

NEWS FROM THE NJDA

New Jersey
Department of
Agriculture

September 2015

Volume 3, Issue 4

Inside this issue:

From the Secretary's Desk	1
From the State Board President	1
New State Board of Agriculture Members	2
Ag Achievement Award Applications	3
USDA Food & Nutrition Officials Visit	3
Dairy Assoc. Food Safety Workshop	4
FSA Updates	5

Important Dates for your Calendar:

September is Honey Month

Sept. 17 - National Apple Dumping Day

Sept. 19-20 - Camden Cty. 4-H Fair AND Bergen County 4-H and Master Gardener Fair

Sept. 19-- Open Space Pace and Festival of Horses

Sept. 28 - National Good Neighbor Day

Sept. 30 - State Board of Ag Mtg. in West Trenton, PHEAL

Oct. 1 - World Vegetarian Day

From the Secretary's Desk



NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher

Our farmers are still hard at work tending their later season crops and children have gone back to school so it's the perfect time to talk about our Farm to School program. The third week of September each year is Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week. We will be highlighting some of the schools that are excelling in serving New Jersey produce in their school meals and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable programs.

We're happy to announce we have brought on two leading advocates in the farm to school movement, Beth Feehan, who created the New Jersey Farm to School Network and Chris Cirkus, NJ Farm to School Network's Program Coordinator. Feehan and Cirkus bring an enormous amount of knowledge and enthusiasm and we are glad to have them at the Department of Agriculture.

A lot of great things are coming in the next few weeks with regard to Farm to School. The Department is planning a new website that will help connect schools, farms, parents and the community in helping children eat more healthy, local produce and learn more about what it takes to grow their own food.

There also will be a new tax form check-off where people can donate to fund farm to school and school garden projects. We hope the rest of the growing season is successful for our farmers and we look forward to expanding farm to school to as many New Jersey students as possible.

From the State Board President



State Board of Agriculture President, Marty Bullock

The State Board met on August 26, where Erick Doyle, Hunterdon County, was sworn-in by Deputy Attorney General Cheryl Clarke. This was the first official meeting of Board members Angelo Trapani and Shirley Kline as well.

The Board will hold their annual Orientation Meeting on Wednesday, September 30 for new members and current officers. This meeting will be held at the Public Health Environmental and Agricultural Laboratory (PHEAL), New Jersey State Police Headquarters Complex, 3 Schwarzkopf Dr., Ewing. The regular meeting of the Board will begin at 1:30 pm.

Planning is underway for the 2016 State Agricultural Convention and the Board looks forward to hearing from the agricultural community!

There is still time to submit nominations for the 2016 Distinguished Service Award! For more information: <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/guidelin.html>

New Members Take Seats on the State Board of Agriculture

Cumberland County fruit and vegetable farmer Shirley Todd Kline, Monmouth County beekeeper and mum producer Angelo Trapani and Hunterdon County livestock and hay producer Erick K. Doyle are the newest members of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture.

The New Jersey State Board of Agriculture installed Kline and Trapani to four-year terms on July 22 during its reorganization meeting held in Hamilton Township. Doyle was installed at the Board's meeting in Trenton on August 26 to fill an unexpired term ending in 2017. Kline, Trapani and Doyle were elected by the delegates at the February 2015 State Agricultural Convention for recommendation to the Governor for nomination and later confirmed by the State Senate.

"Shirley Kline, Angelo Trapani and Erick Doyle are great additions to the State Board of Agriculture, demonstrating the diversity of New Jersey's agriculture industry," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "They bring their vast knowledge and experience to the board, which sets policy for the industry throughout the entire state."

Shirley Kline earned Bachelor of Science in plant pathology and Masters of Science degree in vegetable production from Cornell University. She operates Happy Valley Berry Farm in Bridgeton growing mixed vegetables and fresh market raspberries, blackberries and strawberries. She offers Community Supported Agriculture and sells wholesale to farm markets and food co-ops. She is a food safety consultant and horticulturist. Kline is the past-President of the Cumberland County Board of Agriculture, a New Jersey Farm Bureau director and a member of the Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey.

