

Cultivating Cumberland

March- 2025

Vol. 30, Issue 3

Table of Contents	
We are approaching Boxwood Blight Season	1
Ornamental IPM Program 2025	1
Food Safety Considerations when using Manure and Composts	2-3
Financial Assistance for Food Safety Certification and Training	4-5
Charles "Chuck" Roohr Appointed New Executive Director of State Agriculture Development Committee	5
South Jersey Commercial Fruit Growers Meeting	6
NRCS New Jersey Conservation Stewardship Program Signup	7
Greenhouse Sanitation Important for Disease Management in Transplant Production	7

Attachments

- Breakfast with Biologists
- Know Your Rights: Organizations and Businesses
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Confirmed in Union County Live Bird Market
- South Jersey Vegetable Growers Meeting

We are approaching Boxwood Blight Season

Please be aware that Boxwood Blight Season is just around the corner. Last year the first observation of blight was the first week of March (i.e. keep an eye on this). If boxwood is important to your business, please follow the link below to the USPEST Boxwood Blight Risk Model. Here you can see the likelihood of boxwood blight development wherever you are in the state. You can also set up text alerts to make sure you stay on top of changing climatic conditions that impact disease development and spread. During this time of year, it is important to make sure sprayer equipment is calibrated and ready for deployment at moment's notice, as boxwood blight development changes rapidly in concert with changing weather conditions.

- Materials to have ready in nursery and green industry: [M05] Chlorothalonil, (ex. Daconil WS), [M05 + 1] Chlorothalonil + Thiophanate methyl (ex. Spectro 90WDG), [11] Trifloxystrobin + [7] Fluopyram (ex. Broadform), [11] Trifloxystrobin + [3] Triadimefon (ex. Armada 50WDG), [M03] Mancozeb, [12] Fludioxonil (ex. Medallion WDG), [3] Tebuconazole (ex. Torque). [3] Tebuconazole (Torque)

DISCLAIMER: *The label is the law*, always refer to it for allowable host crops, use-restrictions, application rates, reapplication intervals, re-entry intervals (REI), and mix compatibility information. Trade-names listed do not imply endorsement and are used as examples only.

USPEST Boxwood Blight Risk Model (type in your area code) :
https://uspest.org/risk/boxwood_app?sta=NJ50

Ornamental IPM Program 2025

Update: the Rutgers Nursery and Green Industry Working group developing a lunch-hour Critical IPM Updates (1hr) throughout the season. Sessions will be the second and fourth Tuesday, April-September. Sessions will be held live via Zoom and will be recorded then translated into Spanish. This is in effort to have the entire nursery industry on the same page in terms of pest, disease, and weed management. There will be a more robust update in April, however please contact Tim Waller – Nursery agent if you are interested in participating and would like more information. (twaller@njaes.rutgers.edu)

Food Safety Considerations when using Manure and Composts

Wesley Kline, PhD

Introduction: The United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration consider animal manure as a significant source of potential contamination for produce. This does not mean manure should not be used to improve soil structure or fertility only that it must be handled properly. Untreated, improperly treated or recontaminated manure that enters surface or ground water through runoff, may contain pathogens that taint produce. Crops in or near the soil (i.e., carrots, lettuce, radishes, herbs, etc.) are most vulnerable to pathogens which may survive in the soil. Low growing crops that may be splashed with soil during irrigation or heavy rainfall are also at risk. Produce where the edible portion of the crop does not contact soil is less at risk of contamination provided the produce that does contact the ground (e.g., windfalls) is not harvested.

Growers using manure need to follow good agricultural practices to minimize microbial hazards. Growers also need to examine their specific growing environment to identify obvious sources of fecal matter that could be a source of contamination. The foodborne illness outbreak that occurred in Colorado during 2011 resulted in 147 illnesses and 33 deaths. The pathogen identified was *listeria monocytogenes* which normally is associated with farm soils and animal feces. How did the cantaloupe become contaminated with *listeria*? The Food and Drug Administration identified several possibilities including contamination from a cattle feedlot. The packinghouse delivered their cull fruit to a feedlot and the truck driver may have transported *listeria* back to the packinghouse. Growers who raise animals, used manure or have their packing operations close to animals must assess possible sources of contamination.

Apply manure in the fall or at the end of the season to all planned vegetable ground or fruit acreage, when soils are warm, non-saturated, and cover cropped preferably to grain or forage crops. If applying manure in the spring spread the manure two weeks before planting and at least 120 days prior to harvest. Incorporate manure immediately after application by either injecting or plowing.

