



April 2022

New Jersey is poised as an important player in the emerging offshore wind (OSW) energy industry being developed throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S. Being technologically efficient and cost-effective requires the existence of nearby robust supply chain support. To help sustain this emerging industry, [Rutgers EcoComplex](#) has launched the “WindIgnite” accelerator program that will serve as the hub of an innovative wind supply chain entrepreneurship ecosystem. Tailored for entrepreneurs and small businesses, with a particular emphasis on women and minority-owned enterprises, it will encompass discovery, concept assessment, business model assessment, technology verification, scale-up, and commercialization. The WindIgnite program is funded by Atlantic Shores LLC.

The Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals announced its 2022 award winners for outstanding educational materials and achievement. Rutgers Cooperative Extension marine agent **Douglas Zemeckis**, (retired) marine scientist **Eleanor Bochenek** and colleagues, won the Short Publication Gold Award for “[Increasing the Catch-and-Release Survival of Black Sea Bass](#),” while agricultural and natural resource agents **Michele Bakacs**, **Amy Rowe**, **Steve Yergeau**, and **Sal Mangiafico** won the Newsletters or Series of Articles Silver Award for “[Rutgers Earth Day, Every Day E-News Blast](#).” Award recipients will be recognized during the [ANREP 2022 Biennial Conference](#) in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 31-June 3.

The Excellence in Teamwork Award (State Level) from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, was awarded to FCHS educators **Christine Zellers**, **Joanne Kinsey**, senior extension associate **Rachel Tansey**, senior program administrator **Lauren Errickson**, marine agent **Douglas Zemeckis**, and marine scientist **Lisa Calvo** for “What’s the Catch – New Jersey Seafood & Healthy Living Program.”

In the News

Among several news outlets, NJ101.5 reported on the NJAES deer survey, [Are there too many deer? Report reveals deer impact on NJ farmers \(nj1015.com\)](#).

MDPI-Plants journal published “[Hoop House and Field Evaluation of Tigernut \(Cyperus esculentus L. var. sativus Boeck\) Selections in New Jersey, USA](#)” by retired ethnic crops specialist **Albert Ayeni**, summarizing studies done on the plant at Rutgers between 2008 and 2021.

Agricultural agent **Rick VanVranken** offers insights on farm stays in the *Growing Produce* article, “[Profit Potential of Farm Stays Worth a Close Look](#).”

Events

[South Jersey Tree Fruit Twilight Meeting III](#), Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 4–7 p.m., Duffields Farmers Market 280 Chapel Heights Road, Sewell, NJ.

North Jersey Tree Fruit and Vegetable Twilight Meeting, May 24, 2022, 4:30–7:30 p.m., Phillips Farm, Milford, NJ. Contact: Kim Crommelin, 908-788-1338