

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Middlesex & Monmouth Counties Since 1938

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**2015 Freehold SCD Photo Contest
First Place Winner**

“Farm in Black & White”

By Raymond Salani III, of Tinton Falls

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



Third Place Winner “Blue Moon Over Manasquan Reservoir”
By Tom Maugham, of East Brunswick

Manager's Message

2015 was a time of challenges for the Freehold Soil Conservation District.

The Freehold District is focused on the essential programs needed to bring the area back from the past damaging weather. The District is busy inspecting areas of redevelopment affected by Hurricane Sandy.

The Freehold District in partnership with the other districts throughout the state continues to contribute to the Policy and Procedures, Training and District Review Subcommittees. The Freehold Soil Conservation District participated as a distribution point for the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign again. Free trees furnished by the NJ Forestry Service were distributed to municipalities and they in turn passed them on to the public. In Monmouth and Middlesex Counties over 1,800 trees were distributed. With new trees, the environment can improve in many ways and add to the conservation of our soil in the area.

The grant project to enhance the Manalapan River and Lake Watershed has continued. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has released funds for the work with county and local partners to rehabilitate drainage structures and repair stream bank erosion. We will continue to work with Rutgers Cooperative Extension to educate the public on these projects through a video series which addresses the installation and maintenance of restored stormwater basins.

Also, the first of the proposed restoration projects for storm water management basins has been planned for implementation. New projects at Thompson Park, Monroe Township are under way to further enhance the waters.

The District also received a USDA-NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant to create an Open Space Conservation Assistance Program (OSCAP). OSCAP will work to provide technical assistance and to develop partnerships to carry out the goals of conservation and management plans developed for the lands in this demonstration project. The project is also expected to target parcels that have had adverse impacts on adjacent agricultural lands. An additional goal will be to identify ways to enhance the open space habitat and provide additional benefits to the adjacent agricultural lands by encouraging beneficial species, reduce invasives, enhance water quality.

In addition to providing a demonstration of what conservation can be accomplished on the ground to address an Open Space resource need, this project will produce a workbook providing a step by step process for engaged conservation non-governmental organizations to follow to accomplish that goal.

The goal for 2016 is to expand our efforts in conservation throughout the area. We are looking toward new conservation needs. We are working with our federal partners to identify opportunities and approaches to solving resource concerns. We are remembering where 2015 has taken us and are preparing for a very busy 2016.

Ines Zimmerman— District Manager

Chapter 251 Report

The Freehold Soil Conservation District is empowered to implement the provisions of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act. Under the Act, activities with a land disturbance in excess of 5,000 square feet are required to submit Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans to the District for review and certification. These activities include commercial, residential, mining or landfill projects. The Freehold Soil Conservation District serves Monmouth and Middlesex counties.

The District received 915 new applications for development projects in the calendar year 2015. This marks the first time since the late 1980s the District received over 900 new applications for development and reflects a 19% increase from the previous year. The District staff, now more than ever, continues to diligently inspect construction sites and review plans in accordance with Chapter 251 regulations and the State Erosion Control Standards.

This year longevity awards were earned by Mark Alliston (10 years) and Andrea Farparan (10 years). Additionally, the 2015 Outstanding Administrative Achievement Award was presented to Andrea Farparan by the New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts.

The District staff completed the initial data entry into the New Jersey Hydrologic Modeling Database (NJ H&H) in 2015. The NJ H&H Database entry is the result of a coordinated effort by the Soil Conservation Districts, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Rutgers University to capture and preserve land use, hydrologic and hydraulic design data in the development of stormwater management plans. The database will ultimately be a significant online tool for future planning and design efforts aimed at protecting the natural resources of the state of New Jersey.

Each year the Freehold Soil Conservation District is faced with new challenges and continues to explore ways to improve and create opportunities from such challenges. The Freehold Soil Conservation District will continue its mission to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve and sustain the environment and natural resources of New Jersey.

