

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR) DEPARTMENT, FACULTY AND STAFF:
REGULATORY, TECHNICAL, AND ADVISORY FUNCTIONS**

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As a local branch of Rutgers University, the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, and the nationwide Cooperative Extension system, ANR faculty and staff offer guidance and provide technical assistance on the following topics:

I. REGULATORY

1. NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, BUREAU OF WATER ALLOCATIONS – AGRICULTURAL WATER CERTIFICATION PERMITS – ANR faculty and staff assist farmers in filling out applications, 5-year renewal forms, and annual irrigation water use forms. Agricultural Agents sign initial applications and renewal forms to verify commercial farm irrigation water certification applications and provide written calculation sheets for NJDEP to use to approve monthly and annual water use amounts for farmers,
https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/a_ag.html

2. NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM – ANR faculty and staff provide educational programs that offer required recertification credits to licensed pesticide applicators in New Jersey. Each licensed pesticide applicator must accrue 8 CORE credits and 16 category credits over the 5-year licensure period,
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo.htm>.

a. TESTING FACILITIES – The Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education administers the NJ Pesticide Applicators Exam for both commercial and private applicators. The exam can be taken online. http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/programs/pest_control.html

b. PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING MANUALS – Some RCE offices may provide local access to CORE and category training manuals for examinees seeking to become licensed pesticide applicators. Manuals can also be ordered online and shipped at
<https://pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/pat/manuals/>.

c. RECERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES – ANR faculty and staff provide educational opportunities approved by and through the [NJDEP pesticide recertification](#) process for attending in person or online courses for licensed pesticide applicators in NJ to attain credits to retain their applicator status. https://www13.state.nj.us/DataMiner/RUN_REPORT.aspx?RN=List+of+Online+Courses.

3. NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – ANR faculty and staff are local contacts and recipients of NJDA's Self Certified Animal Waste Management Plans signature forms and issue certificate numbers, www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/animalwaste.html and <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-wastemanagement/>.

4. NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, FOREST FIRE SERVICE

AGRICULTURE BURNING PERMITS – ANR faculty and staff verify the diseased plant material for agricultural burning permits. Burning permits for farmers are available for orchard trimming and tree removal, brush clearing, and other types of plant removal via burning, <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/fire/permits.html>. Agricultural Agents also alert farmers of agency allowance for open burning and use of smudge pots to prevent cold damage of crops (mainly blossoms) during periods of severe cold weather conditions and frost (seasonally as needed).

5. NJ MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION FARMER VEHICLE CERTIFICATES - ANR faculty and staff distribute and signoff on Farmer Vehicle Certificates to commercial farmers to obtain “Farmer” and “Farm Use” vehicle registrations and license plates. In addition, these certificates verify commercial farm status for the “16-yearold” Farmer Drivers Licenses, <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/farmermotorvehicles.html>. For a summary of farm vehicle regulations see <https://njfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NJFB-motor-vehicle-book6-1-17.pdf>

6. COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD – Non-Voting, Technical Advisors. ANR faculty and staff are appointed to serve on CADBs in each county representing the local branch of the State Agricultural Development Committee. The role of the Agricultural Agent on these legal boards is to provide non-biased, science-based technical information and to interpret or clarify generally accepted agricultural practices, <https://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/contacts/cadbs.html>.

a. FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAMS – ANR faculty and staff provide technical information on local farmlands and generally accepted agricultural practices and farmland quality for preservation programs, <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/index.html>.

b. FARMLAND ASSESSMENT - ANR faculty and staff provide facts on generally accepted agricultural practices when there is difficulty in determining if an agricultural activity fits the definitions for the NJ Farmland Assessment Tax Program. For a summary of this program see <https://njfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf>

c. RIGHT TO FARM – ANR faculty and staff provide technical assistance when requested in assisting in [Right to Farm](#) and conflict resolution cases brought before the CADB, <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/rtfprogram/conflictres/index.html>.

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7. COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – ANR faculty and staff are part of the [Emergency Support Function team](#) in counties to assist in natural disasters and emergency situations where agricultural entities may be affected or where the public may need assistance from agricultural entities. ESF-11 is written by Agricultural Agents in cooperation with OEM Staff for preparedness plans in case of emergencies. Agricultural Agents attend regular OEM meetings and may participate in OEM mock drills, <https://www.animalemergency.nj.gov/>.

II. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

1. NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – ANR faculty and staff provide technical assistance to many divisions of the NJDA mainly related to agricultural aspects within the NJDA; the Marketing and Development Division, Plant Industry Division, and Animal Division. Rutgers Cooperative Extension Offices are utilized as collection sites for invasive species (ex. Spotted Lanternfly, multiple tick species, invasive weeds, etc.), <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/index.shtml>.

2. NJ STATE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – ANR faculty and staff provide technical information and publications for Agricultural Management Practices rules that are used for the protection of farmers via the “Right-to-Farm” act, <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/rtfprogram/amps/>.

