



## Happy New Year!

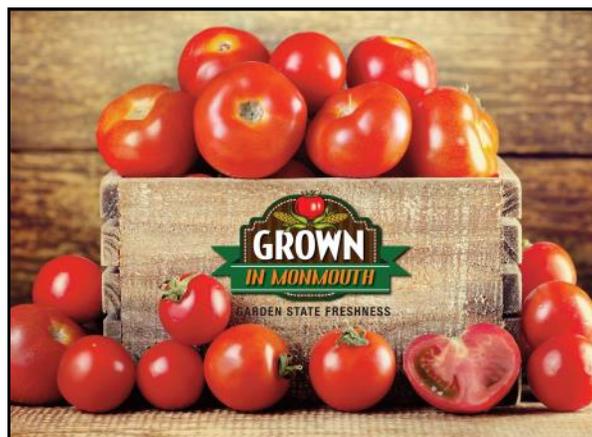


## GROWN IN MONMOUTH

Monmouth County is launching an exciting, first-of-its-kind initiative to strengthen and to promote agriculture in the county.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently awarded the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders a **Rural Business Development Grant** to assist the county's agricultural industry. The project, which starts in January 2016, is called **Grown in Monmouth** and includes the development of a strategic plan to bolster the agricultural industry throughout the County while at the same time focusing closely on conditions, trends and opportunities in areas of 13 county municipalities deemed "rural" by the USDA. Rural designated areas are located in: Allentown, Englishtown, Farmingdale, Howell, Manalapan, Millstone, Roosevelt, Upper Freehold, Colts Neck, Freehold Township, Holmdel, Marlboro and Wall Township.

Freeholders **Thomas A. Arnone, Director**, and **Lillian G. Burry** are leading the initiative, which will involve a series of listening sessions for growers, landowners, consumers and the general public to discuss ways to boost agriculture in Monmouth County.



The **project team** is comprised of representatives from the Monmouth County Division of Economic Development, the county Division of Planning, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County and **Spinelli and Pinto Consulting, LLC**, of Chester. The consulting firm has assembled a team of professionals with the technical background and experience to assist the County in preparing a strategic agricultural

development plan and marketing plan for **Grown in Monmouth**.

The project includes an assessment of the **agricultural**

(Continued on page 2)

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**industry in the county** and its potential to take advantage of the current market trends and conditions to expand and prosper. This will be achieved by **engaging local, county and state officials and producers** in assessing the current state of Monmouth County’s changing agricultural industry and through the assessment of available resources that can be utilized to expand and grow the local agricultural industry.

The project will also include comprehensive data-gathering and research and meeting the county’s farming community and related agricultural businesses to establish a baseline of agricultural activity in the county, evaluate the range of current farming practices, identify unique or emerging agricultural activities and assess the potential for new and innovative agricultural products and markets.

Surveys and the use of social media are among the tools the team will use to involve members of the agricultural community and the public. Public forums are expected to elicit valuable information and help identify related businesses that can take advantage of locally produced agricultural products and/or establish new markets for those



products. One of the keys to **Grown in Monmouth’s** success will be the development of a comprehensive marketing program to promote local agriculture and agricultural products produced in Monmouth County.

The **first public meeting** is scheduled for January 26, 7PM at the Rutgers Research Station in Cream Ridge. The project team will be reaching out to various stakeholders including growers, supermarkets, restaurant, institutional customers and others in the food industry.

County officials and the project leadership team will make a presentation about the initiative at the annual **Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Conference scheduled for Feb. 26, 2016**. The conference will be presented by Rutgers University at the County’s Agricultural Building at 4000 Kozloski Rd., Freehold. (Registration pg. 6).

Project updates and information will be posted on Facebook and the Monmouth County’s Website. Please see the Grown in Monmouth page on Facebook or <http://www.growninmonmouth.com>. Questions may be emailed to [econdev@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:econdev@co.monmouth.nj.us) or call the Division of Economic Development at 732-431-7470.

*Congratulations to Central Jersey FFA’s for top placement in all Career Development Events for 2015.*

**FFA 2015 CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT - Vivian Quinn & Sabrina Brown**



The 2015 FFA **Career Development Event** was held at the Cook Campus Center on Nov. 19th. **More than 295 students from twenty-nine** Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education Programs in NJ participated.

**State FFA Facilitator Eric J. Nelson** who coordinated the

events this year, said “Career Development Events allow students to apply classroom instruction and encourage students to excel. These events are important to the future of the agriculture industry because they help direct students to specific careers. FFA events also help students and schools meet the state’s Core Curriculum Content Standards. Many of these students will be successful in the future because of the training they received in the ag classroom.”