Michael Infanti -- Resource Conservationist II



Conservation Education

In our tenth year in the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, we have 22 schools and one environmental center raising rainbow trout. In May, over 100 students and teachers attended Trout in the Classroom 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 750 trout have been released into NJDEP permitted waters this past year through the District's TIC tanks.

This year we have 25 returning schools and 7 new schools joining the Plants for Pollinators in the Classroom (PPIC) Program for a total of 32 schools participating in this unique, hands-on learning experience where students discover the important role pollinators play in our food supply.

"Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators" 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. Our two 1st place state winners also won 1st place at the national level.

The 2015 NJ Envirothon, was held at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Cape County in May. The 22nd annual event tested 32 teams

of high school students from throughout NJ in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and the current environmental issue of "Urban Community Forestry." MATES Team #1 (Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science) from Stafford won the event for the sixth year in a row. MATES Team #2 (Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science) won second place for the event and third place went to West Windsor-Plainsboro HS North.

The NJ Conservation Partnership display at the 2015 NJ Flower & Garden Show promoted the different ways we can protect our natural resources. "Conservation Adventures with Huckleberry Finn" was very popular and was viewed by over 20,000 show visitors. The garden earned awards for "Most Educational," "Best Environmental Focus," "Most Colorful Display" and "Best Use of Structural Elements."

Our Board of Supervisors awarded three \$2,000 scholarships in 2015. Lara Brindisi, Manalapan, received the Neal W. Munch Scholarship, Katelyn Haggard, Freehold, received the Mac Clark Scholarship, and Lauren Pinto, Monroe Township, received the Bill Schauer Scholarship. This was the 36th consecutive year awards have been provided by the District. Students majoring in conservation related fields from Middlesex or Monmouth County are awarded these scholarships.

Holly Reynolds — Public Information Specialist



The 2015 NJ Envirothon at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Cape County.



The NJ Conservation Partnership's "Conservation Adventures with Huckleberry Finn" display at the Flower & Garden Show was viewed by over 20,000 attendees.



Trout in the Classroom Field Day 2015

FSA AT WORK ACROSS NEW JERSEY 2015

"The USDA Farm Service Agency delivered more than \$8 million in federal program payments and loans to New Jersey farmers and growers during fiscal year 2015. New Jersey agriculture benefits greatly from the tireless efforts of our dedicated employees and locally elected County Committees."

- Paul Hlubik, State Executive Director

Commodity Program Payments: \$1.5 million

New Jersey producers received substantial monetary support during FY 2015 in the form of commodity and price support program payments.

\$1,362,452 - Commodity Loans are available to eligible producers who use crops as collateral. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes loans for eligible commodities that are farm or warehouse stored.

cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

\$928 - Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) offers protection when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed

\$151,500 - Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), through FSA, makes loans to producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities

Conservation: \$1.0 million

FSA made significant investments toward conserving and improving soil, water, and wildlife resources in New Jersey. Conservation investments in FY 2015 include:

\$383,461 - Conservation Reserve Program

(CRP) provides financial incentives, cost-share and rental payments to producers who convert highly erodible cropland or environmentally sensitive acreage to long-term vegetative cover.

\$6,917 - Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Provides emergency funding for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters, and to enact emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought.

\$25,987 - Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program designed to protect grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses.

\$614,298 - Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) funds restored forestland damaged by 2012 Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestation and Superstorm Sandy. Planted trees help reduce flood effects, protect water sources, decrease soil erosion and improve wildlife habitat.

Disaster Assistance: \$679.0 thousand

From drought to flood, freeze and tornadoes - FSA was financially responsive to New Jersey producers following natural disasters.

\$336,634 - Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.

rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

\$176,594 - Tree Assistance Program for Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers (TAP) provides financial assistance to replant or

\$1,508 - Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides partial reimbursements to eligible livestock owners for livestock losses suffered due to a natural disaster or other emergency.

