Somerset County Board of Agriculture Reorganizes

New Slate of Officers and Directors Announced

Bridgewater. At the December 11, 2008 meeting of the Somerset County Board of Agriculture and Farm Bureau, the following slate of officers and directors for the 2009 calendar year was unanimously accepted by the membership in attendance:

- President - Richard Norz, Hillsborough
- Vice-President - Ed Seidel, Belle Mead
- Recording Secretary - Ed Pierce, Neshanic Station
- Treasurer - Paul Smith, Hillsborough
- Farm Bureau Director - Ken Osterman, Martinsville
- Alternate Farm Bureau Director - Joanne Powell, Somerville

Incoming President Rich Norz congratulated and thanked Joanne Powell as out-going President for her years of leadership, support, and enthusiasm for all the Board’s activities, and welcomed her into her new position as County Farm Bureau Alternate Director. Under her leadership, the Board has diversified its membership, expanded the Board’s presence and outreach at the Somerset County 4-H Fair, launched the Thomas Everett Memorial Scholarship for undergraduates and continuing education opportunities for NJ Farm Bureau members and their families, and expanded the Annual Picnic and other Board sponsored events that increase the public’s awareness, appreciation, and advocacy for all forms of agriculture throughout Somerset County.

Scholarship

The Thomas Everett Memorial Scholarship Application, providing funds for both undergraduates in agricultural and horticultural studies and for continuing education opportunities for industry professionals, are available by calling 908-526-6293 or for download online at:

http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/ag/boa.html.
Give the Gift of Environmental Understanding: 
The Rutgers Environmental Stewardship Program

New Brunswick, NJ. Imagine being able to discuss climate change with the State Climatologist or learn about New Jersey’s Geology from the people who map it. Wouldn’t it be interesting to hear how New Jersey’s environmental regulations get enforced from a person who actually does the enforcement? How about learning about the role of soils in the environment? Would you like to learn how local environmental decisions get made from the head of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions or how land preservation can be done most effectively from some of the leading players in land preservation in NJ? These are just some of the opportunities that are available to enrollees in the 2009 Rutgers Environmental Steward Volunteer Training Program. Recruitment has already begun, so don’t miss out! To learn how you can become a Rutgers Environmental Steward contact your regional coordinator:

- In the Essex County /Metro Area, classes will be at the Essex County Environmental Center, Roseland, NJ. Contact: Jan Zientek, Zientek@njaes.rutgers.edu, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County, (973) 228-2210.

- In the Somerset County / Central Area, classes will be at Duke Farms, Hillsborough, NJ. Contact: Rosalie Kelly, rkelly@ddcf.org, Duke Farms Foundation, (908) 243-3606.

- In the Burlington County / Delaware Region, classes will be at the Rutgers EcoComplex, Columbus, NJ. Contact: Laurie Magee, Lmagee@njaes.rutgers.edu, Rutgers EcoComplex, (609) 499-3600 ext 221.

- In the Atlantic County / Coastal Region, classes will be held at the Atlantic County Utility Authority, Egg Harbor Twp NJ. Contact: Amy Menzel, amenzel@acua.com, (609) 272-6950 ext 6934

Volunteers will learn land and water stewardship, best management practices, environmental public advocacy, and leadership. More information including application forms and successful projects of previous graduates and Rutgers Environmental Stewards are online at envirostewards.rutgers.edu.

Harold Nathan (Nate) Repair
Longtime Extension Agent

Lexington, Virginia.
Harold Nathan Repair, 84 passed away in September. He was born August 24, 1924 in Parsons, W. Virginia, a son of the late Nathan E. Repair and Hester Parsons Repair.

Mr. Repair was a graduate of Parsons High School, and received a B.S. degree from Berea College and a M.S. degree from West Virginia University. He served in the U. S. Navy in the South Pacific Theatre during World War II. He married Cecilia Stalnaker in 1947.

He worked for Rutgers Cooperative Extension as an Agricultural Extension Agent in Somerset County, NJ for 35 years. Nate retired from Rutgers Cooperative Extension as professor emeritus in 1986. He operated an agricultural consulting business up to the time of his death.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Parsons High School Alumni Association, Parsons, West Virginia 26287; to Berea College, Berea, Kentucky 40404; or to the Stonewall Jackson House, Lexington, VA 24450.

