

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Middlesex & Monmouth Counties Since 1938

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Our 75th Year



2013 Freehold SCD Photo Contest
First Place Winner
“Piping Plover Chick”
By Brett Klapproth, of Middletown

Freehold Soil Conservation District

is a special purpose subdivision of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture serving Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. Freehold SCD is one of 15 New Jersey soil conservation districts empowered to conserve and manage soil and water resources in cooperation with the State Soil Conservation Committee. We address stormwater, soil erosion and sedimentation problems that result from land disturbance activities. We also provide environmental education outreach programs within the two counties.

In response to growing concern for water quality, the District has become the primary local agency responsible for controlling nonpoint sources of pollution associated with construction, agriculture and mining. Technical services of the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service are made available through the District.

With ongoing cooperation between residents, contractors, developers, educators, landowners, farmers, municipalities and engineers, Freehold Soil Conservation District personnel continue to work to help to ensure environmental resource quality for years to come.



Award Winning Shot



Second Place Winner “4th of July Fireworks”
By Jess Naylor, of Deptford

Chapter 251 Report

2013 marked the 37th year of the Freehold Soil Conservation District's implementation of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, Chapter 251. Under the Act, all applicants with a land disturbance of 5,000 square feet or more are required to submit soil erosion and sediment control plans to the District for review and certification. These activities include residential, commercial, mining, or landfill projects.

In 2013, the District received 755 new plan applications; an 11% increase from 2012. The District staff logged over 8,565 inspection and enforcement hours and 1,452 Reports of Compliance were issued. In 2012 there were 381 exemptions, but in 2013, 774 exemptions were requested and granted, thus a 103% increase.

This year longevity awards were given to Michael Infanti (15 years), Paul Califano (15 years), and Ines Zimmerman (25 years). In addition, Michael Infanti and Timothy Thomas performed two data collections for farmers seeking more energy efficient options for their farms.

In October 2012 Superstorm Sandy devastated New Jersey and the East Coast. Since then, the District has been working diligently to assist all towns in Middlesex and Monmouth counties with any soil erosion control needs. The District attended many town meetings that provided assistance to local citizens, town administration, government agencies, and the Governor's Office. This assistance allowed for the agencies to streamline the permits in a timely manner. In addition, the state agencies and local administration allowed for full transparency. In correlation to Superstorm Sandy, unfortunately many of the exemptions that were submitted in 2013 were for demolition only.

District technical staff earned Professional Development Units (PDUs) toward their Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) certification by receiving training on the following topics:

- ◆ Advanced Basic Hydrology
- ◆ Advanced Hydrology

The trainings were sponsored by the NJ Conservation District Employees Association.

The Freehold District will continue to serve the communities within Middlesex and Monmouth Counties, helping to protect our Natural Resources. We look forward to meeting our goals in 2014 and hope to achieve even more in the years to come.

Brian Governale — Senior Site Inspector

Manager's Message

In 2013 the Freehold Soil Conservation District met new challenges and developed new partnerships.

Following such a devastating period for our area due to Superstorm Sandy, it is encouraging to see our towns and coastline come back stronger. There is activity throughout the shore area and inland.

As we are able, the Freehold Soil Conservation District will look to offer assistance wherever possible. We are prepared to give residents and municipalities the assistance they need and will offer an expedited process to handle erosion control plans.

In 2013 we began work on a grant project to enhance the Manalapan Lake watershed. The District received a \$500,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to work with county and local partners to rehabilitate drainage structures and repair stream bank erosion. We will also have the chance to work with Rutgers Cooperative Extension to educate the public on these projects through a video series.

In addition, Michael Infanti completed the first year of the New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program. The educational program provides leadership development opportunities and will enhance Michael's understanding of New Jersey agriculture and allow the District to be positively engaged in the Agricultural community of New Jersey.

Along the coast, we are funding the establishment of plants for a maritime garden near the ocean front. We are pleased to support this effort through Monmouth County's Rutgers Cooperative Extension office.

