Rich & Debbie Norz Named
2010 National Outstanding Young Farmers

(Hillsborough). Rich and Debbie Norz, diversified fourth generation farmers from Hillsborough, Somerset County, were chosen as one of four National Outstanding Young Farmers by the United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees) on February 13 at their 2010 Awards Congress in Raleigh, North Carolina. Previously, Norz was honored as New Jersey’s 2010 Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) by the State Board of Agriculture. Since 1999, every New Jersey OYF has been among the top 10 National Outstanding Young Farmers. This is the second year in a row and the fourth time in the last 10 years that the New Jersey OYF was named one of the four National OYFs.

“New Jersey has a long history of innovative, hard-working young farmers and Rich and Debbie set a great example of how to be successful farmers in the Garden State,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. “Past New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmers are today’s leaders in the state’s agriculture industry and we encourage younger members of the agricultural community to get involved to help agriculture grow and thrive in the future.”

The Norz family operates Norz-Hill Farm, growing a variety of produce, operating a farm stand, raising and breeding Holsteins and running an agri-tourism operation that attracted more than 20,000 visitors last year. The family currently owns and rents 1,425 acres, of which about 80 acres is permanently preserved. The farm was started in 1920 by Norz’s great-grandparents.

“It was a tremendous honor to be recognized by our peers in the agriculture community,” said Rich and Debbie. “We have always been proud of our farm and our family's accomplishments. Agriculture for us has been a rewarding way of life. You need to be able to work hard, be dedicated and conscientious of the environment, and thank Mother Nature in the great years.”

Rich and Debbie (pictured above right), traveled to Raleigh for the National Outstanding Young Farmer Competition in February. They and nine other finalists competed for the top four positions.

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Norz’ Named National Outstanding Young Farmers (continued from page 1)

The Norz’, along with Patrick and Sara McGuire of Michigan, Brandon and Monica Schafer of Minnesota, and Ryan and Annie Williams of Texas (all pictured above with Orion Samuelson, center) were selected as this year’s National Outstanding Young Farmers. The four couples, who represent the fruit, dairy, hay, grain, vegetable, beef, pork, agritourism and cotton industries, will travel to Washington D.C. in March of 2011 to meet with US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

“It’s great to be recognized among states that are more prevalent in agricultural -- it breaks the stereo-type, proving New Jersey offers more then just industry, and that we are THE GARDEN STATE,” said Debbie Norz. “In the future, we will continue to grow our farm, educate the community on farm practices, and promote and support agriculture in the state.”

The Outstanding Young Farmer program is the oldest farmer recognition program in the United States, selecting its first group of national winners in 1955. The goals of the OYF program are to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of farmers’ challenges, as well as the appreciation of their contributions and achievements; to bring about a greater interest in farmers/ranchers; and to help build an urban awareness of the farmers’ importance and impact on America’s economy.

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

For more information about the NJ Outstanding Young Farmer Program, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/cover.html.

Malinowski Honored as 2009 Horseperson of the Year (New Brunswick). Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Director of the Equine Science Center at the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Manville native and resident, was named the Horseperson of the Year by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s Equine Advisory Board.

Dr. Karyn Malinowski (far right) receives the Horseperson of the Year Award from (l-r) Dr. Stephen Dey and Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher.

“From an early age I knew that I wanted to work within the equine industry,” said Malinowski. “I never could have imagined that my passion for science, horses, and education would lead me to a life-long career in this industry. I am truly humbled and feel honored to receive this award.”

Malinowski, an alumna of Rutgers, earned her Bachelor's and Master’s degrees in animal science, and a Doctorate in zoology. As a faculty member at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Malinowski served in various roles including animal sciences professor, interim chair of the Extension Specialist department and Director of Cooperative Extension. She became the first female equine extension specialist in the United States in 1978.

“Karyn richly deserves this recognition by the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board,” said Robert M. Goodman, executive dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “She has devoted her professional life to equine leadership and is recognized nationally as one of the most effective educators and advocates in the area of equine health.”

Malinowski’s research and extension programs focus on improving the well-being and the quality of life of the equine athlete while ensuring the vitality and viability of the equine industry, both statewide and nationally. She is passionate about horses and the New Jersey horse industry and has been a strong voice for its horse racing and breeding industry. She assumed the lead role in conceptualizing and building the equine science program at Rutgers University and has long been active in cultivating funding for research and extension programs from a variety of sources to sustain the Equine Science Center.