Farm Loans: \$4.8 million

FSA offers various loan options to New Jersey farmers and growers who manage family-sized operations and who were temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit.

\$911,000 - Guaranteed Loan Program FSA guarantees loans made by conventional agricultural lenders for up to 95 percent of any loss if the loan fails.

loans to targeted underserved producers.

\$3,520,780 - Direct Loan Program FSA provides assistance to those unable to obtain guaranteed loans. In FY 2015, FSA funded 52 farm ownership loans, including 27 loans to beginning farmers and 13

\$385,800 - Microloans are direct farm operating loans (maximum of \$50,000) with a shortened application process and reduced paperwork designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche type operations. In FY 2015, 17 microloans were issued.

Program Payments for Freehold Service Center Counties

Mercer - \$38,226 Middlesex - \$178,868 Monmouth - \$5,545



Activity Highlights of 2015

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 2015 NRCS staff provided the following technical services in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties:

- Developed conservation plans for 623 acres. Applied conservation practices on 747 acres.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of soil improvement projects on 336 acres.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of conservation practices to improve water quality on 632 acres.
- Helped agricultural producers improve irrigation efficiency on cropland 303 acres.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of conservation practices on 141 forest 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 FY2015 New Jersey received \$2.7 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. Eighteen active contracts are currently underway throughout the District. These contracts include implementation of Seasonal 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, Agricultural Chemical Handling Facilities (AHF), grazing lands management, grassed buffers, and air quality practices.

Also included in the EQIP Program is an incentive to install Conservation Activity Plans (EQIP-CAP). Funds are used to develop plans for farmers to address certain land use activities or specific resource concerns on their land. A CAP combines specific land use objectives associated with a renewable resource with a comprehensive management plan that addresses all of the natural resource concerns within an agricultural operation.

An Agricultural Energy Management CAP is developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP) which is a technical consultant approved to develop the plans to NRCS standards and specifications. The TSP will meet with the producer to inventory the energy resources and develop a site specific management plan. The plan will outline management and physical practices that can improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs. Some of the practices that can be implemented through the use of an Energy CAP are:

- Building envelope improvement
- Improved building insulation, installation of Greenhouse Screens (Curtains)
- Farmstead Energy Improvement
- Ventilation Exhaust replacement
- Water heater replacement
- Grain drying equipment replacement or upgrade
- Motor upgrade
- Lighting System improvement
- Replacement of light bulbs to a more energy efficient type (Incandescent to LED)

Five energy CAP's have been developed for greenhouse and grain operations in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. Future planned implementation may improve lighting, heating and cooling efficiency with the replacement of greenhouse screens and inefficient light bulbs.

NRCS 2014 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
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Forest Resource Education Center



Interpretive Programs: The staff at the Forest Resource Education Center (FREC) hosted 103 interpretive programs with a total of 3,018 attendees in 2015. Students participating in S.T.E.M. Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics classes in Jackson High Schools visit FREC trails monthly as part of independent studies projects.

The annual Fall Forestry Festival was cancelled due to weather conditions as a result of Hurricane Joaquin. We anticipate the fall festival will be bigger and better than ever in 2016 with exhibits, demonstrations and interpretive hikes showcasing forestry and forest resources!

The annual full moon hike in August was a great success, with over 100 attendees, and featured a guest appearance by the Jersey Devil. Four optional routes were offered to participants with one passing along the site of a recent wildfire.

Cooperative Programming:

Beginning in 2014, the FREC has partnered with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the NJ Forestry Association to host the Backyard Forestry in 90 Minutes series. During 2015, 335 people attended the monthly programs. The series provides educational programs for adults with an interest in backyard forest management. Registration is required. In conjunction with the Jackson Pathfinders, FREC naturalist, Candace Lillie, offered a Swamp Trail hike on National Trails Day.

