Regardless of where you live and work, it is clear that New Jersey agriculture touches everyone in the Garden State. Food, fuel, fiber and feed are all part of the enterprise of agriculture that serves the residents and businesses of New Jersey.

Every day, close to 3,000 school students in 40 districts around the state are enrolled in agricultural education programs, preparing them for agriculture and agriculture-related careers. Hundreds of volunteers are trained and ready to help animals in the event of a disaster. More than 673,000 children eat school lunch, and thousands of people in need receive hot meals or bags of groceries from one of the 793 food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters in the state.

Every summer, thousands of senior citizens and WIC recipients redeem Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons at community farmers markets, and now, even SNAP (Food Stamp) EBT cardholders are able to purchase Jersey Fresh produce at those markets. Hundreds of farmers sell directly to consumers at the more than 140 community farmers markets and hundreds of roadside stands found in every county of the state.

New Jersey agriculture is there from spring when the first sprigs of asparagus emerge from the ground to winter, when residents celebrate the holidays with poinsettias and Christmas trees from local farms. Our state’s landscapers are busy beautifying homes and businesses. Premier horseracing events take place at our tracks. And, commercial fishermen are hard at work at New Jersey’s five ports, supplying a vast array of seafood.

For every season, there is an agriculture-related activity to enjoy – from a visit to one of the state’s 40 wineries or many wine festivals, to pick-your-own farms, educational on-farm experiences, fall hayrides and corn mazes, or choose-and-cut Christmas tree farms.

When people go to restaurants, schools, colleges, or even hospitals, Jersey Fresh produce is being served. Jersey Fresh can be found in cans, frozen food sections and among specialty items at supermarkets and retail outlets through our Made with Jersey Fresh program.

And when people turn on their lights, some of that power was generated on a New Jersey farm, through solar or wind energy.

New Jersey agriculture truly touches everyone’s lives and enriches the quality of our lives. It is a tribute to our state’s hard-working, innovative farmers, farm families, fishermen, processors, retailers, food service professionals and emergency food workers and volunteers.
The State Board of Agriculture, comprising eight members, is the policy-making body of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Its members 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.

Learn more about the State Board of Agriculture at: www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/
Worked with Governor and Federal Partners for the Issuance of a Federal Disaster Declaration: USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack declared natural disasters for farmers in New Jersey who suffered crop damage due to winds, frost, hail and flooding in May and then, again for those who had crop losses to excessive heat and drought from June through September. The declaration made those farmers eligible for a variety of federal disaster relief programs.

Formed Food/Agriculture Working Group: The Department of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the Department of Health and Senior Services joined with the NJDA to form the group to prepare food and agriculture businesses to defend against terrorist attempts to deliberately contaminate the food system. The first meeting in December focused on ensuring farmers and food processors fully understood the food safety requirements of retailers and restaurants so they are better prepared to continue those market opportunities.

Launched Online Registration System: In June, the New Jersey Forms and Registration Management System, known as NJFARMS, was launched at www.njfarms.nj.gov. The system allows people to create, access and/or renew their Organic Registration or Dairy License. The system was designed to streamline these types of processes and will be expanded to other functions in the future.

Initiated First-Ever Urban Farm Tour for Legislators: State legislators, along with Secretary Fisher, State Board President Scott Ellis and NJ Farm Bureau and USDA representatives toured school and community gardens in Paterson in September. The annual Legislators’ Farm Tour, sponsored by the NJ Agricultural Society, had traditionally focused on the state’s rural and suburban farms. The focus of the urban farm tour was to familiarize officials with the need to make fresh fruits and vegetables available to city residents and teach them about good nutrition, as well as stress the important role agriculture plays in citizens’ efforts to find locally grown food.

Instituted Listening Sessions for the Agricultural Community: For the first time, Listening Sessions were held at the annual State Agricultural Convention, attended by more than 200 representatives of county agriculture boards, granges, breed and commodity organizations, and other members of the agriculture community. Issues focused on were: green energy, right to farm, and farmland preservation. The sessions will be an ongoing component of the event.