School	Fruit Veg	Dairy	Turf	Land	Home-site
Allentown HS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	—	8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—
N. Burlington HS	1 <sup>st</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Mon. County Voc	3 <sup>rd</sup>	—	1 <sup>st</sup>	—	—
Freehold Twp HS	5 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
N. Burlington Middle	7 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	—

This was the **15th year that Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County** coordinated the Fruit and Vegetable ID and Judging event where 108 students from 28 chapters participated. Delicious Orchards once again graciously donated the produce necessary for the competition. Their generosity year after year is commendable. Results from the event can be found at [www.judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com). (Click on “Online Results”, click “New Jersey Fall CDEs” (Thu, Nov 19, 2015), then click on your respective event.)

## MONMOUTH COUNTY TEEN NAMED 2016 NJ AGRICULTURAL FAIR AMBASSADOR

TRENTON) - Rebecca Carmeli-Peslak of Millstone Township has been chosen as the 2016 New Jersey Agricultural Fair Ambassador. The 16-year-old 11th - grader at the Hun School of Princeton was selected from among 10 contestants by the Agricultural Fair Association of New Jersey during the group's fall dinner on November 1 in Eastampton.

As ambassador, Carmeli-Peslak is charged with visiting the state's agricultural fairs in 2016, discussing the fairs, promoting agritourism to the public and bringing people together to support the state's agriculture industry. "Based on Rebecca's enthusiasm and passion for agriculture, we know she will be a wonderful spokesperson as she attends our state's agricultural fairs next summer," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "Rebecca's dedication is sure to inspire other young people to get involved in agricultural youth organizations and perhaps move into agriculture careers in the future."

Carmeli-Peslak is currently treasurer of the Allentown FFA Chapter, a student member of New Jersey Farm Bureau and has been involved in 4-H since she was in first grade. She raises sheep, goats, chickens and rabbits on her family's farm and spent time when she was younger visiting her great-uncle's dairy farm.

"As Agricultural Fair Ambassador, I plan to increase awareness of the importance of New Jersey agriculture in our daily lives and encourage people to become involved and participate," said Carmeli-Peslak. "Agriculture has connected me with people who have a similar interest but who are also extremely diverse because agriculture includes such a wide spectrum of topics. I have learned a great deal from my friends and their knowledge in their areas of agriculture."

Carmeli-Peslak hopes to attend Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences to pursue a career in veteri-

nary medicine. Her goal is to one day become a large animal veterinarian, treating farm animals.



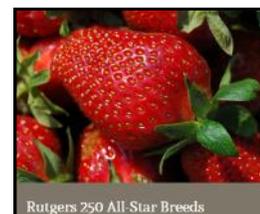
This is the 13th year the Agricultural Fair Association of New Jersey has named an ambassador. In choosing an ambassador, the Association seeks a good representation of young people active in agriculture in the Garden State and their county fair.

There were 20 agricultural fairs in the state this past summer, including the New Jersey State Fair at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. The earliest fair is held in June, with the final fair of the season in September.

For more information on New Jersey's agricultural fairs, visit [www.njagfairs.com](http://www.njagfairs.com)<<http://www.njagfairs.com/>>.



*Rebecca with her sheep*



<http://breeding.rutgers.edu/> From November 10th, 2015 through the end of 2016, the [Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station](http://breeding.rutgers.edu/) is celebrating the Rutgers 250 by showcasing an all-star variety each month. The select varieties are developed by Rutgers agriculture and aquaculture researchers from across New Jersey. Information about the history of each breeding program, research involved in each featured variety, and the availability and location of these Rutgers products will be posted on <http://breeding.rutgers.edu>. You will also have access to current news articles and videos related to breeding programs and varieties, as well as fun ways to stay connected.

New Jersey has a rich history, interconnected with decades of Rutgers research, specialization, and breeding.

It's time to celebrate New Jersey agriculture and aquaculture! Learn about Rutgers [berries](#), [tomatoes](#), [vegetables](#), and more! Varieties bred at the many experiment stations across the state have been developed using traditional breeding techniques. In agriculture, variety selection and hybridization are key strategies for managing pests and diseases, as well as improving yields and profits. Rutgers plant and shellfish breeders develop and evaluate varieties for New Jersey and the region. They select cultivars for factors including quality, yield, and resistance to diseases of local importance. Other goals of breeding include preparation for climate change through heat and drought tolerance and cold hardiness. Link up and learn more.