The goal for 2014 is to find new ways to diversify our efforts in conservation. We are looking for ways to help our federal partners to identify conservation needs on agricultural land. We would like to help expedite assistance wherever possible. Our future in conservation is bold. We are able to offer a wider variety of services. 2014 is just the beginning.

Ines Zimmerman — District Manager

Conservation Education

This year we have 22 returning schools and 7 new schools joining the Plants for Pollinators in the Classroom (PPIC) Program for a total of 29 schools participating in this unique, hands-on learning experience where students discover the important role pollinators play in our food supply.

In our eighth year in the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, we had 19 schools and one environmental center raising brook trout. In May, over 200 students and teachers attended Trout Field Day to release the trout they raised, from eggs to 3-4 inch fingerlings, into the Toms River at the Forest Resource Education Center. Students also participated in programs in soil, forestry, water and trout life. It is estimated that over 600 trout have been released into NJDEP permitted waters this past year through Freehold SCD TIC tanks.

“Where Does Your Water Shed?” was the theme for Stewardship Week and for the Conservation Poster Contest. District prizes were awarded in four grade divisions. All first place winning posters were submitted to the State level contest and we had winners at the state level.

The 2013 NJ Envirothon, which was held at Camp Kettle Run Girl Scout Camp in Medford in May. The 20th annual event tested 34 teams of high school students from throughout NJ in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and the current environmental issue of “Sustainable Rangeland Management.” MATES Team #1 (Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science) from Stafford won the event for the fourth year in a row. West Windsor-Plainsboro HS North won second place for the event and third place went to High Tech High Team #1. Mates Team #1 went on to represent New Jersey at the National Envirothon at the University of Montana in late July.

The NJ Conservation Partnership display at the 2013 NJ Flower & Garden Show promoted the different types of food that go into your meal, and where these crops are grown. “Farm to Festival” was very popular and was viewed by over 25,000 show visitors. The garden earned awards for “Most Educational,” “Best Environmental Focus” and “Best Interpretation of Theme.”

Our Board of Supervisors awarded three \$2,000 scholarships in 2013. Jeffrey Neyhart, Farmingdale, received the Neal W. Munch Scholarship, Michelle Koehler, Middletown, received the Mac Clark Scholarship, and Peter Etsch, Monroe Twp., received the Bill Schauer Scholarship. This was the 34th consecutive year awards have been provided by the district. Students majoring in conservation related fields from Middlesex or Monmouth County are awarded these scholarships.



The NJ Envirothon celebrates its 20th year anniversary in 2013.



The NJ Conservation Partnership’s “Farm to Festival” display at the Flower & Garden Show was viewed by over 25,000 attendees.





While 2013 was not a typical year, with farmers and forest owners cleaning up from Super Storm Sandy with assistance from the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), a government shutdown, and a delayed Farm Bill, business was as usual (almost) at our FSA Office in Freehold as we continued to strive to meet the needs of the agricultural community.

Our office made payments totaling over \$780,000. In total New Jersey received over \$16 million dollars in program payments and loans. Over \$4.5 million in commodity programs like Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL), and Commodity Loans. Almost \$700,000 in conservation payments were made, including payments in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). Over \$1.3 million in disaster assistance was provided from Non-insured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Supplement Revenue SURE. And over \$10 million in farm loans, including almost \$700,000 in Microloans (loans less than \$35,000 each).

What is more significant today is not the past year, but the year ahead. On February 7, 2014 President Obama signed the long awaited and debated Agricultural Act of 2014, better known as the Farm Bill. The new Farm Bill has many changes that affect our office and our producers. Perhaps most significant is the discontinuation of the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). While a guaranteed direct payment seems to be a thing of the past, Congress has established two new programs to act as a safety net for our farmers. Producers will have opportunity to elect

participation in either the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs, both of which issue payments based on annual yields. These programs will take the place of DCP. These new programs also allow participants to reestablish their base acres and yields based on 2008 -2012 average yield per planted acre. Additional information on each program and program elections will be distributed as the programs roles out.