Entered Social Media Realm: The Department launched its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/NJDeptofAgriculture in February. A NJ FFA Facebook page www.facebook.com/NJFFA was created, as well, to promote agriculture, inform constituents and consumers and provide a venue for feedback from the community. The two pages have more than 1,100 followers combined.

Secretary Fisher Selected for National Agriculture Leadership Positions: Secretary Fisher will serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and the Secretary of the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA) in the coming year, having been elected to the posts by his peers.
Launched New Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education (CASE) in NJ High Schools: Eight NJ schools participated in CASE, which delivers rigorous courses aligned to academic (science, math and language arts) and agriculture content standards. The purpose of the program is to introduce more students to agriculture, prepare greater numbers of students for post-secondary education and better prepare students for college. CASE’s goal is to help transform agricultural education from the traditional image to a science-based agriculture program.

Secretary Fisher visited Allentown H.S., a CASE school, in February.

Instituted Online FFA Career Development Events: Meat Evaluation and Agronomy Events were administered online for the first time. Participants logged on at their respective schools, completed the exam sections and received instant results. The winning teams then qualified to compete in these events on the national level.

Revised NJ Soil Erosion Control Standards: The State Soil Conservation Committee initiated a full review and revision of the Department’s Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards in response to recently passed soil health legislation. The SSCC worked cooperatively with the NJ Pinelands Commission to develop additional procedures and techniques to address soil stabilization in the Pinelands National Reserve to address the unique soil and ecological conditions found in that region of the state.

Obtained Federal Aquafeed Grant: NJ received $9,046 from USDA for a grant to a state aquaculture producer to assist with higher than normal feed costs.

Developed Stormwater Detention Basin Web Database: Working in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection and with the assistance of Rutgers University Center for Remote Sensing, State Soil Conservation Committee staff continued the development of an online GIS-enabled database used to collect and map locations of stormwater detention basins that are submitted to Soil Conservation Districts for erosion control plan certification.

Renewed Aquatic Farmer Licenses: Aquatic Farmer Licenses originally issued in 2004 were renewed in 2010. Currently, there are 102 Aquatic Farmer License Holders – 82 shellfish (54 clams, 16 oysters, 12 clams and oysters), 13 Finfish, two Plants, two Finfish and Plants and three Other.

Continued Implementation of Animal Waste Rule: The Department adopted rules in 2009 to implement an animal waste management program for animal feeding operations to protect water quality on farms. The rules apply to farms that generate, handle or receive animal waste and establish general requirements for all livestock farms to follow. The rules require the development and implementation of self-certified animal waste management plans, high-density animal waste management plans or Comprehensive Nutrient management Plans based upon thresholds of animal units and animal density. To date, 270 animal operations have confirmed with the Department the plans have been developed and implemented on their farms.
Participated in Mock Nuclear Plume Release Drill: The Department took a lead role in the FEMA-monitored three-day exercise that drilled responses to a mock nuclear plume release from the Salem Nuclear Power Plant. Much of that drill focused on how agricultural operators in the heavily rural Salem and Cumberland County areas would be impacted by embargoes against their products being able to leave potentially contaminated farms and on issues involving livestock and pet care during evacuations.

Protected Equine Population from Equine Herpes Virus: Five Monmouth County farms and one Gloucester County Farm were placed under a three-week quarantine in March and April after two horses were euthanized with clinical signs consistent with the neurological form of equine herpes virus (EHV-1), and another horse died with similar signs. Equine herpes virus spreads quickly from horse to horse and can cause respiratory problems and spontaneous abortions in pregnant mares. The neurologic form of the disease can reach high morbidity and mortality rates.

