

# NEW JERSEY AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Keeping You Informed About Agricultural Business in The Garden State

Fall 2008

## President's Message Richard Grant, President NJAA

I have worked in New Jersey agriculture for 34 years and cannot recall a year as tumultuous as 2008 has been. Fertility prices are a story of their own and growers are now facing even higher levels looking forward to the 2009 season. Pesticide input costs have also increased and commonly used products such as glyphosate, have had monumental price increases. And the challenge continued with less than desirable weather, and ten counties in the state have been declared disaster areas due to severe weather conditions of drought, heat, and hail.

Soybean yields are lower than normal in the dry areas, and non-irrigated corn yields are also lower than normal in some areas. Regardless, our stalwart New Jersey farmers have survived another growing season in a state where gambling is a common occurrence. The stakes in Agriculture, though, are getting higher by the day. We even survived the challenge presented by our Governor, Jon Corzine, with his proposed budget saving tactic of eliminating the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. I, along with numerous members of our Board of Directors and the general membership, participated in the successful protest march on the Capitol in Trenton.

The NJAA had a successful Spring Tour this year and we are already considering options for next year. Some other "News" is that the NJAA is in the process of establishing a web site that will offer Association news and updates to all interested parties. It will also serve as source of information for our the Ed Platz

Memorial Scholarship, allowing applicants to download scholarship forms directly from the web. This is a work in progress and all members will be notified when it is up and running.

The "Ed Platz Memorial Scholarship" is offering two \$1500 scholarships this year and we are accepting applications until November 10th. This project is equally funded by the NJAA and by the generosity of Plant Food Company, originally founded by Ed Platz and currently operated by his son, Ted Platz.

My term as President expires with our Annual Meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I would be remiss if I did not thank the Board of Directors for their participation and support in numerous projects and activities. We have spent many hours deliberating upon the course this organization should take and I feel that we have chosen the right path. Vice President Andy Wyenandt will assume the role of the Presidency and I am sure he will ably guide the NJAA through the next two years.

Our Annual Meeting will address numerous topics that have affected and will continue to influence New Jersey Agriculture. The Board of Directors has spent considerable time planning this and Andy Wyenandt, in particular should be recognized for his efforts in finalizing the agenda and speakers list. Please plan to attend this session. I hope to see you on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## **2008 NJAA AWARDS REPORT**

Three awards will be presented at the Annual Conference of the New Jersey Agribusiness Association at The Rutgers EcoComplex Columbus, New Jersey on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 during the business meeting portion of the conference in the afternoon.

**Heritage Award winner – Larry Rosell, Formerly of the IR-4 program, and other titles.**

**Stephen A. Johnston Achievement Award – Bill Tietjen, Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Agricultural Agent, Warren County**

**NJAA Business of the Year – Violet Packing, Williamstown, NJ**

## **OFFICERS FOR 2008**

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**Secretary:** William Bamka, Agricultural Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County.  
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The New Jersey Agribusiness Association News is a newsletter for all dues paying members of the NJAA and is published biannually. Please send any correspondence about the newsletter to the secretary: NJAA, C/O Bill Bamka, Secretary, RCE of Burlington County, PO Box 6000, Mount Holly, NJ 08060.  
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