Meanwhile other programs have received significant changes. The Non-insured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) will offer buy-up coverage (up to 65%), at an additional fee starting in 2015, while regular catastrophic coverage will remain the same.

In addition to grain, hay and cold storage facilities and facility upgrades the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) will now be providing low interest loans on some drying and handling equipment for fruit and vegetable producers. This equipment can include food safety, packaging, and grading equipment (contact our office for a complete list).

Disaster programs, like the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) have reinstated retroactively to October 1, 2011 for livestock losses due to natural disaster. Livestock, farm raised fish and even honeybee owners can apply to be reimbursed for losses over natural mortality.

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

4000 Kozloski Road

Freehold, NJ 07728

732-462-0075

www.fsa.usda.gov

FSA Staff

Gabi Grunstein — County Executive Director

Beth Pine — Program Technician





Activity Highlights of 2013

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation professional's assists land managers by assessing resource concerns and offering alternatives to improve land conditions. NRCS works with the agricultural producers to develop a Conservation Plan. This plan provides guidance and recommendations to improve conservation on the land. NRCS can also assist land managers with resource information, technical reports and interpretations on land no longer in agricultural production. In addition, NRCS is responsible for implementing Farm Bill cost-share programs and providing technical assistance for some State programs. All participation in NRCS programs is voluntary.

In 2013 NRCS staff provided the following technical services in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties:

- Developed conservation plans for 1400 acres. Applied conservation practices on 3,100 acres.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of soil improvement projects on 1700 acres.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of conservation practices to improve water quality of 1,300 acres.
- Helped agricultural producers improve irrigation efficiency on 228 cropland acres.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of conservation practices on 100 forest land acres.
- Assisted land managers with the implementation of conservation practices for fish and wildlife on 313 non-federal land acres.

CTA - Conservation Technical Assistance is providing technical assistance to help people help their land. NRCS has used CTA successfully, for more than 75 years. We provide assistance to New Jersey farmers, private landowners and managers. New Jersey's farmers invest in conservation with the help from CTA; to care for the more than 70 percent of our land, water and other natural resources that are in their hands. In FY2013 New Jersey received \$3.2 million in CTA funds. NRCS employees work with customers to identify natural resource problems, inventory resources, develop conservation alternatives and help individual farmers, local governments and urban landowners with their conservation decisions. This prepares the way for using Farm Bill and other conservation funding.

NRCS Farm Bill program activity in the District service area includes:

EQIP – The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is available for active agricultural lands owned or operated by non-governmental entities. Twenty four active contracts are currently underway throughout the District. These contracts include implementation of Season High Tunnels, forestry management practices, cover crop, organic cover crop, nutrient management, pest management, low-flow pivot irrigation systems, drip irrigation systems, irrigation water management, erosion control, leaf mulching, residue management, grazing lands management, agrichemical storage facilities, grassed buffers, and air quality practices. Multiple diesel irrigation engines were replaced with tier 3 and 4 engines to improve air quality. Also included in the EQIP Program is an incentive to convert to no-till. This has been successfully adopted in Monroe Twp., Middlesex County, as seen in the photo.



WHIP – The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program provides funding to enhance grassland habitat, improve forest, bog turtle habitat, and riparian areas through five year contracts. Four active contracts on approximately 40 treated acres active in the District. These WHIP contracts support the creation of grassland habitat, the improvement of wetland habitat, pollinator habitat and the planting of trees and shrubs.

CSP – The Conservation Security/Stewardship Program is a watershed-based voluntary program. Producers are awarded stewardship payments for applying and documenting high levels of on-farm conservation and management. In addition they have ability to earn increased payments for implementing/or expanding conservation activities. Within the Raritan watershed, three contracts covering 700 acres are being implemented and are scheduled to be completed in 2015.

AMA – Agricultural Management Assistance offers an opportunity to limited resource and beginning farmers to use new or innovative conservation practices by offsetting the cost of implementation to reduce risk to the farmer. Five active agreements on 85 acres are currently supporting water conservation practices, prescribed grazing practices and soil protection practices in Middlesex and Monmouth counties.