Monitored EEE and West Nile Virus: Three horses were euthanized in 2010 after contracting one of two mosquito-borne diseases. A 2-year-old horse from Monmouth County contracted Eastern Equine Encephalitis in October. A 2-year-old Atlantic County mare and a 22-year-old Gloucester County gelding contracted West Nile Virus. None of the horse had been vaccinated against these serious diseases. The Department continued to stress the importance of inoculating horses to guard against such occurrences.

Added Pathology Services to Animal Health Lab: Dr. Shannon Lee Swist, who earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University, joined the Division in October. She previously worked as a Veterinary Pathologist at the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab. Pathologist are required for all diagnostic labs and are pivotal in animal disease diagnoses. Dr. Swist gives the lab the capability of performing necropsies and biopsies.

Received FDA Grant for Livestock Medication Booklet: Through a small grant provided by the Food and Drug Administration, approximately 2,000 copies of a laminated “Record of Livestock Medication” booklet was produced for cattle producers. The booklet includes information about injection sites in cattle, withdraw times for common cattle health care products, an extra-label drug use algorithm, and a list of drugs prohibited for extra-label use in food animals. Although the booklet is geared to cattle (dairy and beef), producers of other food animals may find this useful, and tailor it towards their needs.

Opened the Door to Federal Funding for a Variety of Animal Disease Testing: The Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory successfully met the criteria and requirements to become a provisionally approved member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network through April 2011. The approval allows the lab to receive federal funding and perform Avian Influenza, New Castle Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Food and Mouth Disease, Swine Influenza and Pseudorabies testing.

Conducted Disease Prevention: The Division maintained a zero prevalence of avian influenza in the live bird marketing system, inspected over 600,000 animals, quarantined over 15,000 animals, performed 50,000 laboratory tests, and oversaw the import/export of 24,000 animals to insure that animals were free from significant regulated diseases that impact animal and human health and food safety.
Awarded $340,000 Team Nutrition Training Grant: The USDA awarded the Department the grant for training foodservice professionals, enhancing fruit and vegetable consumption through school gardens and Farm to School programs and promoting of locally grown produce in school meals. The Department, which administers the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, will work with Rutgers Cooperative Extension’s Department of Family and Community Sciences on the two-year grant project, which includes $7,500 mini-grants to nine pilot schools for programs including school gardens.

Increased Participation in Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: The Department almost doubled the number of schools from 56 in 2009 to 101 in 2010 receiving funding to increase students’ consumption of fruits and vegetables. The schools will share $2.5 million in federal funding to purchase fresh produce, with an emphasis on buying local.

Awarded 43 Schools USDA Food Service Equipment Grants: The Department awarded $463,000 in grants to schools for the purchase, renovation or replacement of kitchen equipment used to prepare school meals. The grants were part of a one-time USDA appropriation, similar to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Food Service Equipment Assistance Grants, designed to improve lunch program infrastructure. To be selected as grant recipients, more than 50 percent of the students in the school had to be eligible for free or reduced-price meals and the school could not have received a grant in last year’s ARRA grant program.

Continued Hunger Funding: Governor Christie and the Legislature reaffirmed their commitment to feeding those in need by budgeting $6,818,000 to the State Food Purchase Program. The funding is distributed quarterly to the six state-contracted foodbanks for the purchase of nutritious foods, with an emphasis on buying produce from local farmers.

Launched Farm to School Effort: In August, the Department debuted its Farm to School page [www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/farm_to_school.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/farm_to_school.html) in an effort to encourage and support connections between school food service and NJ farmers. Secretary Fisher attended a Farm to School celebration at Mercer County Special Services High School in Hamilton in September to highlight the benefits of the program: increasing school meals’ nutritional value, combating obesity and supporting the state’s agriculture industry.