At present there is no standard for the application of manure under the Food Safety Modernization Act/ Produce Safety Rule except the National Organic Standards can be followed which is 120 days prior to harvest if it may touch the harvestable part of the crop or 90 if it is not likely. In both cases the manure must be incorporated or injected into the soil.

Treatments: There are various methods used to treat manure, so it is safer as a fertilizer than raw manure. The following information is from various sources.

Active: Active treatments involve a greater level of intentional management and a greater input of resources. Active treatments include pasteurization, heat drying, anaerobic digestion, alkali stabilization, aerobic digestion, or combinations of these. Composting is an active treatment commonly used aerobically or anaerobically, by microbial action in a controlled and managed process. When composting is carefully controlled and managed, and the appropriate conditions are achieved, the high temperature generated can kill most pathogens in several days. Thus, the risk of microbial contamination from composted manure is reduced compared to untreated manure.

Temperatures above 131°F for a minimum of three days in an aerated windrow followed by curing with checking temperatures as the pile heats up and cools down during curing is required. The other option is to turn the pile at least five times over a period of 15 days allowing it to reach a temperature of least 131°F to destroy most pathogens and weed seeds. Compost pile turning or covering with a tarp is critical since the outside of the pile does not reach adequate temperatures to control pathogens.

Under organic standards, "Processed manure must be treated so that all portions of the product, without causing combustion, reach a minimum temperature of either 150°F for at least one hour or 165°F and are dried to a maximum moisture level of 12%; or an equivalent heating and drying process could be used. In determining the acceptability of an equivalent process, processed manure products should not contain more than 1×10^3 (1,000) MPN (Most Probable Number) fecal coliform per gram of processed manure sampled and not contain more than 3 MPN Salmonella per 4-gram sample of processed manure."

Continued on page 3

Food Safety..Continued from page 2

Protecting manure and compost: When compost is delivered to the production site and stored for future application, it must be properly stored to reduce recontamination and the likelihood of contaminating the production area or adjacent fields. Growers may use the following methods to reduce potential contamination.

Consider barriers or physical containment to secure manure storage or treatment areas where contamination from runoff, leaching, or wind spread is a concern. Physical containment may include concrete block or soil berms, pits or lagoons. Practices such as storage on concrete slabs or in clay-lined area may reduce the potential source of leachate entering groundwater. Such storage must be away from irrigation sources, spray water sources or any other water source.

Consider practices that will minimize leachate from manure storage or treatment areas contaminating produce. Rainfall onto a manure pile can result in leachate, potentially containing pathogens. Growers may want to consider covering manure piles, such as storing manure under a roof or covering piles with an appropriate impervious covering.

Alternatively, growers may consider collecting water that leaches through manure that is being stored or treated. Collecting leachate allows the grower to control its disposal (e.g., on vegetative grass ways) or use (e.g., to control moisture during composting). Leachate may pose a microbial hazard similar to the manure from which it originates.

Manure leachate and teas: Growers using manure leachate or manure tea in fresh produce production areas should follow good agricultural practices, such as maximizing time between applications and harvest to minimize microbial hazards. Manure teas are different from compost teas. If using manure teas they should be applied in the same way as fresh manure (two weeks prior to planting and 120 days from harvest.). Compost teas can be used if prepared properly. Use only properly composted manure, make the tea with water that has been tested to show that there is no detectable generic E. coli present and do not add produce such as molasses to stimulate bacterial activity. Some additives may be contaminated with pathogens or if pathogens are present at low levels in the tea, the additive may stimulate growth. If these are added, the tea should be considered raw manure and handled the same manner as manure.

Conclusion: Natural fertilizers, such as composted manure, and fertilizers containing natural components, should be processed and handled in a manner to reduce the likelihood of pathogen introduction into produce production areas. Growers and manure suppliers should apply good agricultural practices that ensure all materials receive an adequate treatment, such as thorough mixing and turning outside edges into the center of a compost pile. Cold spots that do not receive an adequate treatment can cause recontamination of the rest of the batch. Grower treating or composting their own manure should have a documented procedure to follow. Growers purchasing manure should obtain a specification sheet from the manure supplier for each shipment of manure containing information about the methods of treatment. Remember, as with any other good agricultural practice record keeping is required.

References

- _____. 2011. National Organic Program. Guidance Compost and Vermicompost in Organic Crop Production.
- _____. 2011. National Organic Program. Guidance Processed Animal Manures in Organic Crop Production.
- _____. 2011. Commodity Specific Food Safety Guidelines for the Production and Harvest of Lettuce and Leafy Greens. California Leafy Green Agreement
- Anusuya Rangarajan, etal. 2000. Food Safety Begins on the Farm a Grower's Guide. Cornell Good Agricultural Practices Program. Ithaca, NY.
- _____. 1986. United States Department of Health and Human Services – FDA and CFSAN. The Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.
- Darbie Granberry. Handling Organic Fertilizers: Manures, Biosolids and Compost. USDA-CSRESS Proj. No. 00-51110-9722.