Outreach Programs: FREC staff lent their expertise at several outreach events including the NJ Envirothon, the Division of Fish & Wildlife's Wild Outdoor Expo, the Duke Farms Maple Sugaring Festival, Earth Day Celebration at Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Ocean County Parks, and NJ State Arbor Day Event. These events were attended by approximately 10,000 people.

Meeting Room: The FREC continues to be a centrally located facility to hold meetings. In 2015, 42 meetings and programs were held by 23 different organizations.

Trail Work: In 2015 FREC published and began distribution of new comprehensive trails maps. FREC staff and volunteers continued to repaint trail blazes. Volunteers assisted with the refurbishment of the Barnegat Bay watershed deck.

Volunteers in Forestry: Nearly 1,000 hours were logged by volunteers from the following organizations: the Jackson Pathfinders, Woodland Stewardship program, the Timberland Company, Viridian Energy, Ocean County Vocational Technical School and the Monmouth County Master Gardeners who assisted with programs and projects including tree grading and trail maintenance. Dr. Laura Stone continued to monitor the eastern bluebird nest boxes at our facility with the help of Shari Kondrup and Ann Corbett. They discovered that 40 bluebirds fledged this year.

Barnegat Bay Themed Programs and Events:

FREC staff emphasized the benefits of NJ's trees at the 18th annual Barnegat Bay Festival in Island Heights, the Barnegat Bay Blitz at Barnegat Light State Park and the Barnegat Bay Blitz Water Festival at Switlik Elementary School. FREC continued to support the work of the NJ AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassadors Program during the Rain Barrel *train the trainer* workshop and biological assessment training workshops hosted at FREC.

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. A total of 175 students and their teachers from 5 local schools participated in a day of interpretive programs and trout release into the Toms River with an additional 72 students and teachers from 3 schools releasing trout on separate occasions as part of FREC led interpretive programs.

New Projects in 2015: With the assistance of Girl Scout Troop 490 Jackson and the NJ State Forest Nursery, FREC staff established a Monarch Butterfly Feeding Station. For the first time in FREC history, the interpretive center was open on the second Saturdays of each month allowing additional access for the public and an opportunity for scouts to work on badge requirements with a FREC naturalist. Richard Fernandes, of BSA Troop 82 Jackson completed enhancements to the Atlantic White Cedar research plot as an Eagle Scout project.

Events in 2016: We will be continue to host the Backyard Forestry series which are held every second Thursday starting at 7:00 p.m., Winter and Summer Full Moon Hikes, Summer Family Programs, and the Fall Forestry Festival. In addition to the weekday programming available at FREC, we will continue to be open and offer guided hikes on the second Saturday of each month.

Ginette Day - Naturalist

Forest Resource Education Center

495 Don Connor Boulevard

Jackson, NJ 08527

732-928-0987

www.forestrycenter.nj.gov



South Jersey RC&D

South Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council area includes:

Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem Counties.

The South Jersey RC&D mission to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, to improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in our designated RC&D areas is ongoing.



In 2015, the RC&D Council Coordinator (Ila Vassallo) organized and carries on many new projects. Participation at various events has broadened the audience of the information the group provides. SJRC&D continues to plan, develop and carry out many programs for resource conservation and development. As a member of the Mid Atlantic Regional Association, the council works with other RC&D councils to enhance our efforts throughout the region in such projects as:

Wildlife Habitat: “Team Habitat” held a Partners meeting which brought together over twelve organizations to plan for the ongoing job of providing a valued resource to the area, conducting acres of wildlife habitat rehabilitation. The Team Habitat manager coordinated the completion of projects throughout the South Jersey RC&D area and beyond. New brochures for the work able to be done by the Team were published focusing on “Storm water”. Visit the website for further information.

Tour des Farms: The ninth annual Tour des Farms bike ride in Burlington County was another successful RC&D event. Over 250 riders cycled from farm to farm with “Farm Bucks” (coupons) redeemable at the local farm markets along the route. Tour des Farms educates residents on agricultural topics and practices. We intend to increase ridership and sponsors in 2016. The new farm Johnson’s on Rte 537 added to the route was well received.