Kicked off Fifth Year of Eat Right, Move More Program with NY Jets: Secretary Fisher and Jets Offensive Tackle D’Brickashaw Ferguson visited grand prize winner Netcong Elementary School for a program and to present them with a $5,000 check for a cafeteria makeover, made possible by the Jets and the American Dairy Association & Dairy Council’s Fuel Up to Play 60 campaign. School representatives also were honored at the Jets December 12th home football game for its strides in good nutrition and increased activity for students, staff and parents. Four other schools were selected to receive a visit from a Jets player to discuss the importance of good nutrition and physical activity: Hightstown High School, Jersey City School #25, Oak Street School in Lakewood, and Haledon Public School.
Created Made with Jersey Fresh: Companies that make food products using Jersey Fresh produce may utilize the Made with Jersey Fresh logo, which lets consumers know that the products were made using only the freshest, best-tasting local ingredients. Since NJ's produce season runs from May to November, incorporating Jersey Fresh products into processed foods extends the season to year-round and expands distribution well beyond the region.

Partnered with Private/Public Entities to Promote Jersey Fresh: Various food service entities made commitments over the course of the year to serve/sell/promote Jersey Fresh, including Somerset Medical Center and South Jersey Regional Medical Center; Crab’s Claw Inn, Lavallette; Charlie Brown’s Restaurants; BJ’s Wholesale Club; Trenton Marriott; Rutgers University and the College of New Jersey Food Service.

Partnered with Department of State to Promote Agritourism: In December, Lt. Governor Guadagno joined Secretary Fisher and FFA members at Yuletide Christmas Tree Farm to kick off the Christmas tree season and promote agritourism. In October, Acting Director of the Division of Travel and Tourism Grace Hanlon joined Fisher and Rutgers University officials at the Von Thun Farm in Monmouth Junction to walk through their Rutgers football-themed corn maze.

Alerted Consumers to Bogus Jersey Fresh Produce: The Department and the Division of Consumer Affairs kicked off a joint effort in June to make consumers aware of Jersey produce that does not actually come from the state, which hurts state farmers. A system was set up so Department inspectors would inform the Division about the false advertising. The Division has the authority to enforce penalties up to $10,000 for an initial violation and up to $20,000 for subsequent violations.

Received Federal Grants: The Department received a more than $840,000 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant for 10 projects, including advertising for the Jersey Fresh, Jersey Seafood and Jersey Grown programs, as well as education, marketing and promotion of agricultural products. The Department is partnering with Rutgers Food Innovation Center on a $51,000 USDA Farm to School grant to create new food items derived from NJ agricultural products for use in the National School Lunch Program. A $282,000 Federal grant is being used to administer the Federal Crop Insurance Program to help NJ farmers protect their crops against losses.

Added New Farmers Markets: The Department assisted in the creation of 13 new community farmers markets, bringing the total to 140 in NJ. These markets offer farmers a new marketing source while bringing local, fresh fruits and vegetables directly to consumers. The Department also trained 240 farmers to accept WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons at these markets.

Increased Pesticide Container Recycling: The Department increase participation in the program by 10 percent, with 213 farmers participating.
Continued Gypsy Moth Suppression Efforts:
Due to a collapse of the gypsy moth population, the Department did not conduct a spray program in the spring of 2010 for only the second time in the 40-year history of the program. During summer aerial surveys, 3,813 acres of trees in 107 municipalities in 20 counties suffered some form of damage from gypsy moth caterpillars. An Egg Mass survey in the fall revealed only 343 acres of residential forest qualified for the 2011 spray program, in the Camden County towns of Chesilhurst, Waterford Township and Winslow Township. An online, interactive mapping tool has been developed to improve outreach to the public during the spray program. The spray program combined with continued monitoring is necessary in the state’s efforts to suppress this invasive, tree-killing pest.

Increased Invasive Plant Predator Production: The Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Rearing Laboratory increased production and establishment of the predatory weevil that feeds on Mile-a-Minute, a highly invasive plant, which is rapidly spreading throughout the mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states; predatory weevils were shipped to plant protection and conservation agencies from Rhode Island to West Virginia. The weevil is now established throughout New Jersey, and has impacted the spread of Mile-a-Minute and decreased percent cover and seedling numbers at monitored release sites, two of which were completely defoliated by the weevils.