3. NJ DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME – ANR faculty and staff verify wildlife damage for grower depredation permits, <https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/farmer.htm>.

4. CAMPUS-BASED PLANT AND SOIL DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES – ANR faculty and staff provide technical assistance, information, submission forms and test kits (soils) for agricultural, commercial, and residential clientele for the health and sustainability of their fields and managed landscapes:

a. PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY - A full-service plant health diagnostic facility of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, providing accurate and timely diagnoses of plant health problems for the residents of New Jersey, <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/plant-diagnostic-lab/>.

b. SOIL TESTING LABORATORY - Offers chemical and mechanical analyses of soils for the residents of New Jersey and for Rutgers University researchers, providing accurate and timely soil and water test reports to meet the unique agricultural and environmental needs of our state, <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltesting-lab/>.

c. PUBLICATIONS - Searchable online database on thousands of topics, from animal agriculture, to natural resources and the environment, to home gardening and landscaping in the form of fact sheets, bulletins, and other media. <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>.

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i. **COMMERCIAL GUIDES** – <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/category.php?cat=3>.

ii. **PLANT AND PEST ADVISORY** - provides seasonal updates focusing on insects, diseases, and weeds of importance to NJ commercial growers, <https://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/>.

5. COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS – ANR faculty and staff serve as technical advisors to the SCD's in each county to provide information related to farmland and conservation.
[Department of Agriculture | NJ Soil Conservation Districts](#)

6. USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY DISASTER FUNDING AND CROP INSURANCE PROGRAMS – ANR faculty and staff provide data for crop loss from weather to determine percent loss. This data is submitted from County FSA offices to the State FSA office to provide reporting the Federal USDA to designate disaster areas for crop loss funding and crop insurance payments, <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/> and <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/stateoffices/New-Jersey/index>.

7. USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES – ANR faculty and staff provide technical assistance to NRCS for farm practices related to farm infrastructure and land conservation. NRCS provides grants or cost-share opportunities to farmers for irrigation installation, land management, conservation buffer plantings, wildlife habitat plantings, and other on-farm conservation practices,
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/> and <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/nj/home/>.

8. USDA SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM – ANR faculty and staff serve as technical advisors (required in the application) for these projects to be eligible for funding, <https://www.sare.org/> and <https://www.nesare.org/>.

9. USDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICES – ANR faculty and staff provide weekly progress reports for crop conditions, soil conditions, and weather conditions affecting agricultural production. This real-time monitoring of conditions assists this federal agency in decision making for policies and funding for agriculture, <https://www.nass.usda.gov/> and [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/New Jersey/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics%20by%20State/New%20Jersey/index.php).

10. USDA FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COUNCILS (FAC) – ANR faculty and staff serve as the Cooperative Extension representative to the local USDA Food and Agriculture Council (FAC). The FACs are responsible for reporting the occurrence of and assessing the damage caused by potential disasters, as required to ensure that the Department's disaster programs are implemented when and where needed; to coordinate the Department's EM disaster programs with those of other Federal departments and agencies; and to provide personnel, as needed and requested by FEMA, to help staff disaster application centers in major disaster areas.
[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_001394.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_001394.pdf)

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III. LIAISON /ADVISOR / COLLABORATOR

1. COUNTY BOARDS OF AGRICULTURE/NEW JERSEY FARM BUREAU – ANR faculty and staff are the main liaisons to CBAs that are the county branches of the NJ Farm Bureau. [NJ Farm Bureau](#) is a non-profit, member organization representing NJ Agriculture and part of the American Farm Bureau. This organization is the main lobbying organization for agriculture locally, in the state and nationally. CBAs are also responsible for selecting county representatives on commodity boards, other state boards related to agricultural issues, and representatives to the [Rutgers University NJAES Board of Managers](#).

2. COMMODITY PRODUCTION AND MARKETING GROUPS – ANR faculty and staff serve as ex-officio and advisors to commodity-based associations – [Farmers Direct Marketing](#), [Vegetable Growers](#), [NJ Horticultural Society](#), [Beekeepers](#), [NJ Landscape and Nursery](#), etc.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS – ANR faculty and staff work with the [Economic Development Departments in counties](#) when agricultural businesses, food processors, and food distributors are the topic of discussion.

4. HEALTH DEPARTMENTS – ANR faculty and staff provide technical information for [county health departments](#) and the [NJ Department of Health](#) related to agricultural issues pertaining to farm product marketing (particularly eggs/meat/produce), water quality, agricultural housing, produce wash water, mosquito, fly, and pests of human health concern, and other topics.

5. PARK COMMISSIONS / WATERSHED ASSOCIATIONS / ETC. – It is the role of all ANR faculty and staff to assist when called upon for advice and assistance when identifying and planning management strategies for invasive species, forest and tree health and sustainability, wildlife damage and mitigation, water and air quality concerns, and any other topics within the agricultural production and natural resource inventory or priority areas of the county, municipality, or other clientele group requesting assistance.