000-foot long greenhouse with the air inflation system. The Kube-Pak greenhouses today are covered in the same system developed almost 50 years ago.” Kube-Pak is yet another example of New Jersey growers who pioneered an agricultural innovation.

Also in the 1960s, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County Agricultural Agent Norm Smith was nationally and internationally recognized for his research, particularly on the use of plastic mulch and drip-irrigation systems for vegetable crops. Prior to that work, farmers were using either no irrigation or overhead irrigation, which was not efficient. Today, Smith’s irrigation-and-mulch growing system is used worldwide. He pioneered work with plastic film mulch and drip irrigation in the U.S. and extended those benefits to agriculturists in South Africa, Canada, Japan and Northern Europe. Many farms have adopted the highly productive and efficient plant production techniques of intensive food production systems promoted by Smith.

Again, the testing ground for developing these technologies was New Jersey farms. Jack Rabin, director for farm programs at NJAES, said, “Norm Smith did immense numbers of NJ on-farm trials annually, likely more than any other Rutgers extension agent before or since. He trialed with drip irrigation plastic mulch at many dozens of Jersey farms, with inflated double poly greenhouses, with lettuce, and fumigation at many farms on crops like eggplant. Norm was indefatigable.”

This integral relationship with Cooperative Extension, the Experiment Station and New Jersey farmers continues today. The 2014 spring season unveils yet another Rutgers innovation from New Jersey farms. Several test varieties of strawberries developed by Rutgers retired plant breeder Gojko Jelenkovic are being tested by Extension agents Bill Hlubik and Pete Nitzsche on several NJ farms.

AGENCY UPDATES

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

July 15, 2014 is the deadline for reporting your acreage for most crops. Crops planted after July 15th must be reported within 15 calendar days. Most Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs require an acreage report to be filed in order to participate. Crop Insurance Programs as well as the Non-insured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) require acreage reports in order to verify a crop’s existence, or to establish Actual Production Histories (APHs). Conservation Programs use acreage reports to determine cropping history on specific tracts of land to establish practice eligibility. Other programs use acreage totals to establish expected crop yields or to determine your own actual yields.

While August 15th is the deadline for providing last year’s production for APH purposes and a requirement for NAP participants, we encourage producers to supply this information prior to the deadline so that the office has sufficient time to process your APHs. Production should be totaled to show pounds of product.

Participants who fail to provide the production by this deadline will be assigned a yield, either 75% of your prior year’s approved yield (for an initial failure) or a zero yield (for subsequent failures). Producers, who have failed to provide production in prior years can replace those assigned yields by providing production data or certifications for those years, now prior to this year’s deadline. Please note: August 1, 2014 is the sales closing date to acquire NAP coverage for 2015 strawberries.

County Committee elections are also upon us. We will be accepting nominations from June 15th to August 1st, for Local Administrative (LAA) 3, which encompasses all of Mercer County and portions of western Monmouth County (see link below). Ballots will be mailed out starting November 3rd and will be due in our office no later than December 1, 2014. Ballots will be counted December 5, 2014 at 9:30 AM.

For more information go to http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/2014_025.pdf To receive our newsletters and bulletins you must sign up for GovDelivery by either calling our office or going to https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new/

USDA/FSA Freehold Service Center – Serving Monmouth, Mercer and Middlesex Counties
4000 Kozloski Rd. PO Box 5033, Freehold, NJ 07728 | Tel: 732-462-0075 | Fax: 885-305-6498
County Executive Director: Gabi Grunstein
Program Technician: Beth Pine

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher joined other Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture members earlier this week to discuss issues facing the Northeast states, such as dairy, food safety, GMOs, and water quality during the NEASDA annual conference in Boston. Pictured left to right are: Commissioner Walt Whitcomb (ME), Secretary Doug Fisher (NJ), Deputy Secretary Jay Howes (PA), Secretary Chuck Ross (VT), Secretary Ed Kee (DE), Chief Kenneth Ayars (RI), Commissioner Steven Reviczky (CT), Commissioner Lorraine Merrill (NH), Commissioner Richard Ball (NY), Commissioner Greg Watson (MA)
CALENDAR

June 2014

June 30 - Equine Issues Panel, Manalapan Library, 7 PM.

July 2014

20-24 - NACAA National Conference, Abilene, Louisiana
23-27 Monmouth County Fair - East Freehold Park.

August 2014

27—Great Tomato Tasting - Snyder Research & Extension Farm, Pittstown, NJ. Joanne Stevely 908-730-9419 X3501

http://www.njagfairs.com/fair_listings.html

Vegetable Crops Online Resources Center

http://njveg.rutgers.edu/

NEWSLETTER

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA
9-16, 10-21, 11-18, 12-16
BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING
CORE 9 am - 1 pm—7-15, 8-12, 9-16,
10-7, 11-18, 12-16
3B - 9-23, 10-14 —9 AM—3 PM
7B—10-8, 10-9—9 AM—3 PM
To register call 800-524-9942
Held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Bldg.
4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ 732-431-7260

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

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 beliefs sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent
Extension Department Head

Photos: NJ Dept. of Agriculture, Rutgers Univ. B. Sciarappa, V. Quinn