Nate Repair (l.) receiving a Life Member plaque from Ken Osterman (rt.) of the Somerset County Board of Agriculture at the 2003 Annual Dinner held in Franklin, NJ. Photo: N. Polanin
Rutgers University Announces New Ornamental Lily Varieties

New Brunswick, NJ. Two new Rutgers University varieties of ornamental lily, ‘Ramapo Red Passion’ (pictured at right) and ‘Ramapo Wine Passion’ (pictured below) are now available through Jersey Flora, Inc. (a joint venture between Jersey Flora and Rutgers University) at www.jerseyflora.com.

Dr. Merritt and the research team are offering these varieties on a first come, first serve basis. All inquiries must go through the Jersey Flora web site which is linked to Amazon.com for payment. These orders are for personal sale and not for wholesale grower bulk orders or resale. You must act fast for these lilies as there are limited quantities available.

The first plant varieties for sale this winter holiday season 2008 are the ornamental lilies, ‘Ramapo Red Passion’ and ‘Ramapo Wine Passion’. Depending on climatic conditions, the two Ramapo lily varieties will bloom twice in one year, with the possibility of a third. Plants bloom once as a potted plant and a second or third time when used as a bedding plant. The plants and their bulbs are winter hardy and grow best when mulched during the winter season. They have short and thick stems which do not require staking when planted outside. Plants will be shipped on or about December 15, 2008.

As an introductory special, Jersey Flora® will also offer coffee plants, *Coffea arabica*, in five-inch pots. These are excellent house plants. In regions of the U.S. which do not experience freezing temperatures or during frost free summers, it may be grown out of doors and it will bloom profusely with white flowers and will produce coffee beans. Future sales of these and other varieties of lilies will be offered for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. Bulb sales of white flowering garden bedding lilies will be offered for the spring of 2009. Future releases will also include virus-free strawberry varieties. For specific information on these varieties, please visit www.jerseyflora.com.

NEW STYLE, EARTH FRIENDLY ONLINE MAGAZINE

Sycamore, IL. Proven Winners® has launched Proven Beauty™, a new online magazine in an effort to further reach current and future gardeners. Proven Beauty is geared to reach those using the internet for everything from reading to research. This publication can be found at www.provenbeauty.com/magazine/.

“We are extremely committed to reaching the end consumer – whether it be an 18 year old or a 80 year old”, states Marshall Dirks, Director of Marketing. “This tool was created to reach consumers of all ages – and younger consumers in particular – by providing an insightful online publication about gardening to enhance the readers’ experience, but with an earth-friendly, paperless approach.”

The publication is subscription free and can be viewed when it’s convenient to your schedule. The articles in the first edition include “Water Wisely”, “Make it Easy”, “Share your Garden with Butterflies” and an excellent Q & A answered by plant expert, P. Allen Smith. The publication is scheduled to run on a quarterly basis in different regions. To provide the most insightful information possible, Proven Winners is working with leading gardening editors from across the country to provide hands-on information specific to the reader’s region. Following the magazine is a survey that lets readers’ share their opinions of how editorial can improve from issue to issue. This direction will then be used to guide editors to answer common concerns and provide ideas and suggestions to further increase the joy, ease and success of gardening.

This new style, earth friendly alternative to paper magazines is an excellent solution to fulfilling the growing need for specialized, instantaneous, and enjoyable to read gardening information by consumers that are increasingly depending on online publications.


“My Business: Lean and Mean!”

An Early Conference Announcement

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Sponsored by
Penn State and Rutgers Universities

Hosted at
Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension of
Burlington County
2 Academy Drive, Westhampton, NJ 08060

Ideas, methods and objectives to help you manage your greenhouse and nursery business during difficult economic times. Topics will include labor, credit, safety, energy, engineering, equipment, new crops, and grower panel and marketing.

For more information, please contact
Robin G. Brumfield, Professor and Specialist in Farm Management, Rutgers, the State University of NJ. 732-932-9171 x 253
Email: brumfield@njaes.rutgers.edu

Alan H. Michael, Floriculture Educator, Penn State University. 717-921-8803
Email: ahm4@psu.edu

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New Farm and Ranch Online Planning Tool Now Available

Washington, D.C. USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) has launched an online resource to aid farmers and ranchers in focusing on how to protect against downside risks, as well as how best to take advantage of upside opportunities in the market.

The new resource, a sub-site of the RMA Web site called Farm-Risk-Plans.USDA.gov, allows producers to complete a risk management checklist, identify their enterprise’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and explore a wealth of risk management information.


Producers are able to complete two exercises online which give them a novel look at their risk management situation. First is the Risk Management Checklist, a three-page list of questions to stimulate conversation among the family or leadership team of any farm or ranch operation.