No-Till Pumpkins: The Council continues to promote soil health on farms by renting out a roller/crimper. This tool 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 and is located at the Burlington Soil Conservation District office, which houses the South Jersey RC&D.

Soil Health: The Council promotes soil health through the Soil Health website at www.njsoilhealth.org and the work through the Team Habitat seeding program.

Delaware Estuary Levee Organization: The inventory of 70 aging levees along the Delaware Bay shoreline was completed in 2010 and potential partnerships are being pursued for restoration work on the identified levees, with submittals to the DEP and Army Corp for action.

Water Conservation: The Council wants area people to visit the lawn watering program at Rutgers University climatology program. Newspapers are alerted by email and a website is updated each day during the summer to provide homeowners with accurate information on how much irrigation their lawn needs that day. This is based on an area’s soils; evapotranspiration and rainfall measured at local weather stations. The Council, through its partnership with the State Climatologist from Rutgers, has promoted this program to all New Jersey municipalities.

Michael Hill — SJRC&D Treasurer

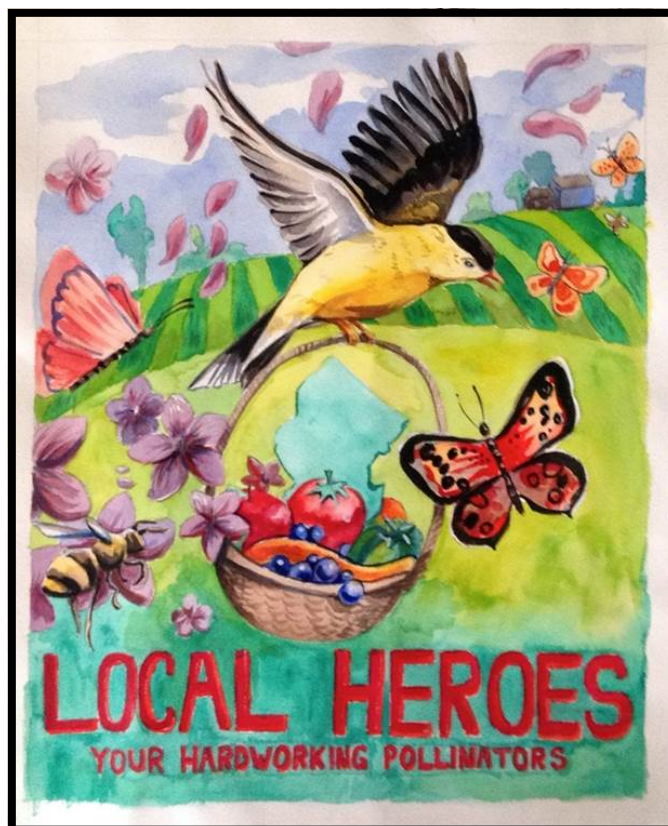
Council

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Dan Pace --1st Vice Chairperson
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Michael Hill — Treasurer

South Jersey RC&D

Columbus USDA Service Center
1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road
Columbus, NJ 08022
609-267-1639 www.sjrcd.org
Email: Coordinator <coordinator@sjrcd.org>

NJ Conservation Poster Contest



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

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County

The Agricultural & Natural Resource Management

Our staff and faculty provide 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: composting, Integrated Pest Management, pesticide safety, lawn care, vegetable gardening and community leadership.

Agricultural & Natural Resource Management staff's 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 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.

Manalapan Brook and Lake Restoration Project

As part of a Watershed Restoration and Protection grant from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, RCE has developed the second of several videos describing restoration efforts within the Manalapan Brook watershed, part of the Raritan River Basin in central New Jersey. The video titled "Floating Wetland Islands: Installation and Maintenance" describes the use of floating wetland island technology to any landowners or municipalities interested in an inexpensive method to reducing nutrient loads in their local ponds. The video can be viewed at https://youtu.be/NiHfbJEzU_E.