Added Firewood to Jersey Grown Program: New Jersey firewood producers who harvest trees grown in NJ from private forestlands managed under an approved forest management plan may take part in the Jersey Grown marketing program, using plastic Jersey Grown hang tags to readily identify the product. The program benefits include: promoting availability of locally produced, high quality wood products for consumers; supporting a sustainable, renewable energy source; reducing the risk of spreading injurious pests and diseases; and protecting the health and safety of our urban, suburban and rural forests.

Protected NJ Against Forest Pests: NJDA continued to work with USDA APHIS to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle from NJ. Since November 2004, 616 infested and over 20,000 high risk host trees were removed, host trees were examined within the 25 square mile quarantine area and insect surveillance activities at high risk importers were carried out throughout the state, along with public outreach to prevent re-emergence of this serious tree killing pest.

Assisted DEP in Mosquito Control: The Beneficial Insect Rearing Lab assisted the NJ Department of Environmental Protection with its mosquito control efforts through the rearing of a native copepod. The Lab distributed 18,800 of the mosquito larvae-eating crustaceans into small woodland pools with the larvae over the 2010 rearing season. Participating counties included Cape May, Cumberland, Hunterdon, Monmouth and Ocean.

Promoted the Horticulture and Floriculture Industries: Secretary Fisher urged residents to buy locally grown plants, trees, shrubs and flowers over the course of the year. He visited La Rosa Greenhouses in Woodstown in March to highlight spring planting, Quinton Nursery in Quinton Township in October to boost fall nursery business, Yuletide Tree Farm in Plumsted Township in December to draw consumers to local choose and cut Christmas trees and Kube Pak in Allentown to highlight local poinsettias.
Continued Preservation Progress: A total of 98 farms covering 7,731 acres were preserved in 2010, bringing the statewide total of preserved farmland to 189,547 acres, or approximately one-quarter of New Jersey’s farmland base. The SADC in December provided a cost-share grant to Passaic County toward the preservation of a 15-acre farm it purchased in Wayne Township -- the first farm in the county to be preserved under the state Farmland Preservation Program. Other milestones of the year included the preservation of Warren County’s 20,000th acre of farmland.

Allocated Farmland Preservation Funding: The SADC in July established Farmland Preservation Program allocations for FY2011 totaling $88.5 million, including $73 million from the November 2009 public question approved by voters. The $73 million is the first installment from the public question that will provide a total of $146 million for farmland preservation. The SADC began accepting and processing applications through Green Light and Final approvals, with timing of closings subject to funding being made available by the Department of Treasury.

Extended Dual-Appraisal Valuation Provision: P.L. 2010, c. 70, signed into law in September, extended the dual-appraisal valuation provision from June 30, 2009, through June 30, 2014, for farms in the Highlands region only. The dual-appraisal provision – which allows farms to be appraised for preservation based on both current conditions, and on zoning and environmental regulations in effect on January 1, 2004 – is an important tool for protecting the equity of Highlands landowners.

Issued Reports on Deed of Easement Interpretation: The Deed of Easement Subcommittee developed two reports to clarify for county agriculture development boards, nonprofits, landowners and other interests how the SADC interprets the Deed of Easement in general and specifically as it relates to recreational uses. The reports were widely distributed for public comment, and the SADC was reviewing those comments at the end of the year.

Advanced Rule Development for On-Farm Green Energy: The SADC in November approved a proposed agricultural management practice (AMP) for the purpose of providing right-to-farm protection to the on-farm generation of solar energy as permitted by P.L. 2009, c. 213, signed into law in early 2010. The proposed rule was developed in cooperation with an interagency task force and with opportunity for input from farming and industry representatives. The proposal was scheduled to be published in early 2011 for public comment. Development of a proposed rule establishing an AMP for wind energy generation on commercial farms is under way, and will be followed by the SADC drafting proposed rules that will establish standards for solar and wind energy generation on preserved farms.