<http://breeding.rutgers.edu/breeding-history/>

## Scarlet Fire Dogwood—Rutgers, The State University

Introducing our 1st *C. kousa* in 45 years of breeding. The plant combines attributes such as disease/pest resistance and cold/heat tolerance with attractive, unique deeply pink-colored shimmering bracts in a medium-size eye-catching tree, with bracts lasting 6-8 weeks. From the world's foremost dogwood breeding program, Our newest Rutgers Release:

- ◆ 1st consistently dark pink-to-fuchsia bracted *Cornus kousa*
- ◆ Can flower as early as 2nd year, heavy display soon after
- ◆ Medium-to-large 5' bracts last 6+ weeks
- ◆ Color stable in 90° NJ Summer
- ◆ Grows to 10' in 8 years
- ◆ USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 5 – 8



As a commitment to NJ's nursery and agriculture industry, Rutgers' NJAES has arranged that this new plant be made available to NJ commercial growers prior to its general release. There is a very limited availability for Spring 2016 of 1 year old BR liners. Orders must be placed by mid-December on a first-come-first-served basis. Plants shipped in Jan.—April. For ordering, minimums and limits, deposit, and all other info contact: Ann Sisk, After Hours Nursery, 931-469-7807, email: [afterhoursnursery@edge.net](mailto:afterhoursnursery@edge.net) or visit: <http://www.afterhoursnursery.com/> Alex Neubauer, Hidden Hollow Nursery, 931-398-9343, email: [alex@hiddenhollownursery.com](mailto:alex@hiddenhollownursery.com) or visit: <http://hiddenhollownursery.com/> For 2017 orders: Fred Shadow 931-967-4541, email: [tnavalnsy@yahoo.com](mailto:tnavalnsy@yahoo.com) or visit: <http://www.tennesseevalleynursery.com>

## Food & Drug Administration Release Final Rules

Wesley Kline, Ag Agent/Food Safety Trainer

Food and Drug Administration on February 13 released groundbreaking final rules that will help produce farmers and food importers take steps to prevent food safety problems before they occur. The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety rule is now final, and the earliest compliance dates for some farms begin one year after the effective date of the final. The rule establishes, for the first time, science-based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption.

This rule was first proposed in January 2013. In response to input received during the comment period and during numerous public engagements that included public meetings, webinars, listening sessions, and visits to farms across the country, the FDA issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking in September 2014. The proposed revisions were designed to make the originally proposed rule more practical, flexible, and effective.

The final rule is a combination of the original proposal and revisions outlined in the supplemental proposal, with additional changes as appropriate. The definition of “farm” and related terms were revised in the final Preventive Controls for Human Food rule, and the same definitions of those terms are used in this rule to establish produce safety standards. Operations whose only activities are within the farm definition are not required to register with FDA as food facilities and thus are not subject to the preventive controls regulations. A factsheet from FDA is attached to this newsletter which will give you a summary of the Produce Safety Final Rule. The complete Produce Safety Final Rule is seen at <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm>.

The agency also released a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the rule’s provisions, Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) Final Rule and the Accredited Third-Party Certification Final Rule. For these documents along with a webinar series on the final rules go to <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/default.htm>

## Food & Drug Administration Release Final Rules

Wesley Kline, Ag Agent/Food Safety Trainer

The revisions to the Worker Protection Standard [40 CFR part 170] were published in the Federal Register by this past Tuesday, November 2, 2015 [under the authority of sections 2 through 35 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)]. There were no substantive changes made to the final rule as published.

Compliance effective dates kicked in when the rule was published in the Federal Register. We have not seen any press releases or other notifications by EPA. The rule will become effective January 1, 2016.

Implementation will be in 2 phases:

1. One year later, agricultural employers and handler employers will be required to comply with most of the new requirements on January 2, 2017.
2. Two years later, agricultural employers and handler employers will be required to comply with certain new requirements on January 1, 2018 or later (as noted below), as provided in 40 CFR 170 as follows:
  - Display requirements for pesticide safety information/pesticide application and hazard information [per 170.311(a)(3)]
  - Requirements for suspending applications [per 170.505(b)]
  - Training requirements for workers [per 170.401(c)(3)] and training requirements for handlers [per 170.501(c)(3)]. EPA intends to make available to the public training materials that may be used to conduct training conforming to the requirements. Employers must implement the new training curriculum by January 1, 2018 (or 180 days after EPA announces the training materials are available, whichever is later).

The final rule is published at [www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0184-2510](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0184-2510). Additional information on the rule is available at: [www2.epa.gov/pesticide-workersafety/revisions-worker-protection-standard](http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-workersafety/revisions-worker-protection-standard).



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 7PM**

**Grown in Monmouth  
Grower Kickoff Meeting  
& Refreshments**

Grown in Monmouth Kickoff will be held at the Rutgers Extension Center in Cream Ridge, NJ.