GRP – The Grassland Reserve Program, administered by the Farm Service Agency, offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. This results in the protection of water quality and provide wildlife habitat. There are currently two GRP contracts in Monmouth County, covering 151 acres.

Nicole Ciccaglione — District Conservationist

NRCS 2012 Staff – Freehold Office

District Conservationist – Nicole Ciccaglione
Soil Conservationist - Laura Coover
Soil Conservationist - Doug Kauffman
Program Assistant - Maria Iannuzzelli

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Freehold Service Center
400 Kozloski Road Suite D
PO Box 5033
Freehold, NJ 07728
732-462-0075

www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov

An equal opportunity employer and provider

Forest Resource Education Center

- Interpretive Programs:** The staff at the Forest Resource Education Center (FREC) hosted 75 interpretive programs and events for a total of 3,139 attendees in 2013. 1,773 students and teachers enjoyed weekly interpretive school programs focusing on forestry and wildlife. The 19th annual Fall Forestry Festival had over 1,000 visitors and featured exhibits, demonstrations and interpretive hikes. The new Summer Family Programs, Fangs in the Forest presentation and the annual Full Moon Hike brought 336 family members to the FREC property.
- Outreach Programs:** FREC staff lent their expertise at several outreach events. These events included the NJ Envirothon, ANJEE Conference, Wild Outdoor Expo, NJ Science Convention, NJEA Convention, and the Shade Tree Federation Conference. New to this year, FREC staff participated in Take Our Kids to Work Day at the NJDEP headquarters.
- Trail Work:** Hardworking staff created new signs and displays which included a main entrance sign, sawmill sign, and new podiums for the Forest Products trail. All construction was completed with logs salvaged from Superstorm Sandy. The Jackson Pathfinders continued their support and trail maintenance assistance.
- NJ Volunteers in Forestry:** In 2013, FREC hosted a number of volunteer groups which provided valuable assistance to our educational programs and trail system. Rutgers TEEM Gateway participated in three days of volunteering in which high school students stained buildings, power washed benches, and mulched several areas around the grounds. FREC staff organized a clean-up of the sugarbush at Monmouth Battlefield State Park to improve the health of our sugar maples tapped for syrup season. A new group, Viridian Energy provided 180 volunteer hours for Earth Day by spreading woodchips, crushed stone, and fixing our corduroy trail and cleaning signs. Special thanks to the Easter Seals NJCSS, Ocean County Vocational Technical School, Brick Township High School Key Club, Dr. Laura Stone, and Matt Herflicker for their volunteer efforts at our facility.
- Trout in the Classroom:** In cooperation with the Freehold and Ocean County Soil Conservation Districts, Jersey Shore Trout Unlimited, and NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, FREC staff hosted the annual Trout in the Classroom Field Day. The program incorporates environmental education and a trout release into its curriculum. A total of 167 students from local schools participate in a day of interpretive programs and a trout release into the Toms River. Additionally, 88 students released trout as part of a FREC lead interpretive program.
- Project Learning Tree:** Based out of the FREC, NJ Project Learning Tree (PLT) continued to offer professional development workshops in 2013. These workshops gave teachers resourceful curriculum guides which allowed them to bring environmental education to their classroom. In total, Project Learning Tree reached out to 396 teachers and provided 24 educator workshops. PLT also provided a facilitator training which increased the number of educators who can provide PLT materials to their staff. This successful endeavor will help in the expansion of the PLT Green Schools! program with the goal of creating 10 new sustainable schools in NJ in 2014.
- Maple sugaring:** The tradition of making delicious maple syrup at the sugar shack continued in 2013. FREC foresters tapped sugar maple trees at Monmouth Battlefield State Park in late January and into February and collected over 300 gallons of sap. The sap was then prepared at the FREC and eventually boiled to become maple syrup. FREC school groups and visitors enjoy seeing the sugaring process and sampling this tasty treat.
- New Projects in 2013:** Our seasonal naturalist, Alissa Gregory designed and constructed a new, self-guided educational program at the recently acquired Pleasant Grove property. The sawmill demonstration program now features a display of 1-board-foot samples of different tree species to highlight the unique grain and color of each species. In cooperation with the NJ Forest Fire Service, a Fire Wise demonstration garden was created in the front of the interpretive center. This garden will be a learning tool to provide a visual example of how to protect homes from forest fire.
- Events in 2014:** Full Moon Hikes, Summer Family Programs, Fall Forestry Festival