Financial Assistance for Food Safety Certification and Training

This is the chance for eligible fresh fruit and vegetable growers to recover some of their expenses for implementing food safety practices on their farms.

For 2025:

- **Application is due January 1, 2026**
- **Eligible expenses must be between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025**

Eligible specialty crop operations can apply for Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) by working directly with the Farm Service Agency offices at your local FSA office for details. Applications will be accepted via mail, fax, hand delivery, or electronic means.

How the Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program Works

The FSCSC program provides financial assistance for specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in 2025. This program helps offset costs to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements. FSCSC will cover a percentage of the specialty crop operation's cost of obtaining or renewing their certification, as well as a percentage of their related expenses.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for FSCSC applicants are outlined below. We recommend you review these requirements before initiating your FSCSC application.

To be eligible for FSCSC, an applicant must:

- Have obtained or renewed: 2025 food safety certification issued during the calendar year.
- Be a specialty crop operation (growing fresh fruits and vegetables); and meet the definition of a small business or medium size business.
- > A small (farm) business means an applicant that had an average annual monetary value of specialty crops the applicant sold during the 3-year period preceding the program year of not more than \$500,000.
- > A medium (farm) business means an applicant that had an average annual monetary value of specialty crops the applicant sold during the 3-year period preceding the program year of at least \$500,001 but no more than \$1,000,000.

FSCSC payments are calculated separately for each category of eligible costs based on the percentages and maximum payment amounts. The FSCSC application and associated forms are available online at farmers.gov/food-safety.

You are encouraged to contact the Farm Service Agency office about FSCSC, program eligibility, or the application process. You may also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to provide one-on-one assistance.

For our current trainings please go to: Our Trainings - Rutgers On-Farm Food Safety. Note this applies to any food safety training you may receive!

Continued on page 5

Financial Assistance ..Continued from page 4

Category of Eligible Expenses	Payment Amount of Eligible Costs
Developing a Food Safety Plan for First Time Certification	75% (no maximum)
Maintaining or Updating a Food Safety Plan	75% up to \$675
Food Safety Certification	75% up to \$2,000
Certification Upload Fees	75% up to \$375
Microbiological Testing of Produce	75% up to 5 tests
Microbiological Testing of Soil Amendments	75% up to 5 tests
Microbiological Testing of Water	75% up to 5 tests
Training Expenses	100% up to \$500

Charles “Chuck” Roohr Appointed New Executive Director of State Agriculture Development Committee

TRENTON, N.J. — The New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) appointed Charles “Chuck” Roohr as its new Executive Director during a special SADC meeting on Wednesday, February 12.

Chuck has been with the SADC since 2000 and has worked extensively in all aspects of the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), including the Right to Farm program, acquiring easements and purchasing and reselling farms in fee simple, and stewardship of preserved farmland. Chuck has also led the effort to develop the SADC’s new “Statewide Formula Value,” an alternative method to value farmland other than traditional appraisals by taking into account other attributes such as soil quality, size, proximity to preserved land, natural resources, and the rate of inflation.

Since 2019, Chuck has been the SADC’s Chief of Agriculture Resources, responsible for managing all post-preservation aspects of preserved farmland, including applications for solar installations, agricultural labor housing, house replacement, and division of preserved farms. He has also led the development and implementation of programs to support New Jersey’s agricultural businesses, including deer fencing, soil and water cost-share grants, and the SADC’s one-time “business development” grant program. In 2022, he was also named the SADC Deputy Executive Director, and since June 2024, he has covered the SADC’s Executive Director responsibilities after long-time executive director Susan Payne retired.

Chuck was born and raised on his family’s Central Jersey farm, which specializes in vegetables, fruit, grain, and pheasants. His first-hand knowledge of the challenges of operating a farm in New Jersey, coupled with his over two decades of work within the SADC, uniquely positions him to lead the agency’s future. He has continued to farm nights and weekends actively throughout his professional career. “Chuck’s program experience, excellent customer service skills, farming background, and ability to communicate effectively with the agricultural community and government agencies alike make him an ideal candidate for the position of Executive Director,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture and Chairman of the State Agriculture Development Committee, Ed Wengryn. “As we look to the future of the preservation program and emphasize farm viability, Chuck has working knowledge on how best to not only sustainably manage the land, but find opportunities to build and sustain the business of agriculture here in the Garden State.”