For more info call Bill 732-431-7260 X7278



**THURS., FEB 11—8:30-2:30**

**Basil Workshop  
At the NJACTS convention  
Harrah's Waterfront**

For complete program

[www.njveggies.org/2016%20Final%20ACTS%20program.pdf](http://www.njveggies.org/2016%20Final%20ACTS%20program.pdf)

**Vegetable Growers Meeting FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016**

***Central Jersey Vegetable Meeting Agenda***

- 8:30 **Registration**
- 9:00 **Welcome** – Rutgers New Crops – Moderator *Bill Sciarappa*
- 9:15 **Board of Agriculture Update** – President *Pat Butch*
- 9:25 **NJ Farm Bureau Report** - President *Ryck Suydam*
- 9:40 **State Ag Board** – *Rob Swanekamp* – Nursery, *Marty Bullock* – Hay/Grains & *Angelo Trapani* - Vegetables
- 10:00 **Pesticide Updates NJDEP** – *Pat Hastings*
- 10:45 **Vegetable Insect Identification and Pesticide Efficacy** - *Kris Holmstrom*
- 11:10 **Honeybee Health – Pesticide Impacts and Timing** – *Dean Polk*
- 11:35 **Grown in Monmouth Grant 2016** – Presentation & Survey – *Spinelli & Pinto Consulting*
- 12:00 **LUNCH**
- 1:00 **Welcome Back** - Moderator *Bill Hlubik*
- 1:05 **Agency Updates** – *NJDA, NJAES, FSA-USDA, NRCS, FSCD, DEP, Tri-county, Industry, etc.*
- 1:25 **Disease and Fungicide Update** – *Andy Wyenandt*
- 1:50 **Rutgers 250 Tomato Celebration Cultivars** – *Tom Orton*
- 2:25 **Rutgers Scarlet Strawberry Varieties** - *Bill Hlubik*
- 2:40 **Reading the Label – Easier said than Done** – *Jenny Carleo*
- 3:25 **DEP Pesticide Credits**
- 3:30 **Adjourn**

**TO REGISTER**

Use the form in the brochure sent to you via U.S. Mail by Monday February 22, 2016.

Otherwise, call 732-431-7260 Joanne x7280 or Dorey x7261



**Proposed DEP Pesticide Credits\***

- CORE - 5**
- Category 1A - 4**
- Category PP2 - 4**
- Category 10 - 2**

*\*Please bring your identification & Certification Card #*

## CALENDAR

### 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](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/expo)

**30th-31st NOFA Winter meeting**. Brookdale CC, Lincroft.

### February 2016

**2-4 - Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention**, Hershey, PA. For more info visit: [www.mafvc.org](http://www.mafvc.org)

**9-11—NJ Ag Convention & Trade Show**, Harrah's Convention Ctr., Atlantic City, NJ. For more info [www.njveggies.org](http://www.njveggies.org)

**11 - Food Safety Modernization Act Training for Grower Certification**, 2016 NJ Ag Conv. & Trade Show, Harrah's Resort, AC. Cost included in convention registration 9:00 am-4:00pm.

**24 - Food Safety Modernization Act Training for Grower Certification**, Mercer County Cooperative Ext., 930 Spruce St., Trenton, NJ \$50, 9am—4pm. To reg. 856-451-2800x1.

**26 - Central Jersey Vegetable Mtg.** - Ag Bldg., Freehold, Registration & ore info 732-431-7260 X7280, Joanne/Dorey.

### April 2016

**2 - NJ Junior Breeder & Young Farmer Symposium** - Rutgers— Round House. College Farm Rd. 609-984-4389 or [lynn.mathews@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:lynn.mathews@ag.state.nj.us)

#### MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA

10-20, 11-17, 12-15

#### BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING

**CORE 9 am-1pm** - 1/12, 2/16, 3/8 & 22, 4/19, 5/17, 6/14

**3A** - 9am-3pm - 4/12, 6/7

**3B** - 9am-3pm - 2/9, 3/17, 5/10

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  
the Monmouth County Board  
of Chosen Freeholders**



## Hot Water Seed Sterilization Available at RCE Monmouth

**BE PREPARED** - Eradicate bacterial plant pathogens before you plant your 2016 tomato & pepper seeds

RCE Monmouth County will heat treat your seed at our Ag Building office—4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold.

Call Ag Assistant **Dennis McNamara** 732-995-3996 or e-mail [club162@aol.com](mailto:club162@aol.com) to schedule

Please inform Dennis if you need hot papper seed treated  
Bring your seed (un-pelleted) in labeled packages. Or, we have the fiberglass material available at our office for you to prepare the seed packages. You may wait for the seeds or drop off and return on the same day for pick-up. Label all seed packs (use a water proof method) with the variety or other code that you can identify. To package, you may use:

- ◆ Fiberglass screen envelopes (charcoal fiberglass screening)
- ◆ Nylon stockings, coffee filters, cotton bags



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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

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,

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

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

**RUTGERS**

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