Lindsay Harrington — NJPLT Coordinator

Forest Resource Education Center

370 East Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527
732-928-0987



South Jersey RC&D

OUR MISSION: South Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council promotes the wise use and conservation of natural and community resources through education and collaborative partnerships, supporting the environmental and economic well-being of South Jersey.

South Jersey RC & D includes:
Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape
May, Cumberland, Gloucester,
Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth,
Ocean and Salem Counties.



Mid Atlantic Regional Association The Association continues without Federal funding and has ongoing interaction in Washington, D.C. They also completed revised Bylaws to work with the remaining Councils in the region. As a member, the SJRC&D council works with the other RC&D councils to enhance our efforts throughout the region.

Team Habitat with David Reilly from the Cape-Atlantic Soil Conservation District as lead, the Team continues to provide planting and assistance in the field for grassland habitat restorations and replanting of land. Wildlife habitat creation was used in conducting acres of wildlife habitat rehabilitation in 2013. The Team Habitat Manager coordinated jobs throughout the South Jersey Resource and Development area. We continue to promote the use of the program as a way to stabilize and plant acres that need cover and/or wildflowers.

Tour des Farms: The Council successfully held its seventh annual Tour des Farms bike ride in Burlington County. Over 230 riders participated, cycling from farm to farm with "Farm Bucks" redeemable at the local farm markets along the route. This Council-funded project helps to support South Jersey agriculture and local farm markets, promotes the benefits of farmland preservation, and encourages bike riding as a healthy, environmentally-friendly, recreational activity. We intend to increase ridership and sponsors in 2014 and are considering even more farms.

Soil Health: The Council continues to promote soil health on farms by renting out a roller/crimper. This allows vegetable crops to be planted directly into crimped cover crops. This method reduces soil erosion, pesticide use, and creates a cleaner pumpkin crop. The roller/crimper is available to farmers to try out this technique and is located at the Burlington Soil Conservation District / SJ RC&D office building.