Angelo Trapani operates A. Trapani Farms and Trapper's Honey in Clarksburg, producing honey and providing pollination services to other farmers. He and his wife, Anna, also grow field mums. Angelo studied engineering at Mercer County Community College and HVAC at Mercer County Technical School. He is currently president of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, first-Vice President of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association and a New Jersey Farm Bureau alternate director. He is a member of the New Jersey Vegetable Growers Association, Central Jersey Beekeepers, Tri-County Co-op Market, NJ Farmers Director Marketing Association, American Honey Producers Association, American Beekeeping Federation and the New Jersey Agricultural Society.

Erick Doyle, who owns Readington River Buffalo Company in Readington, earned a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from Colgate University. He manages a herd of bison ranging from 90 to 150 head on 110 acres of pasture. He oversees breeding, nutrition, vaccination and transportation. He manages an on-site retail operation with the meat raised on the farm and locally sourced agricultural products. He also produces 200 acres of hay per year to feed the herd and to supplement neighboring farmers. Doyle also hosts Rutgers University students in an annual practicum to teach proper handling methods of large animals. He is currently second vice-president of the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture, a 2009 graduate of the New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program, a Sunday school instructor and an Eagle Scout.



The newest State Board members, from l to r, Angelo Trapani, Shirley Todd Kline and Erick Doyle outside of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

During the reorganization meeting, Martin Bullock, a Cream Ridge hay, grain and Christmas tree farmer, was elected President of the board and Marilyn Russo, a Chesterfield fruit and vegetable farmer, was selected as Vice-President. In addition, Steve Wagner, who represented the nursery industry, resigned and Robert Swanekamp, a grower of plugs and bedding plants in Upper Freehold Township, was chosen to fill the open seat.

The State Board of Agriculture comprises eight members who 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. For more information, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba.

Applications Now Being Accepted for the NJ Agricultural Achievement Award

New Jersey residents who are in their senior year of high school this year and are planning a career in agriculture or science may apply for the New Jersey Agricultural Achievement Award. One winner will be selected and awarded a \$500 scholarship to honor their achievements.

The New Jersey Agricultural Achievement Award, sponsored by Dr. Amy Butewicz, a former New Jersey Equestrian of the Year, was started because of her desire to give back to the community. This scholarship is meant to assist its recipient in beginning their future in agriculture.

The qualifications for receiving this award include submitting an application, found here www.jerseyequine.nj.gov/agachievementapplform.pdf, a resume along with an essay answering the question, "How has your involvement within your respective nominating organization helped to shape your future career choice?"

In addition, a contestant is required to be a current, active member of an organization either on the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board and/or represented at the Youth Reception portion of the New Jersey State Agricultural Convention. Each organization on the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board and a participant of the State Agricultural Convention is able to nominate a maximum of two contestants.

The winner of the Agricultural Achievement Award must attend the Annual New Jersey Bred Equine Breeders Award Luncheon to be held on Sunday, January 24, 2016 in Eastampton and will read his or her essay to the attendees.

Please mail application, resume and essay by January 2, 2016 to:

NJDA

Attn: Lynn Mathews

P.O. Box 330

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

If you have any questions, contact Lynn Mathews, 609-292-2888 or lynn.mathews@ag.state.nj.us.

USDA Food and Nutrition Officials Visit New Jersey

Audrey Rowe, the Administrator of the US Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service joined Secretary Fisher and Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Pat Dombroski at the Amity Heights Housing Complex in Bridgeton on August 11, 2015, where about 35 children eat lunch daily through the Summer Food Service Program. The Bridgeton program is sponsored by the Community Food Bank of NJ. SFSP provides free meals to low income children when school is out for summer. The federally-funded Summer Food Service Program reimburses participating organizations for meals served to children who live in areas in which at least 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program. Statewide this year there are more than 1,100 sites serving more than 53,000 children daily. In the 2014-2015 school year, more than 430,000 New Jersey students received free or reduced price meals in their schools under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). In 2014, only 20 percent participating in the NSLP had access to healthy meals in the summer. Last year, the 100 sponsors served more than 3 million meals at 1,000 feeding sites. Most participating organizations may be reimbursed for up to two meals a day — lunch and either breakfast or a snack.



