

A REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DEAN OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
July 2013

Extension specialists in entomology, **Anne Nielsen** and **George Hamilton**, are members of the multi-state research team, Stop BMSB. The project has just published a list of 170 plants that the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) uses for food and reproduction, called *Host Plants of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in the U.S.* The list is a companion to five short web videos about BMSB host plants that show growers how to monitor for damage and infestations. Topics span orchard crops, small fruit, vegetables, and ornamental crops. The segments, which can also be watched as one 20-minute video, include footage from New Jersey. The materials can be found at: <http://www.stopbmsb.org/stink-bug-bulletin/host-plants>.

Wesley Kline, Cumberland County Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) agricultural agent and **Meredith Melendez**, Mercer County RCE senior program agriculture coordinator, have developed the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act Q&A Proposed Produce Rule summary. The proposed rule is open for comment until September 16th and the document summarizes questions from around the nation about the rule. This rule will affect many NJ growers and Kline and Melendez have been working to educate growers and industry groups about its potential impact. This summary allows for growers, industry and educators to have a better understanding of the rule without reading the 550 page federal docket. It is available from Mercer and Cumberland RCE offices and on-line at: <http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/FSMA-FDA-QandA-Proposed-Produce-Safety-Rule.pdf>

RCE of Ocean County continues in 2013 its pilot effort of infusing Jersey seafood into a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm in Atlantic County. Sea Salt CSA, run by Jennifer Lamonaca at B&B Farms in Galloway, NJ is an organic farm which has expanded its production and shareholders each year for the past 3 years. This year there are 30 families that have purchased a separate seafood share. The shares contain mainly shellfish and have already delivered locally farmed littleneck clams, fresh sea scallops, and soft-shelled crabs. All have been received very well by the shareholders at their weekly CSA pickups. It was envisioned that this successful program that began in 2012 would expand throughout the state, but coordinating seafood supply days, typical CSA pickup days, the distribution of the CSAs around the state, and the potential number of those who might choose the seafood share make expansion difficult. It is hoped that a private purveyor/distributor can be found to assume this as a business.

Rick VanVranken, Atlantic County RCE agricultural agent, presented a summary of the work of the Ethnic Produce Production and Marketing Working Group (EPPMWG), which he helped co-found, at the annual meeting of the Northeast Extension Directors at Cornell, where he accepted their Award for Excellence in Extension Programming on behalf of the group on July 8. This multi-state, multi-disciplinary team of extension agents, specialists and researchers from Rutgers, UMass, Cornell, Penn State and University of Florida has secured over \$2.3 million in various grants to research and conduct outreach programming on the marketing and production potential of new ethnic crops for East Coast farmers. Individually and as a team, the group has to its credit almost 200 publications and presentations on this topic, and has established the WorldCrops.org website. In addition to VanVranken, Rutgers/NJAES members of the EPPMWG include **Ramu Govindasamy**, **Jim Simon**, **Albert Ayeni**, **Bill Sciarappa**, **Pete Nitzsche**, **Tom Orton**, **Steve Komar**, **Brian Schilling**, and **Chung Park**. More information about the project can be found at: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/fyi/2012-need-award>.



Of Interest:

Late blight, an important disease of potato and tomato, has been found in the southern and northern parts of the state in recent weeks. Weather conditions during June were highly favorable for the disease. Extension specialist in plant pathology, **Andy Wyenandt**, reports that the recent hot, dry conditions in July should help alleviate any potential threats. Commercial growers have received disease alerts via the Plant & Pest Advisory vegetable updates blog.

Rutgers NJAES state climatologist **Dave Robinson** reports that for June 2013, statewide average precipitation totaled 9.57", a record for any June back to 1895. The total was 5.55" above the 4.02" average. No location in the state was spared the wet conditions, with the southwest, west central, and northern coast being wettest and the far south and portions of the northeast least wet. The locations with the highest totals were Pittsgrove (Salem County) with 13.07", followed by Franklin Township (Gloucester) at 13.00". June 2013 temperatures were also above average. The average of 71.3° was 1.2° above the 1981-2010 mean and ranked as the 19th warmest June.

Events:

Taste of Somerset Agriculture Picnic, July 27, 4:30 - 8:00 pm, Madden Farms, 117 Suydam Road, Franklin (Somerset), NJ. Sponsored by Somerset Board of Agriculture. For more info:
http://events.rutgers.edu/pdfs/2013_Taste_of_Somerset_Picnic.pdf

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days, July 30-31, Hort Farm II, 102 Ryders Lane, North Brunswick, NJ. For info call 973-812-6467 or visit: www.njturfgrass.org. Pesticide credits: July 30th - 1 Core, 8 - 3B & 3A, 2 - PP2, 10 & 13. July 31st - 4 Core, 6 - 3B & 3A, 2 - PP2, 4 - 10 & 13.

Annual Snyder Farm Open House and Tomato Tasting, August 28, 3:00 – 8:00 pm, Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm, 140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867. The event includes the very popular tasting of over 60 heirloom and hybrid varieties of beefsteak, plum, cherry, and grape tomatoes. Other highlights include tasting of apples and peaches from the NJAES Tree Fruit Breeding Program along with varieties of basil and honey. Wagon tours of the farm's research plots will be held throughout the event. Contact Joanne Stevely, 908-730-9419, ext. 3501 or RSVP on-line at snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/tomatoes.html

Visit our Rutgers NJAES online resources:

Vegetable Crops Online Resource Center: <http://njveg.rutgers.edu>

Jersey Vegetable Crops Ag Updates: <http://jerseyvegscropsagupdates.blogspot.com>

Fruit Ag Updates: <http://jerseyfruitagupdates.blogspot.com>

Field & Forage Crops Nutrient Management Ag Updates:

<http://fieldforagecropsnutrientmanagement.blogspot.com>

Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe: <http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu>

What's in Season from the Garden State: <http://www.njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/archive.html>