The New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) administers New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program, Right to Farm, Agricultural Mediation, and Agricultural Development grants to preserved farm owners and operators.

To date, 2,890 farms covering 252,979 acres have been preserved under the New Jersey State Farmland Preservation Program. To learn more about preservation and the SADC, visit: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/>

South Jersey Commercial Fruit Growers Meeting

Hemant Gohil - February 11, 2025 - Plant and Pest Advisory

Pesticide Credits Approved – **#CORE (1); #10 (6); #PP2 (7); #1A(7)**

Date: March 4, 2025 (Tuesday)

Location Registration: \$20.00 (Checks only, made out to Rutgers University, can be paid at the door but pre-registration required). Lunch, Coffee, and Pastries Included. Required by March 3. Contact: (856) 224 – 8030 or Email: jmedany@co.gloucester.nj.us

PROGRAM

8:30 am Registration, Coffee and pastries

8:50 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

Hemant Gohil, County Agent II, RCE of Gloucester County, Rutgers NJAES

9:00 am Multi Pest Management in the Orchard

Anne Nielsen, Extension Specialist, Fruit Entomology, Rutgers NJAES

9:30 am Bacterial Spot Management in the Peach Orchard.

Kari Peter, Extension Specialist, Tree Fruit Pathology, Penn State University.

10:00 am Understanding how irrigation water can be a source for soil borne diseases in the orchard

Kari Peter, Extension Specialist in Tree Fruit Pathology, Penn State University.

10:30 am Coffee Break

10:45 am Industry and USDA Updates

11:00 am An update on the Fruit IPM Program and summary of the 2024 season.

Janine Spies, Statewide Program Leader in Fruit IPM, Rutgers NJAES

11:30 am What can the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab do for you?

Sabrina Tirpak, Laboratory Researcher, Plant Diagnostic Lab, Rutgers NJAES

Noon Lunch

1:00 pm Pesticide Handling and 2025 updates

George Hamilton, Extension Specialist in Pest Management, Rutgers NJAES

1:30 pm Peach Flower Thinning using ACC (Accede)

Shantanu Krishna Kumar, Assistant Professor of Tree Fruit, Penn State University.

2:00 pm Plant Nutrition and Causes of Bitter Pit Disease in Apple

Joseph Heckman, Extension Specialist in Soil Fertility, Rutgers NJAES.

2:30 pm 2024 Field Observations – peach varieties, overhead irrigation frost protection, hydro-cooling, post-harvest inking.

Hemant Gohil, County Agent II, RCE of Gloucester County, Rutgers NJAES.

Daniel Ward, Extension Specialist, Pomology, Rutgers NJAES.

3:00 pm Pesticide recertification credits and Adjourn

For questions, please get in touch with Hemant Gohil at 856-418-6538 or email at gohil@njaes.rutgers.edu
Send Check to Hemant Gohil, Rutgers Coop Extension, 254 County House Rd., Clarksboro, NJ 08020

NRCS New Jersey Conservation Stewardship Program Signup

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Jersey is now accepting applications from agricultural producers and forest landowners for the classic Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Agricultural producers and forest landowners looking to build on conservation efforts while strengthening their operation can apply for technical and financial assistance through CSP.

While NRCS accepts CSP applications year-round, New Jersey producers and landowners should apply by March 14, 2025, to be considered for funding in the current cycle.

CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, and nonindustrial private forest land. Participating farmers will further address priority resource concerns related to soil quality, water quality, air quality, and plant health. On-farm benefits include increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife population improvements, and better resilience to weather variables. For producers who are already taking steps to improve the condition of their land, CSP can help them find ways to meet their goals.

Special provisions are available for historically undeserved producers, which include those considered beginning, socially disadvantaged and limited resource as well as military veterans.

To find out more information about CSP please visit the CSP webpage. To locate an NRCS field office near you, please visit the USDA Service Center webpage.

Greenhouse Sanitation Important for Disease Management in Transplant Production

Andy Wyenandt - January 22, 2025 - Plant and Pest Advisory

Proper greenhouse sanitation is important for healthy, disease-free vegetable transplant production.

Efforts need to be made to keep transplant production greenhouses free of unnecessary plant debris and weeds which may harbor insect pests and disease. Efforts need to be taken throughout the transplant production season to minimize potential problems.

- All equipment, benches, flats, plug trays and floors should be properly cleaned and then disinfected prior to use.
- Any weeds in or around the greenhouse structure should be removed prior to any production.
- Any transplant brought into the greenhouse from an outside source needs to be certified 'clean', as well as, visually inspected for potential insects and diseases once it reaches your location.