Michael Hill — SJRC&D Treasurer

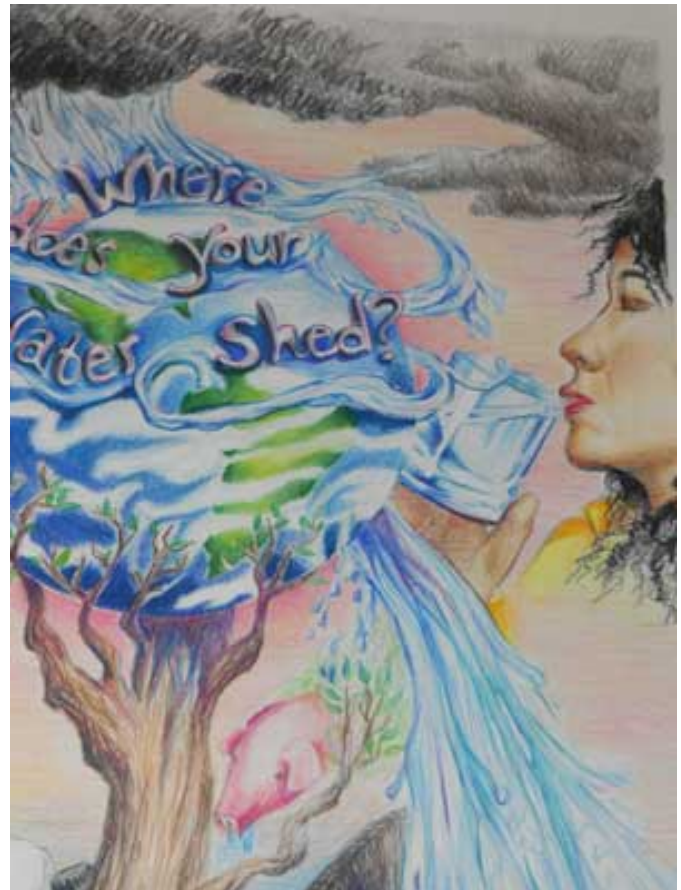
Council

Jack Sworaski— Chairperson
Victor DeVasto — 1st Vice Chairperson/Secretary
Peggy McNeil — 2nd Vice Chairperson
Michael Hill — Treasurer

South Jersey RC&D

Columbus USDA Service Center
1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road
Columbus, NJ 08022
609-267-1639 www.sjrkd.org
Email: Victor DeVasto <victor-devasto@hotmail.com>

NJ Conservation Poster Contest



This 1st Place Poster Contest entry earned a \$100 prize for Jenny Huang, of Edison, in the Grades 7-9 Division.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County

The Agricultural & Natural Resource Management

department provides a variety of educational programs and services to Middlesex County residents and beyond. Interest continues among residents to grow food crops, reduce the use of pesticides and conserve water. The EARTH Center offers programs whose topics include: recycling, composting, Integrated Pest Management, food safety, pesticide safety, lawn care, vegetable gardening and community leadership.

2013 staff accomplishments include:

- Worked with the County Board of Ag and agricultural community on issues of water allocation, nutrient management and pesticide use and safety
- Provided commodity based educational opportunities for commercial growers at the Central Jersey Turf and Ornamental Institute and Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Meeting.
- Supported the efforts of the Board of Agriculture and Fair Association at the Middlesex County Fair. Extension staff and volunteers set-up agricultural and horticultural displays, answered gardening and environmental questions, and collected survey information on Jersey Fresh products and buying habits.
- Provided educational training and crop diagnostics for over 220 farmers comprising a \$42 million dollar agricultural industry in Middlesex County.
- Delivered an Introduction to Organic Land Care program to 40 land care professionals on organic practices including management of soil, organic options for turf, and ID of common insects.

Master Gardeners

In 2013 there were over 250 active Master Gardeners and 24 MG Graduates.

- Garden helpline volunteers answered over 1,000 calls from residents on a wide variety of gardening and environmental topics. Call them at 732-398-5220.
- Weekend tours of the Butterfly House, (June – August 10am – Noon) teaching adults and children about butterflies and native plants. There were over 1,600 visitors to the site.
- Provided horticultural assistance to attendees of Middlesex County Fair which attracts over 20,000 residents annually.
- MG Speakers Bureau provided 33 presentations on a variety of topics such as composting, vegetable gardening and container gardening. Over 1,200 residents were reached through these programs.

4-H Youth Development

4-H Youth Development focuses on four essential elements when developing positive youth development programming: Belonging, Independence, Mastery and Generosity.

-A sense of Belonging is developed in all 4-H programs based on the need for youth to have a emotionally safe place to learn and grow.

-Independence is developed through opportunities encouraging leadership skills.

-Mastery was taught through project area work in Middlesex County's 35 4-H clubs. 4-H youth take part in project areas such as fine arts, environmental science, gardening, robotics, shooting sports, and more.

- The essential element of Generosity is displayed through community service and service learning projects. Youth take part in service projects but also assess community needs and develop projects to meet these needs.

SNAP-Ed: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) provides programmatic leadership for effective nutrition education, funded by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Middlesex County SNAP-Ed assists limited resource adults and youth improve nutrition and food safety habits, use resources more effectively and increase physical activity for better health.

Our grant year ran from October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013. During that period:

- 1,101 family members benefitted from SNAP-Ed programs
- 1,081 youth participated in nutritious food choice workshops

EFNEP: EFNEP helps limited-resource families with children, improve their eating behaviors through behaviorally focused nutrition education. The program is supported by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Smith-Lever funds. EFNEP programming focuses on educating adults in a family situation so that the whole family can benefit from the same.