The second is a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis, a commonly used planning exercise in the business world, recognizing that small- to medium-sized farms are serious businesses which must use the same tools as any other modern business.

The team that developed this project together over the past year includes farmers, Extension educators, and risk management education consultants, as well as the head of the National Agricultural Law Center at the University of Arkansas and RMA professionals.
Farm Service Agency Update

Frenchtown, NJ. Ms. Doreen Beruck of USDA Farm Service Agency provided the following information:

**2009 Disaster Programs**: Important! ALL crops must be covered through NAP or crop insurance in order to receive a disaster payment on any one of them through the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. The price for NAP is $250 per crop not to exceed $750 per county. The price for CAT is $300 per crop. The NAP application deadline has been extended to December 1, 2008 for blueberries, cane berries, cherries, Christmas trees, clover, flowers, grass, grapes, honey, mixed forage, onions, pears, plums, rye, scallions, shallots, strawberries. The RMA crop insurance deadlines have NOT been extended and remain as established.

**Livestock Forage Disaster Program** (LFP): Important! Grazing land must be covered through NAP or crop insurance in order to qualify for grazing losses.

**Farm Loan Program**: Direct loan limits for both Farm Ownership (FO) loans and Farm Operating (OL) loans increased to $300,000 each, an increase of $100,000 from previous limits. Effective October 1, 2008, the guaranteed maximum loan limit will increase to $1,094,000. The previous loan limit was $949,000.


**NJ Disaster Declarations**: United States Secretary of Agriculture Edward Schafer has designated the following ten New Jersey counties as natural disaster areas, following hail storms, drought, hear, and other severe weather conditions that led to crop losses during the 2008 growing season: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem. Hunterdon, Somerset, and Middlesex counties are also eligible as contiguous counties.

DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil  
NJ Department of Agriculture Seeks Student Artists

*Annual Poster Contest Focuses on the Importance of Soil*

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus is encouraging students in grades 2-12 to participate in the 2009 Conservation Poster Contest sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, State Soil Conservation Committee, the New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts and the local Soil Conservation Districts.

Secretary Kuperus said through illustrating this year’s theme, “DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil,” students will be able to learn about and convey an important conservation message.

“Almost all of the minerals and nutrients we need for life and to keep us healthy come from fields, gardens, trees and pastures,” said Kuperus. “Every fruit or vegetable we eat gets its nutrients from the soil in which it grows. By creating a poster, students can highlight their artistic talents while exploring their connections to the natural world.”

Local Soil Conservation Districts will judge the entries and submit their first place winners for the statewide contest. State winners will be awarded cash awards of $200, $100, and $50. The Grand Champion poster will be reproduced onto a pocket-folder and distributed throughout the state.

Entry forms are available on the NJDA web site at: www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/PosterBroch.pdf.

For rules and deadlines, please contact the local Soil Conservation Districts. The Somerset / Union Soil Conservation District office is located at 308 Milltown Road in Bridgewater, at the rear of the 4-H Center. For a complete listing of all NJ districts, please visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/nrc/conservdistricts.html.

New Jersey has 15 soil conservation districts, following county boundaries, which implement the New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act. These semi-autonomous bodies are locally governed and play a strong role in the protection of New Jersey’s natural resources.

NJDA and NY JETS ANNOUNCE TOP SCHOOL NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus and New York Jets offensive tackle D’Brickashaw Ferguson recently announced that schools in Wayne, Sayreville, North Plainfield, Highland Park and Berkeley Township are winners of the Eat Right, Move More® contest.

The Eat Right, Move More® program, a partnership between the Jets and the Department of Agriculture, is an example of Governor Corzine’s continued commitment to improved school nutrition for students in NJ. This year’s program is focused on School Breakfast and how schools have made efforts to offer and promote healthy and interesting morning menu choices.

“The five winning schools this year have made providing nutritious and attractive breakfasts to their students a priority,” said Secretary Kuperus. “Many studies have linked eating a healthy breakfast to better performance in school. We are pleased to be joined by the New York Jets in urging schools in the state to work toward increasing the number of students served on a daily basis.”

“We partnered with the State of New Jersey three years ago because we recognized the importance of urging schools and students to rethink their food and exercise options,” said Jets Executive Vice President of Business Operations, Matt Higgins. “By expanding the program’s focus to include breakfast we hope that we are making an even greater impact on the well being of many children.”