Remember, disinfectants, such as Clorox, Green-Shield, or hydrogen dioxide products (Zerotol – for commercial greenhouses, garden centers and Oxidate – commercial greenhouse and field), kill only what they come into direct contact with so thorough coverage and/or soaking is necessary. The labels do not specify time intervals for specific uses, only to state that surfaces be 'thoroughly wetted'. Therefore, labels need to be followed precisely for different use patterns (i.e., disinfecting flats vs. floors or benches) to ensure proper dilution ratios. Hydrogen dioxide products work best when diluted with water containing little or no organic matter and in water with a neutral pH.

Calendar of Events

- Indicates a newly added event
- * Indicates Pesticide Credits Offered

- **March 4, 2025**

13th Annual Soybean Producers Meeting
Rutgers University EcoComplex- 1200 Florence Columbus Road, Bordentown, NJ 08505
<https://njsoybean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Save-the-date-2022.pdf>

- **March 13, 2025**

Virtual Live Webinar - Microgreens: Addressing Food Safety Concerns
<https://web.cvent.com/event/825cadb2-e96c-41b2-92a5-6ba0dfdfff16/summary>

- **March 14, 2025**

Cornell Fruit Winter Webinar: St. Peachtrick's Day: Stone Fruit Insect and Disease Management
<https://tinyurl.com/bdzn64pw>

- **March 25-27, 2025**

Eastern Winery Exposition
Lancaster Co. Convention Ctr., 3 East Vine Street, Lancaster, PA
<http://easternwineryexposition.com>

Fact Sheets:

E376: Beech Leaf Disease & Experimental Management Options

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/E376/>

Epiphan, J., Buckley, R., Waller, T., and Dvorin, R.

FS1118: Rain Barrels Part II: Installation and Use

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1118/>

Bakacs, M. and Haberland, M.

FS1126: Jersey Summer Shore Safety: Expired Marine Flares

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1126/>

Yergeau, S.

FS1363: Scald in Cranberry Fruit: Part 1 Understanding Causes

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1363/>

Oudemans, P. and Mupambi, G.

FS1216: Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) in Waterway

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS1216/>

Haberland, M.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NRCS WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE PRESENTS

BREAKFAST WITH BIOLOGISTS

MARCH 27TH 2025

7:00 a.m.

Woodstown Diner

16 E. Avenue

Woodstown, New Jersey

Free Buffet Breakfast included with attendance!

RSVP by March 21st by contacting any partner biologist below.

PARTNER BIOLOGISTS:

BEN LANGEY
315-412-5272
blangey@ducks.org



ALYSSA BRIGHT
609-400-3857
alyssa.bright@njudubon.org



HUNTER ROSS
609-534-9475
Hunter.Ross2@usda.gov



SPEAKERS WILL DISCUSS NRCS PROGRAMS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UPLAND AND WETLAND HABITAT RESTORATION, ENHANCEMENT, AND CREATION PROJECTS.

Learn about NJ's target species and what projects can support their habitats

American Black Duck, Northern Bobwhite (quail), and Bog Turtle.

Know Your Rights: Organizations and Businesses

The threat of immigration enforcement raises concerns among many New Jersey residents who may avoid engaging with local services and businesses out of fear that they could be putting themselves and their family members at risk. Every person who lives in or visits New Jersey has rights regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. The following information is designed to help organizations and businesses understand their rights and responsibilities when interacting with immigration enforcement officers, primarily Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers.

If immigration agents come to your organization/business:

- You may ask the officers or agents why they are there.
- You may ask to see their badge / identification. If you are unsure if the officer is an immigration agent, you may ask what agency they represent and specifically if they are federal immigration agents.
- If an immigration agent asks if they can search your premises, you have the right to say no. Agents generally do not have the right to search your premises without your consent, a valid warrant, or probable cause. However, if an officer or agent searches your premises anyway, do not resist. You may tell them: "I do not consent to a search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to speak with an attorney as soon as possible."
- You may ask for an interpreter if they do not speak your language.

For Public Areas:

- Immigration agents can enter public areas of your business without permission if you allow the public to enter. You may limit access to public areas for specific encounters, such as ICE/CBP enforcement.
- Public areas could include, for example, a dining area in a restaurant, a parking lot, or a lobby or waiting area that the organization/business has deemed open to the public.
- However, agents' mere lawful presence in a public area does **not** give them the authority to stop, question, or arrest a particular individual. Probable cause or consent of the individual is still required.