Our grant year ran from October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013. During that period:

- 172 family members benefitted from EFNEP programs
- 1,407 youth participated in nutritious food choice workshops

David Smela—Public Information Assistant

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County

At the Earth Center @

Davidson's Mill Pond Park

42 Riva Ave.

South Brunswick, NJ 08902

www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices

Main office: 732 398 5260

Master Gardener Helpline 732-398-5220

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

■ Cooperative Extension
Middlesex County

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County

Agriculture and Resource Management

The Monmouth County clientele base includes commercial agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, homeowners, governmental agencies and natural resource interests. Department Head William Sciarappa, Horticulturist Diane Larson and Program Assistant Vivian Quinn provided technical and educational programs on a regional basis in the fields of vegetable, agronomic, fruit, nursery and greenhouse production. RCE partners with USDA-NRCS, USDA Farm Service Agency, and Freehold Soil District, all housed within the Agricultural Building to efficiently serve county clients. With our external outreach programs in agri-chemical education and stormwater runoff, we partner with the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, the Monmouth County Agricultural Development Board, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJ Farm Bureau and regional watershed committees. Sixty public demonstration rain gardens and a new pilot maritime forest were constructed to create water conservation awareness, improve water quality and promote public construction. Additionally, we helped develop a new county fair – The Open Space Pace and Festival of Horses which drew 3,500 people at the Freehold Raceway.



Marine

Professor and Marine Extension Agent Gef Flimlin infused seafood into Community Supported Agriculture farms or CSA. The seafood shareholders were extremely pleased with the variety and quality of the cultured and wild harvested seafood that they received every other week. Whenever there was a seafood week, the NJ Marine Sciences Sea Grant Program helped to develop a storyline based on information about the species from the Marine Agent, which also contained background on the fishery, the gear, and some great recipes for the people to try. The new concept was to have a separate share of seafood (cultured clams or oysters, lobsters, scallops, squid, or finfish) that the shareholders can purchase and have with their produce share.

Master Gardeners

In 2013, there were 195 active Master Gardeners (MG) in Monmouth County volunteering a total of over 23,000 hours. The Plant-A-Row for the Hungry and Junior Master Gardener gardens yielded over 3,100 pounds of produce donated to the Open Door Food Pantry in Freehold. Additionally, MG's are involved with community and school gardens, rain gardens, the maritime forest, school programs and educational outreach at public venues; such as our two county fairs in Freehold.

Family & Community Healthy Sciences (FCHS)

The main initiative for the Department of Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS) is helping residents gain a better understanding of healthier lifestyles and being more active in turn reducing health care costs. Through science based advice, FCHS encourages residents to make personal choices to improve health. This educational outreach spans much of the county with our collaborating partners as local agencies, nearby Hospitals, Senior Centers, the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Monmouth County Vocational Schools and the SNAP-ED Program. Other presentations, events and demonstrations include Monmouth County Wellness Day, Health Fairs and the Monmouth County Fair also give us the opportunity to improve overall well being.

4-H Youth Development

The Monmouth County 4-H Program offers youth a hands-on, informal educational environment – a place where they can feel both connected and valued. Participation in the 4-H Program helps youth master life skills and gain a deeper understanding of generosity by becoming active, engaged citizens.

The Department of Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS) offers educational programs that aim to increase knowledge about food, health and wellness, promote more active lifestyles, encourage the consumption of more fruits and vegetables as well as a plant based diet, while decreasing the intake of foods and beverages high in saturated fat, sodium, and sugar.

The Get Moving Get Healthy - New Jersey initiative is a primary focus in Monmouth County. It incorporates a multitude of programming to encourage healthy lifestyles. There is a growing awareness to the benefits of family meals, not only nutritionally but to the advantages to the family unit as well.