Precedent Set on Right to Farm Decision: The Appellate Division of Superior Court in July upheld the jurisdiction of the Warren County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) to hear and decide a private nuisance complaint filed against a commercial farm by neighbors who objected to the farmer's placement of trailers along a property line to store agricultural products. The Appellate Division overturned a lower court decision by finding that the CADB, not the court, had primary jurisdiction to determine whether the placement of the trailers constituted an acceptable agricultural management practice. This case established statewide precedent recognizing the primary jurisdiction of CADBs to hear and decide private nuisance complaints, and requiring that all such complaints be filed with the CADBs before any action can be instituted in court.
# New Jersey Agriculture
## At a Glance

### Aquaculture
- Angelfish
- Bluegill
- Brook trout
- Brown trout
- Comet
- Discus
- Eastern oysters
- Fathead minnow
- Hybrid striped bass
- Koi
- Largemouth bass
- Mummichog
- Northern quahog
- Rainbow trout
- Tilapia
- Triploid grass carp
- White sucker
- Yellow perch
- Various ornamental plants

### Christmas Trees
- Canaan fir
- Frasier fir
- Concolor fir
- Norway spruce
- Blue spruce
- White pine
- Scotch pine

### Field Crops
- Barley
- Corn
- Hay
- Potatoes
- Soybeans
- Sweet Potatoes
- Winter Wheat

### Floriculture/Nursery
- Aquatic Plants
- Bedding/Garden Plants
- Bulbs
- Chrysanthemums
- Foliage
- Geraniums
- Hostas
- Impatiens
- Lilies
- Marigolds
- New Guinea Impatiens
- Pansies
- Petunias
- Poinsettias
- Potted Plants
- Shrubs
- Sod
- Trees

### Fruit
- Apples
- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Cantaloupe
- Cranberries
- Nectarines
- Peaches
- Raspberries
- Sour cherries
- Strawberries
- Watermelon

### Herbs
- Arugula
- Basil
- Cilantro
- Dill
- Marjoram
- Methi
- Mint
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Sage
- Tarragon
- Thyme

### Livestock/Poultry
- Alpaca
- Bees
- Bison
- Cattle
- Chickens
- Cows, beef and milk
- Deer
- Donkeys
- Ducks
- Elk
- Emus
- Geese
- Goats, meat and milk
- Horses
- Llamas
- Mules
- Ostriches
- Pheasants
- Pigeons
- Pigs
- Rabbits
- Quail
- Sheep
- Turkeys

### Specialty Products
- Asian Fruits and Vegetables
- Baby Arugula
- Baby Spinach
- Chestnuts

### Vegetables
- Asparagus
- Beans, green, pole and snap
- Beets
- Bok Choy
- Broccoli
- Broccoli Raab
- Cabbage, red, green, Chinese, Savoy
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Collards
- Corn, sweet
- Cucumbers
- Dandelion Greens
- Eggplant
- Eggplant, Sicilian
- Escarole
- Fennel
- Horseradish root
- Kale
- Kohlrabi
- Leeks
- Lettuces
- Mustard greens
- Okra
- Onions
- Parsnips
- Peas
- Peppers
- Pickles
- Potatoes
- Pumpkins
- Radishes
- Rhubarb
- Rutabaga
- Shallots
- Spinach
- Squash
- Sweet Potatoes
- Swiss Chard
- Tomatoes
- Turnips
- Turnip Greens

### Specialty Products
- Corn Stalks
- Cut Flowers
- Garlic
- Grapes and Wines
- Hay
- Honey
- Indian Corn
- Maple Syrup
- Mums
- Popcorn
- Shell Eggs
- Straw
- Tomatillos