The NJDA’s school nutrition policy is the most comprehensive in the nation and covers pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students. More than 1,740 schools in NJ currently offer the School Breakfast Program. To help promote the School Breakfast Program, the NJDA developed a website, “Food For Thought – NJ School Breakfast Program,” at www.njdafoodforthought.com. The site has information and resources for parents, teachers, and children to help them work together to ensure students
NEW JERSEY IS LOOKING FOR OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS

New Jersey annually recognizes the outstanding achievements of a young farmer, who is an upstanding leader, respected agriculturalist and is active in community or faith organizations. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the Year 2010 Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) Award. The submission deadline for nominations is January 15, 2009.

Nominees must be farm operators, deriving a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming and must be between the ages of 21-40, not becoming 41 prior to January 1, 2010. Candidates who have a financial interest in the farm operation (a sole proprietor, partners, or a corporation) will receive higher ranking in the OYF judging process. However, nominees also may include salaried farm managers and employees who are actively involved in policy and management decisions. Submission of a financial statement is not required for state competition.

A panel of three judges will review each nominee’s application based on the following criteria: progress in their agricultural career (50%); soil and water conservation practices (25%); and contribution to his/her community, state and nation (25%).

Any individual or organization can nominate deserving young farmers’ names. Persons who have been nominated in the past or previous state winners who went to the National competition but did not receive a National OYF Award can be re-nominated, provided they still meet the eligibility criteria.

H. William Sytsema, 37, a dairy and cattle farmer from Wantage, Sussex County has been named 2009 Outstanding Young Farmer by the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture. He will be presented with his award at the 2009 New Jersey Agricultural Convention in Cherry Hill next February. He also will compete for one of the top four National Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) Awards.

The Outstanding Young Farmer® program is the oldest farmer recognition program in the United States, selecting its first group of national winners in 1955, and is administered by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. The goals of the OYF program are to:

- to bring about a greater interest in the farmer
- to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of the farmers' problems
- to develop an appreciation of farmer contributions and achievements
- to inform the agribusiness community of the growing urban awareness of farmers' importance and impact on the American economy.

The OYF program encourages a greater interest in agriculture through the appreciation of the farmers’ contributions and achievements and recognizes local citizens’ contributions and encourages better urban-rural relations.

The National OYF program is sponsored by Deere & Company, supported by the Outstanding Farmers of America (OFA) Fraternity and the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA), and administered by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Since the Jaycees presented the first award, four New Jersey farmers’ names have been added to the National OYF Honor Roll. They include Abbott Lee (1985), James B. Giamarese (1989), Robert Von Thun, Jr. (2001) and Jeffrey VanderGroef (2005). Recent state OYF winners include Holly Mackey (2008), Peter L. Melick (2007), and Joseph M. Marino (2006).

The Official State Nomination Form can be accessed on the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s web site at www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/cover.html.

If you have any questions on the OYF program or the nomination procedure or need a nomination form, contact Ms. Karen Kritz, New Jersey OYF Program Manager at (609) 984-2506, by facsimile at (609) 341-3212 or e-mail at Karen.Kritz@ag.state.nj.us.
The 2008 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Peter S. Palmer, Director, Bernardsville
Rick Fontana, Deputy Director, Bridgewater
Robert Zaborowski, Franklin
Jack M. Ciattarelli, Hillsborough
Patricia L. Walsh, Green Brook

The 2008 Somerset County Board of Agriculture

Joanne Powell, President, Somerville
Richard Norz, Vice President, Hillsborough
Edward Pierce, Recording Secretary, Neshanic Station
Paul M. Smith, II, Treasurer, Hillsborough
Ryck Suydam, Second Vice President, NJ Farm Bureau, Franklin
Kenneth Osterman, County Director, NJ Farm Bureau, Neshanic Station
William Randolph, County Director (alt.), NJ Farm Bureau, Belle Mead

Promoting all forms of sustainable agriculture; assisting, enhancing and furthering agriculture as it relates to the economics, environment, aesthetics, and the high quality of life here in Somerset County.

The 2008 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board

Mark W. Kirby, Chairperson
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairperson
Steve Selody, Secretary/Treasurer

Voting Members
Gail W. McKane
Richard A. Norz
John A. Johnson
Catherine Sorge

Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Liaison

Celebrating 25 Years of Preserving farmland and enhancing the industry of agriculture in Somerset County

Ex-officio Members
Jules Lobai, County Planning Board
Nicholas Polanin, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Dr. Ernest Thurlow, Soil Conservation District

Planning Board Staff
Anthony McCracken, Assistant Director
Tara Kenyon, Senior Planner
Catherine Bunting, Administrative Assistant

Watch for the Next Issue of Green and Growing
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