There were 35 active clubs in 2013, with a total enrollment of over 500 youth in grades K-13 (the first year of college). Clubs meet throughout the county in suburban and urban settings, in homes, in schools and at the county Agricultural Building. The goal of 4-H clubs is to engage youth in “learning by doing” – building skills and knowledge by participating in projects related to their area of interest, with an adult leader guiding their way.

Vivian Quinn - Program Assistant

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth County

4000 Kozloski Road
Freehold, NJ 07728
732-431-7260

www.visitmonmouth.com/07050coopext

FSCD 2013 Financial Report

Sources of Income (approximate)	Amount
Interest & previous fees	50%
Erosion control fees	49.5%
Monmouth County grant	.5%
Expenses (approximate)	
Salaries, taxes & benefits	74%
Rent, utilities & insurance	12%
Materials, supplies & postage	4%
Professional services	3%
Vehicles expenses	2%
Training & conferences	2%
Scholarships, awards & education	2%
Capital expenditure	1%

The Freehold SCD Board of Supervisors meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the District office.

April — November at 7:30 pm
December — March at 1:30 pm

Freehold Soil Conservation District Staff



Top: (l-r) Donna Cramer, Christina LaBianca, Ines Zimmerman, Andrea Farparan & Mike Hill
Bottom: Sharon Robertson



Brian Governale & Courtney Davidson



(l-r) Mike Hill, Steve Grosch & Tim Thomas



Holly Reynolds



Paul Califano, Stacy Brady & Michael Infanti



Mark Alliston & Ben Shotland

Freehold Soil Conservation District

4000 Kozloski Road — PO Box 5033
 Freehold, NJ 07728
 732-683-8500 Fax 732-683-9140
 Email: info@freeholdscd.org
 Online at www.freeholdscd.org

**Serving Middlesex & Monmouth
 Counties Since 1938**



Editor: Holly Reynolds

Primary Photographer: Paul Califano

New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts consist of paid staff plus a volunteer Board of Supervisors. The operation of the Freehold Soil Conservation District is supported by the collection of plan review and project inspection fees paid by developers for construction projects.

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Charles Buscaglia	Chairman
Robert Dreyer	Vice Chairman
Donald Patterson	Treasurer
Roger Gravatt	Member
Wayne Van Hise	Member

DISTRICT STAFF

Ines Zimmerman	District Manager
Michael Hill	Assistant District Manager
Stacy Brady	Senior Resource Specialist
Timothy Thomas	Resource Conservationist
Ben Shotland	Resource Conservationist II
Paul Califano	Resource Conservationist II
Michael Infanti	Resource Conservationist II
Steve Grosch	Resource Conservationist II
Mark Alliston	Resource Conservationist II
Courtney Davidson	Senior Site Inspector
Brian Governale	Senior Site Inspector
Holly Reynolds	Public Information Specialist
Christina LaBianca	Administrative Services Mgr.
Sharon Robertson	Receptionist — Secretary
Donna Cramer	Application Processor
Andrea Farparan	Secretary

Douglas Widman, Esq.	District Attorney
Suplee, Clooney & Co.	District Accountant

NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Douglas Fisher	Secretary of Agriculture
----------------	--------------------------

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Nicole Ciccaglione	District Conservationist
--------------------	--------------------------

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Ronal Rios	Freeholder Director
Deepak Matedha PhD	Mosquito Commission Supt.
Richard Wallner	County Engineer, P.E.
George Ververides	Planning Board Office Director
Ralph Albanir	Parks Department Head

MONMOUTH COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Lillian Burry	Freeholder Director
Victoria Thompson	Mosquito Commission Supt.
Joseph Ettore	County Engineer, P.E.
Edward Sampson	Planning Director
James Truncer	Parks Department Secretary-Director

COOPERATING AGENCIES

USDA Farm Service Agency

Gabor Grunstein	County Executive Director
-----------------	---------------------------

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth

William Sciarappa	County Agent
-------------------	--------------

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Middlesex

William Hlubik	County Agent
----------------	--------------

NJ Division Parks & Forestry

Forest Resource Education Center

NJ Department of Environmental Protection