For Private Areas:

- Organizations can distinguish between public and private spaces by adding signage on or near entrances to private areas. Private areas may be areas designated for employees, residents, students, patients, individuals with appointments, etc.
- Immigration agents can enter a private area **only if** they have a judicial warrant or if exigent circumstances exist. Otherwise, agents need YOUR permission to enter private areas of your business or premises.
- If agents try to enter a private area, you may say: "This is a private area. You cannot enter without a judicial warrant signed by a judge. Do you have a judicial warrant?"
- If agents tell you that they have a judicial warrant, ask for a copy and read it. A judicial warrant must be signed by a judge and say "U.S. District Court" or identify a State Court at the top.
- An administrative warrant alone does **not** allow agents to enter private areas without your permission. Administrative warrants are not from a court. Administrative warrants say "Department of Homeland Security" and are on Forms I-200 or I-205.
- Immigration agents are permitted to enter without your permission in an emergency, such as a threat to public safety or a threat to someone's life. However, you still have a right to remain silent and document the interaction, including recording (so long as you don't interfere with their law enforcement activities).



NJ Immigrant Trust Directive:

- The New Jersey Immigrant Trust Directive limits the type of voluntary assistance that New Jersey law enforcement officers—state, county, and local—may provide to federal immigration authorities.
- New Jersey law enforcement officers generally may not stop, question, arrest, search, or detain any individual solely based on immigration status.
- They also may not inquire about the immigration status of any individual and they generally may not participate in civil immigration enforcement operations.
- There are several exceptions and exclusions to the Immigrant Trust Directive. For example, it does not restrict or prohibit New Jersey law enforcement officers from enforcing criminal laws of New Jersey or complying with valid judicial warrants or other court orders.
- Information about the Immigrant Trust Directive is available at <https://www.njoag.gov/trust/>.
- To report a potential violation of the Directive, contact the relevant police department or the county prosecutor's office.

Be Aware of Fraud

Unscrupulous individuals pretending to be “immigration consultants,” “notarios” or “attorneys,” falsely claim they can provide immigration services to targeted immigrants with limited English skills. Only attorneys and accredited representatives authorized by USCIS are allowed to prepare legal documents such as immigration forms, give advice on legal matters, or represent clients in a legal proceeding.

- An attorney must have a valid license to practice law. Most states have a public [searchable database](#) for licensed attorneys.
- An accredited representative must have training and authorization from the US government to help people with immigration cases. The government maintains a list of accredited representatives and organizations [here](#).

To report immigration scams, please contact the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA): 1-800-242-5846 (toll-free within New Jersey). NJ DCA intakes reports from all people regardless of their citizenship or immigration status, and DCA employees do not ask about citizenship or immigration status.

Additional Resources:

- [A Guide for Employers](#)
- [A Guide for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Office of New American's Legal Services Programs](#)
- **If you are unsure whether and where someone you know is detained, you can use the [ICE detainee locator](#).**



This fact sheet provides only general information. This fact sheet does not provide legal advice and is not a substitute for legal help. Each person's situation is different. Please consult an attorney for legal advice for your situation.



NEWS RELEASE

New Jersey Department of Agriculture



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2025

www.nj.gov/agriculture

PO Box 330

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0330

Contact:

Jeff Wolfe

P: (609) 913-6559

C: (609) 433-1785

E: jeff.wolfe@ag.nj.gov

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA CONFIRMED **IN UNION COUNTY LIVE BIRD MARKET**

First HPAI case in New Jersey Since 2023

(TRENTON) – The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s (NJDA) Division of Animal Health have confirmed a new Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) poultry case in a Union County live bird market. The disease response is being coordinated between State and Federal partners.

The risk of HPAI to the general public remains low and no poultry were sold to the public that may have been infected. HPAI is highly contagious and often fatal in domestic poultry species.

The live bird market case was identified from test samples from domestic poultry at the Union County premises that were submitted and tested at the New Jersey Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory as part of routine surveillance. Samples collected during a restocking inspection on Wednesday, February 19 detected HPAI. Confirmatory testing is underway at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

State and Federal partners are taking prompt action to prevent the spread of disease. The live bird market is quarantined and will not receive new poultry until the quarantine is lifted. The market will have a thorough cleaning and disinfection to eliminate the virus within the facility. After the cleaning and disinfection, this market will remain temporarily closed for a prescribed period before it is restocked.

The positive test comes after New Jersey live bird markets cooperated with the NJDA’s recommendation to perform a cleaning and disinfection of their market in response to several New York City area live bird markets being closed due to positive HPAI cases.