Project partners include Freehold Soil Conservation District, Monroe Township, Township of Manalapan, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County, Princeton Hydro, and the Middlesex Department of Infrastructure Management.

Rutgers Master Gardener Volunteers Accomplishments

In 2015 there 46 Master Gardeners who graduated and over 250 active Master Gardeners who contributed over 6,500 hours of volunteer service. Some of their efforts included:

- Speakers Bureau—27 educational program were presented, reaching 883 people.
- Over 700 pounds of produce donated to local food pantries
- Garden Helpline— 2,204 calls and inquiries were addressed

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. Over 135 adult volunteers lead 4-H club programs, where youth experienced success and failure, developing skills to be competent and caring adults.

-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) of Middlesex County assists limited resource adults and youth to improve nutrition and food safety habits, use resources more effectively and increase physical activity for better health. Our grant year ran from October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015. During that period:

- 326 family members benefitted from SNAP-Ed programs
- 1,727 youth participated in nutritious food choice workshops

In addition, our community assistants presented mini-lesson workshops from the *Select to Protect* campaign targeting an audience of caregivers to children ages 0-13 at 23 Sites/agencies reaching 689 participants.

The Faithfully Fit program was presented at 7 food pantries or houses of worship, reaching 117 participants.

EFNEP: The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program helps limited-resource families with children improve their lifestyle behavior 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 the whole family can benefit. In 2015, 26 family members benefitted from SNAP-Ed programs and 885 youth participated in nutritious food choice workshops. EFNEP worked with 12 collaborating agencies including: 7 elementary schools, 1 adult education center, 1 drug Rehab Center, 1 Salvation Army location and 1 pregnant teen program.

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 & Resource Management

2015 was an especially exciting and productive year for Agriculture and Resource Management. The Grown in Monmouth grant led by Freeholders Tom Arnone and Lillian Burry was approved and initiated. This project aims to assess the current crop market situation in Monmouth County and form marketing strategies to increase economic development for local agri-business. The GIM team with Spinelli & Pinto Consultants held an introductory meeting at Rutgers Research Center in Cream Ridge, NJ. An overflow audience of over 100 growers were given an overview presentation, engaged in an interactive on marketing issues and completed a preliminary survey. Also at Cream Ridge, a grower twilight tour and BBQ was held featuring the next generation of Rutgers cultivar releases. These new crop demonstrations included commercial field plantings of the Rutgers Scarlet Strawberry, Rutgers Scarlet Leaf Lettuces, and the Rutgers 250 Tomato in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Rutgers University in 2016.

Department Head Bill Sciarappa, Horticulturalist Diane Larson, Program Associate Vivian Quinn and Ag Assistant Dennis McNamara provided technical and educational programs on a local and state basis for vegetable, agronomic, fruit, nursery and greenhouse production. Projects focused on soil health of 24 county farms, specialty vegetables in general and a major disease problem with Basil Downy Mildew. In addition to supporting our longstanding county fair, the third year of our newest county fair – The Open Space Pace and Festival of Horses held a parade through downtown Freehold and attracted over 6000 people to the Raceway.

Our technical assistance in resource management to municipal and environmental groups paid off again with NJDEP grants to the county for watershed restoration projects in the Wreck Pond and Shark River estuary. With our external outreach programs in crop science, agrichemical education, water allocation and stormwater runoff, we also collaborate with the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture the Monmouth County Agricultural Development Board, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Freehold Soil District, USDA-NRCS, USDA Farm Service Agency, New Jersey of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Farm Bureau and watershed committees. Our total number of public rain garden demonstrations increased to 67 and work continues with the Maritime Forest construction to enhance shoreline protection, promote public awareness, stress conservation measures and improve water quality.