Left to right, Pat Dombroski, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Regional Administrator; Audrey Rowe, USDA FNS Administrator; Douglas Fisher, NJ Secretary of Agriculture

American Dairy Assoc. and Dairy Council offer “Artisan/Farmstead Cheesemaker Food Safety Workshop”

WHEN:

September 23, 2015
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

WHERE:

Saputo Cheese
861 Washington Ave.
Carlstadt, NJ 07072-3001

COST: \$49 per person

SPONSORED BY:

American Dairy Assoc. and Dairy Council

TO REGISTER VISIT: www.usdairy.com/events



DESCRIPTION:

Artisan Cheeses continue to gain popularity with growing distribution through farmer’s markets, retail, and foodservice establishments. As such, the number of cheese making operations is growing at impressive rates. These smaller, often on-farm, facilities have unique needs and challenges and to meet those needs the non-profit Innovation Center for US Dairy is partnering to offer a series of workshops.

With the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act, HACCP-based food safety plans and related pre-requisite programs will become a regulatory requirement. Proactive implementation of a risk reduction program now will better prepare producers for forthcoming regulation. The Artisan/Farmstead Cheesemaker Food Safety Workshop course builds upon core knowledge of dairy hygiene, essential good manufacturing and hygiene practices, sanitation standard operating procedures and other pre-requisite programs to help producers improve their operations and achieve food safety by preventing, monitoring and reducing food safety risks in critical areas of food safety before they become regulatory or affect the consumer. The main focal points of this class include the discussion of bacteriostatic and bactericidal control points in the manufacture of cheese, validating and verifying the efficacy of said preventative controls, environmental pathogen control and monitoring as well as raw ingredient and product pathogen testing. For complete offering of workshops and certificate programs that provide a comprehensive training in food safety at Cornell, visit <http://blogs.cornell.edu/dairyextension/certificateprogram/#.Uw2zKVUo7IV>

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Artisan Cheese manufacturers looking to protect consumers and their businesses through good food safety practices
- Extension and industry support personnel to better help smaller producers
- Retail and foodservice cheese buyers looking to understand cheesemaking food safety from these specialty producers



From the Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- The United States Department of Agriculture has made three disaster declarations that affect the Northeastern states. Only one declaration affects New Jersey growers. Designation #2 notes that due to frost, freeze and excessive snow that occurred from January 1-May 24, 2015, Bergen County, NJ is eligible for disaster relief.

If you are a grower in Bergen County and suffered damage due to these conditions during this time period, please contact your local FSA office to see what programs may be in place to assist you.

- Val Dolcini, Administrator of the USDA Farm Service Agency reminds farmers and ranchers that Sept. 30, 2015, is the last day to enroll for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. It's also the deadline for the Margin Protection Program for Dairy. These programs provide important risk protection for farm and dairy operations, so it's important not to miss the deadline for enrollment.

Producers already have chosen ARC or PLC, so now is the time to sign the contract and formally enroll.

The deadline for producers to enroll in the 2015 MPP program is also September 30. Participating farmers will remain in the program through 2018 and pay a \$100 administrative fee each year.

To learn more about these programs and other FSA programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ or contact your local FSA county office.

Agricultural Legislation Update

A-535 Re-establishes certain historic driving privileges afforded holders of agricultural driver's licenses in operating farm equipment and vehicles. Signed by the Governor on 8/5/15

This is also known as the 16 year old agriculture driver's license. This requires that a person seeking to obtain an agricultural license successfully complete an approved minimum six-hour behind-the-wheel driver training course. It also provides that the holder of an agricultural license is exempt from the requirement that a driver under the age of 17 be in the company and under the supervision of a licensed driver over the age of 21 while operating a motor vehicle. The exemption only applies when the agricultural licensee is operating a registered farm vehicle for farm-related purposes. The holder of an agricultural license is required to display the reflectorized decals that are required under current law to be displayed by all drivers under the age of 21.

S-2599 Provides certain definitions for biofuels under "Motor Fuels Tax Act." Signed by the Governor on 8/10/15

This new law defines biodiesel using the standard ATSM D6751. "Bio-based liquid fuel" means a liquid fuel that is derived principally from renewable biomass and meets the specifications or quality certification standards for use in residential, commercial, or industrial heating applications established under ASTM D6751.

SJR-17 Designates September of each year as "Hunger Action Month" in New Jersey. Signed by the Governor on 8/10/15

This joint resolution permanently designates September as "Hunger Action Month" in New Jersey to inspire the citizens of the State to take action to help eradicate hunger in New Jersey and to raise public awareness of the 49 million people in the United States who live in food-insecure households.

For more information regarding agriculturally-related legislation, please contact the NJDA's Legislative Liaison, **Robert Vivian** at Robert.Vivian@ag.state.nj.us.