“I want to applaud the live bird markets taking necessary precautions which led to the quick identification of the illness in birds,” NJDA Secretary Ed Wengryn said. “By reporting this to us immediately, we were able to prevent the sale of any sick birds to the public.”

This is the first positive HPAI case for domestic poultry in New Jersey since 2023.

Individuals working in the market are being assessed for exposures and will be monitored for symptoms by the local health department and New Jersey Department of Health. If any of the exposed individuals develop compatible symptoms, they will be evaluated for HPAI immediately.

Poultry owners, industry workers, and the general public are reminded to take precautionary measures to ensure the maintenance of a healthy flock.

HPAI poses a low risk to the general public and human infections have most often occurred after close or lengthy unprotected contact (such as not wearing gloves, respiratory protection, or eye protections) with infected birds or dairy cattle, or with places that the infected birds or animals have touched. No instances of sustained human-to-human transmission have been observed. Properly cooked poultry and eggs to at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit are also considered safe to eat.

Individuals that have had close, unprotected contact with infected birds should monitor themselves for symptoms for 10 days following their last exposure. Symptoms may include fever, respiratory signs (cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing) eye redness or irritation, headaches, muscle or body aches, and diarrhea. If symptoms develop, individuals should seek healthcare and notify their healthcare provider of the potential exposure.

HPAI is highly contagious and often fatal in domestic poultry species. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections in birds do not present an immediate public health concern.

Signs of HPAI in poultry can include:

- Sudden death
- Decrease in feed or water consumption
- Respiratory signs such as coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge
- Swelling around the eyes
- Open-mouth breathing
- Darkening of the comb/wattles
- Reddening of the shanks or feet
- Decreased egg production
- Lethargy

HPAI spreads through contact with bodily secretions, including feces, ocular, nasal, or oral secretions from infected birds. The virus can spread on vehicles, equipment, shoes, etc. Practicing good biosecurity can help prevent the spread of HPAI onto a farm.

Those biosecurity practices include:

- Eliminating exposure of domestic birds to wild birds. Minimizing standing water and extra feed in the environment that might attract wild birds.
- Avoiding contact with other poultry.
- Keeping a specific set of shoes and clothing for tending to poultry. Disposable boot covers or a foot bath that is changed regularly are other measures that can be used.
- Minimizing the number of people who visit the birds.
- Avoiding sharing equipment with other flocks and using appropriate disinfectants for equipment that must come onto a farm.
- PPE is available at each county's Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office. The county office contact information can be found at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/county/>.

HPAI is a **reportable disease**. Any individual who gains knowledge or suspects the existence of the disease in poultry/birds should notify this office without delay. Deceased birds suspected of having Avian Influenza should be double-bagged and stored appropriately for testing. Do not expose dead poultry to the environment, other poultry, or wildlife/wild birds. Wash your hands after handling sick or dead birds.

If you suspect HPAI in livestock, please alert the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health at 609-671-6400.

If you suspect HPAI in a human, contact the local health department. Local health department information can be

found at www.localhealth.nj.gov.

For additional information about the disease and outreach materials, go to:

- <https://www.nj.gov/H5N1/>
- <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/>
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/ai>

Multiple Agencies Continue to Respond to HPAI in Wild Bird Populations

Multiple state and federal agencies continue responding to an outbreak of wild bird deaths in various parts of the state attributable to avian influenza. The resurgence began in December and is believed to be impacting various species of wild birds in all counties, including but not limited to waterfowl, raptors, and scavenger birds.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife and the USDA's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service continues to work with local officials, providing guidance on safe removal and disposal of dead birds in the wild. At this time, it is unlikely that every bird will be tested for avian influenza. In most cases, officials presume the virus is tied to bird die-offs based on previous preliminary positive test results.

New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife recommends avoiding contact with sick or dead wildlife. However, if you have a dead wild bird on your property and are electing to dispose of the carcass, precautions should be taken. If removal can be done safely, personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn, including gloves, a mask, and eye protection. Avoid direct contact between you and the animal by using a tool such as a shovel or pitchfork to move the carcass. Double-bag each bird, close the bag using a zip-tie, and place in an outdoor trash bin inaccessible by pets or other wildlife. Following disposal, immediately wash your hands with soap and warm water and disinfect any non-disposable items using a diluted household bleach solution. Allow the disinfectant to sit on the item for 10 minutes prior to rinsing off with warm water.

If you encounter sick or dead wild birds report the finding to the DEP hotline at 877-WARN-DEP (877-927-6337)

It should be noted that wild birds, including waterfowl and shorebirds, are considered natural reservoirs for avian influenza. Since the beginning of the U.S. outbreak in January 2022, avian influenza has impacted wild and domestic birds in every state. Occurrences can be monitored here: [USDA APHIS | 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#).