In addition to winning this coveted Horseperson of the Year award, Malinowski has received several prestigious awards including the Outstanding Woman of Somerset County in 2009. Dr. Malinowski has authored over 50 refereed journal articles, abstracts, and numerous book chapters.
NEW TEACHING GREENHOUSE

(Franklin). In the Fall of 2009, the MacAfee Road Elementary School in Franklin Township hosted a ribbon cutting for their newly constructed greenhouse. Funding for this teaching greenhouse began with a $5,000 donation from New Jersey Farm Bureau in memory of Tom Everett, lifelong farmer and agricultural leader in Somerset County. (photos courtesy of Ken Osterman)

SAVE THE DATES
Taste of Jersey Fresh Somerset Ag Picnic

Saturday, July 31, 2010 will be the date for the annual ‘Taste of Jersey Fresh Somerset Agriculture’ picnic, held in support of the Thomas Everett Memorial Scholarship Fund. This year’s event will be held on at the Griggstown Quail Farm in Princeton, http://www.griggstownquailfarm.com/. As in previous years, there will be entertainment, farm tours, and of course freshly cooked Jersey Fresh picnic foods donated by growers all across the county. The farm sits just off Bunkerhill Road in Griggstown and passers by often see cows and horses peacefully grazing in the fields of The Griggstown Quail Farm. In the spring of 2009, the farm launched an exciting new CSA (Community Supported Agricultural Program). Please watch this newsletter or our website for more details as they become available.

‘Ag in Action’

Sunday, September 12, 2010 is this years ‘Ag in Action.’ This farm open house, which began as a “Dairy Day,” will be hosted by the Somerset County Board of Agriculture at Rainbow Run Farm in Hillsborough, http://rainbowrunfarm.com/. The farm has a rich history all its own. Somerset County purchased the plot of land from the Kanach family about a decade ago with the goal of preserving it as farmland. Brad Benson, former NY Giants defensive lineman, spent a year renovating the farm. The facility is nestled on 350 sprawling acres and features indoor and outdoor arenas, boarding facilities, and more. The open house will take place from 10 am to 4 pm, and may include tours and events at neighboring farms nearby. Please watch this newsletter or our website for more details as they become available.
Funds for Northern New Jersey Farmers in Selected Watersheds - Technical and Financial Assistance to Help Improve Water Quality

Agricultural producers and land owners who have an interest in an agricultural operation predominantly located within one of three designated sub-watersheds of the Raritan River basin can apply for technical and financial assistance to implement farm practices that improve water quality. A total of $216,087 in federal funds is available through the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) for 2010. Some of the practices which will be funded include livestock access control fencing, composting, cover crops, nutrient management, prescribed grazing, pest management, gutters, stream crossings, waste storage facilities, and livestock watering facilities.

Twenty-two municipalities in Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties are included in the program area that is within the Spruce Run / Mulhockaway Creek, the Neshanic River, and the South Branch / Long Valley watersheds. North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development can help you determine if you are eligible to apply for AWEP.

Applicants must be compliant with the conservation provisions of the 2008 farm bill with current crop and producer records on file with USDA’s Farm Service Agency. They must own or control the land, and agree to implement conservation practices according to the contract schedule.

Eligible conservation practices are those that will have a positive impact on the quality of water leaving the farm through runoff or infiltration into groundwater. The specific list of practices is updated annually and is available online or at the local NRCS or RC&D office.

Applications for the program can be made at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County (908-782-4614, ext. 3) or Hackettstown, Warren County (908-852-2576, ext. 3). Applications must be received by May 17, 2010.

Information about the program is available online at [http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep/](http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep/).

Important Information on Animal Waste Management Plans

Why manage animal wastes?
The goal of animal waste management is to make best use of the nutrients in manure while protecting our natural resources. When managed properly, manure can be a valuable resource on a farm by providing nutrients for crop production and improving soil quality. However, if manure is mismanaged or there is insufficient land to use the amount of manure produced, water supplies and the environment could be at risk.

Who needs to manage animal waste?
Farms with more than 8 animal units (1 animal unit = 1,000 lbs. of live animal weight) must comply with the rules as well as complete an Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP) for their farm. Farms with fewer than 8 animal units must comply with the Animal Waste Management Rule but are not required to complete a formal AWMP.

When is the Deadline for AWMP completion?
It was back in March of this year that all farms must be in compliance with the General Rules. In September of 2010, AWMPs must be completed, and in March of 2012, all Best Management Practices (BMP’s) required in your AWMP must be completed. For an on-line planner, visit: [http://www.njawmp.org](http://www.njawmp.org).

New Jersey Tomato Grower Survey

We are looking for senior farmers or members of family farms (familiar with growing practices) who grew tomatoes in the 1950’s, 60’s or 70’s, or agricultural supplier or extension professionals who worked with growers during those decades to conduct a survey on cultural practices of tomato production during that time. Survey participants will also receive a free Jersey Tomato T-shirt! To sign up for the survey, please call or e-mail Cindy Rovins at 732-932-7000, ext. 4208 or rovins@aesop.rutgers.edu and provide your name and mailing address.

Crop Insurance a Must!

Nursery crop insurance is available for businesses that derive at least 50% of their gross income from the wholesale marketing of plants. There are more than 20,500 plants eligible to be insured as long as they have adequate cold protection and are grown using acceptable production practices. Christmas trees and stock plants (for harvesting buds, flowers, or greenery) are not insurable. Growers can also divide their operation into separate insurance units based on plant type and practice. Crop insurance and/or Farm Service Agency’s NAP program are now requirements for the new crop disaster assistance program. Contact your local FSA office the Garden State Crop Insurance Education Team at 1-800-308-2449 for details.
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Master Gardeners of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties

18th Annual “Not Your Usual”
Garden Expo & Plant Sale

Saturday, May 8, 2010
Sale starts promptly at 9am and ends at 1pm.