Rutgers Master Gardeners

In 2015, there were 219 active Rutgers Master Gardeners in Monmouth County, volunteering over 23,700 hours, with a volunteer value of over \$600,000. Highlights of the year include receiving a citation from the Monmouth County Library Commission - 'In fitting recognition and heartfelt appreciation for dedicated and exemplary service to the Monmouth County Library System for the benefit of our residents.'

RMG's held 'Come Grow With Us', a garden education day at Monmouth County Library that provided over 140 residents with horticultural information. RMG's also held their first day-long 'School Garden Conference', hosting educators from 30 schools across the state.

Food grown on RCE plots were donated to 17 food pantries in Monmouth County, while RMG's assisted in the creation of 7 new Community Gardens, as they continued to support 29 existing Community Gardens in Monmouth County.

4-H Youth Development

The 4-H Youth Development Program is a free, co-ed, and inclusive program that uses a learn-by-doing approach to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to become competent, caring and contributing citizens of the world. This is accomplished by using the knowledge and resources of caring adult volunteers. The staff of the Monmouth County 4-H Program works with a cadre of volunteers to help youth from across the county to develop the skills and attitudes they will need to become healthy, well-rounded citizens as adults. Programs fall within three mission mandates – *Science, Engineering, and Technology, Citizenship, and Healthy Living*. Through clubs and educational offerings in after-school programs and libraries, in school programs and public outreach, staff and volunteers worked with over 1500 youth in grades K - 13 and 700 adults in 2015.

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Family and Community Health Sciences

Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS) reaches thousands of Monmouth County residents through nutritional programs, seminars, health fairs, and other wellness outreach efforts. New initiatives are continuously being developed to meet the needs of our audiences focusing on our mission to improve their health through education.. FCHS encourages individuals, busy families, and communities to make more informed personal choices to enhance their health. Our programs are designed to influence all county residents at various socio-economic levels, from limited resource families to retired citizens; as well as employees and community members. All programs offer involvement and different learning opportunities that will lead to an improved awareness of food and health, support a more active lifestyle, encourages the consumption of a more plant based diet, while decreasing the consumption of foods high in saturated fat, sodium, and sugar sweetened beverages. The resources needed for our programming have been provided in various ways through supportive collaborators. FCHS aims to promote healthier lifestyles for all audiences to increase their nutritional and overall well-being.

Vivian Quinn - Program Assistant

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth County

4000 Kozloski Road

Freehold, NJ 07728

732-431-7260

www.visitmonmouth.com/07050coopext

Freehold Soil Conservation District Staff



Back: (l-r) Andrea Farparan & Michael Hill

Front: (l-r) Donna Cramer, Christina LaBianca,
Ines Zimmerman & Sharon Robertson



Back: (l-r) Steve Grosch, Brian Governale, Michael Infanti,
Mark Alliston, Paul Califano & Tim Thomas

Front: Ben Shotland, Courtney Davidson, Holly Reynolds,
Stacy Brady & Michael Hill



Freehold SCD technical staff oversee soil erosion control practices being applied by builders.

FSCD 2015 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

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Freehold Soil Conservation District

4000 Kozloski Road — PO Box 5033

Freehold, NJ 07728

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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
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STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Nicole Ciccaglione	District Conservationist
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MIDDLESEX COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Ronald Rios	Freeholder Director
Deepak Matadha PhD	Mosquito Commission Supt.
Richard Wallner	County Engineer, P.E.
George Ververides	Planning Board Office Director
Rick Lear	Parks Department Head

MONMOUTH COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Arnone	Freeholder Director
Victoria Thompson	Mosquito Commission Supt.
Joseph Ettore, P.E.	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
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Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth

William Sciarappa	County Agent
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Rutgers Cooperative Extension Middlesex

William Hlubik	County Agent
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NJ Division Parks & Forestry

Forest Resource Education Center

NJ Department of Environmental Protection