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To learn more about the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NJDeptofAgriculture and www.facebook.com/JerseyFreshOfficial or Twitter @NJDA and @JerseyFreshNJDA.



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County
Shady Lane Complex
254 County House Road
Clarksboro, NJ 08020

<http://gloucester.njaes.rutgers.edu/>
Phone: 856-224-8040
Fax: 856-224-8027

SOUTH JERSEY VEGETABLE GROWERS MEETING

Thursday, March 27, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County

Shady Lane Complex, 254 County House Rd, Clarksboro, NJ 08020

(Please enter through the far-right side of the building up the first ramp)

**CO- SPONSORED BY THE VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION OF NJ
NO REGISTRATION NEEDED**



6:00 -6:30PM Sign in and Light Dinner

6:30-7:00PM Rutgers Vegetable Integrated Pest Management Update

Amanda Quadrel, Sr. Program Coordinator, Vegetable IPM, RCE

7:00-7:30PM Update on the Water Requirements for the Produce Safety Rule

Wes Kline, Ag Agent, RCE Cumberland County

7:30-8:00PM Update on Disease Control in Vegetable Crops

Andy Wyenandt, Rutgers NJAES Vegetable Pathologist

8:00-8:30PM Labor and Regulatory Updates from NJ Farm Bureau

Ben Casella, NJFB

8:30-9:00PM USEPA/NJDEP Worker Protection Standards Overview for Pesticide Safety

Michelle Infante-Casella, Ag Agent, RCE Gloucester County

9:00PM Pesticide Recertification credits

Pesticide Recertification Credits have been requested for this meeting.

Sincerely,

Michelle Infante-Casella
Agricultural Agent
Gloucester County

Wesley L. Kline
Agricultural Agent
Cumberland County

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Locations for Pesticide Recycling Containers - 2024

Salem County

Helena Chemical
440 N. Main St.
Woodstown, New Jersey

Atlantic County

Helena Chemical
66 Route 206
Hammonton, New Jersey

Monmouth County

Rutgers Fruit and Ornamental
Research Extension Center
283 Route 539
Cream Ridge, NJ 08514-9634

Cumberland County Agriculture Development Board

Virtual Meetings Information
can be found on the
Public Meeting Calendar on
cumberlandcountynj.gov/

Meetings are held on the 3rd
Tuesday of each month.
Meetings start at 6 p.m. at
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
291 Morton Avenue
Millville, NJ 08332

For more information call the
Dept. of Planning, Tourism,
and Community Affairs
at 856-453-2175

Chair: Al Caggiano, Jr

Commissioner Liaisons:
Victoria Groetsch-Lods
Antonio Romero

Cumberland County Board of Agriculture

Meetings are held on the
3rd Thursday,
September - May at
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
291 Morton Avenue
Millville, NJ 08332

Virtual Meeting Information
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/my/smangia>
Meeting ID: 529 557 9817
Pass-code: Sal2020
or call in at 1 (646) 558 - 8656

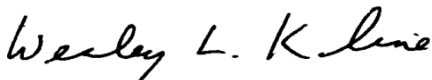
President: Timothy Eachus

Commissioner Liaisons:
1. Victoria Groetsch-Lods
2. Robert Austino

Meeting Times Vary by Month:
September & October - 7 PM
November, December, January,
February, & March - 6 PM
April & May - 7 PM

Cumberland County
For more information call
Timothy Eachus.

Sincerely,



Wesley L. Kline, Ph.D.
Cooperative Extension Agent
Vegetable Production and Food Safety
WKline@njaes.rutgers.edu



Timothy J. Waller, Ph. D.
Cooperative Extension Agent
Nursery Production
TWaller@njaes.rutgers.edu



Salvatore Mangiafico, Ph. D.
Extension Department Head &
Environmental and Resource Mgt. Agent
Mangiafico@njaes.rutgers.edu

Pesticide User Responsibility: Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels.

The user is responsible for the proper use of pesticides, residues on crops, storage and disposal, as well as damages caused by drift.
Use of Trade Names: Trade names are used in this publication with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. In some instances the compound may be sold under different trade names, which may vary as to label.



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
**Cooperative Extension
of Cumberland County**
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Have you visited the Cumberland County website for the Present and /or past issues of “Cultivating Cumberland”?

It's a great resource for information and dates...

<https://Cumberland.njaes.rutgers.edu/>

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848-932-3584.

Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County



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