Ted Blum 4-H Center
310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ (between Rt. 202 and Rt. 22)

Home Grown Perennials Including:
- Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant & Native Plants
- Ornamental Grasses, Ferns, and Shrubs

Flowering Annuals & Hanging Baskets
- Heirloom Tomatoes
- Peppers, Vegetables & Herbs
- Native Plant Display

Weed and Pest Identification Station
Soil Test Kits Available

Only Cash or Checks are Accepted
Only Service Dogs Allowed
BPU Rules on Vegetation Height Beneath Transmission Lines
Secretary Douglas H. Fisher

This is to inform you that the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) in December adopted amendments to its rules for Transmission Line Vegetation Management (NJAC 14-5-9.6). In addition, the NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) and the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) are seeking your assistance in reaching out to any farmers who could potentially be adversely affected so that we can work with BPU to minimize any negative impacts.

One of the amendments to the rule increases the allowable height of woody agricultural crops growing in the “wire zone” from 3 feet to 12 feet. The wire zone is generally the land located directly under the widest portion of a transmission line. You may recall that the BPU began enforcing the prior 3 foot height restriction in late 2007, which prompted a number of complaints from the public - including several farmers - who strongly objected to land clearing taking place under power lines at that time. Shortly thereafter, the BPU halted enforcement action and initiated an informal stakeholder process to receive additional input from the public.

The NJDA, through an announcement in the NJ Farm Bureau newsletter, solicited feedback from farmers who potentially could have been impacted by the land clearing. At that time, very few farmers responded. In July 2009, the NJDA and SADC submitted formal comments on BPU’s proposed rule amendments. In those comments, the NJDA requested an allowable height of 18-20 feet for woody agricultural crops in the wire zone to accommodate the growth necessary for healthy and productive vegetation. The SADC, citing the potential for significant adverse impact to the agricultural industry from the proposed 12-foot height limitation, requested consultation with the BPU prior to the adoption of the regulations in accordance with its authority under the Right to Farm Act.

While the consultation did take place, the BPU ultimately adopted the 12-foot height limit in the wire zone. It is important to note that any pre-existing easements with utility companies that were authorized prior to January 2007 - which may have different height requirements - are not affected by the newly adopted rule requirements.

Since the NJDA and SADC know of only a few operations impacted by this regulation, we are reaching out again to ask that farmers contact us if they have woody crops in the wire zone that need to grow above 12 feet. If you are affected or have any questions, please contact Dave Kimmel at the SADC at 609-984-2504 or email: dkimmel@ag.state.nj.us.

Preserve the Harvest!

Do you grow more vegetables and fruits than you can eat? Do you love the taste of homemade jelly? Do you want to preserve locally grown produce to enjoy next winter? If so, then these workshops are for you.

Daryl Minch, Family and Community Health Sciences Educator for Rutgers Cooperative Extension here in Somerset County has announced these fun and educational workshops. Each workshop will cover why food safety is critical and how to safely can or freeze fresh produce. Topics to be discussed include selecting the right equipment, sharing resources for recipes, and demonstrating some techniques.

**Preserve the Harvest: Canning**
Tuesday, May 25, 2010,
10:30 am to 12:30 pm OR 6:30 to 8:30 pm
$5.00 per person

Learn the art of canning fruits and vegetables using the appropriate safe method - either a water bath or pressure canner. We will also learn how to can pickles, jams & jellies.

**Preserve the Harvest: Freezing**
Tuesday, June 8, 2010
10:30 am to 12:30 pm OR 6:30 to 8:30 pm
$5.00 per person

Learn how to freeze fruits and vegetables to ensure a safe and high quality product. We will also learn how to make frozen jams.

Each session will be held at the Ted Blum 4-H Center, 310 Milltown Road, in Bridgewater. To register or for more information, call 908-526-6295 x 2.
The Snyder Research and Extension Farm and The Melda C. Snyder Teaching Garden present the 20th Annual Great Tomato Tasting

Save the Date! September 1, 2010 3:00 pm – Dusk

Please RSVP at www.snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/ or by calling 908-713-8980

Please join us in this unique opportunity to taste over 60 tomato varieties (heirlooms and hybrids) along with basil, cucumbers, sweet peppers, apples, peaches, and herbs. Stroll through our teaching garden and take a wagon tour highlighting today’s NJAES agricultural and horticulture research.

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.
The 2010 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Jack M. Ciattarelli, Director
Robert Zaborowski, Deputy Director
Peter S. Palmer
Patricia L. Walsh
Patrick Scaglione

The 2010 Somerset County Board of Agriculture

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

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 2010 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 27 Years of Preserving farmland and enhancing the industry of agriculture in Somerset County

Ex-officio Members
Jules Lobai, County Planning Board
Nicholas Polain, 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
polanin@njaes.rutgers.edu