



2001 Annual Report

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey * New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station * Cook College

Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) of Sussex County is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2002. Back in 1912, communication methods were limited and it was difficult for information and research results to make their way to farmers and consumers "in the real world."

The Sussex County office was established "to bring the university to the people" by the local railroad company, the 1912 Freeholders, and Rutgers University and was the first county Cooperative Extension office in New Jersey.

Our mission remains the same today, however, as it was back then: to provide research-based information to help county residents acquire knowledge to make informed decisions to maintain or improve their quality of life.

Educational programs are provided without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age. Teaching methods include classes, newspaper articles, home study courses, fact sheets and bulletins, telephone and e-mail questions from clients, and use of the Internet.

Programs focus on family well being, agriculture and the environment, and youth development. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is publicly funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station at Cook College, Rutgers University, and Sussex County government.

Our 2001 budget was \$147,348 from Sussex County, plus \$192,090 of salary and postage funding from Cook College, Rutgers University (\$339,438 total). Several externally funded grants provided additional funding for

specific programs.

RCE of Sussex County Faculty and Staff

Dr. Barbara O'Neill, *Family & Consumer Sciences Educator and County Extension Department Head*
Sherman Tomasino, *County 4-H Agent*
Daniel Wunderlich, *County Agricultural Agent*
Brian Oleksak, *Horticultural Program Associate*
Patricia Kantenwein, *Principal Clerk Typist*
Angela Doering, *Senior Clerk Typist*

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<http://sussex.rce.rutgers.edu>
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Weekend and evening programs and services are available as announced.



Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

FCS programs seek to improve the quality of life of people of all ages. Focus areas include family financial management; nutrition, diet, and health; human development at all ages (e.g., parenting, aging); and leadership development.



Sussex County FCS Educator, Dr. Barbara O'Neill

Approximately 50,000 Sussex County households receive Dr. O'Neill's weekly column and periodic financial case study feature articles in *The New Jersey Herald*. She is also interviewed frequently by *The Daily Record* (Morris Co.) and *The Record* (Bergen Co.).

Approximately 2,000 households receive the FCS department's newsletters: *VISIONS* and *Money Matters* and over 200 people requested the *Investing for Your Future* home study course (also at www.investing.rutgers.edu).

Over 1,000 persons attended over 50 classes and speaking engagements on topics that included financial fitness, healing herbs, identity theft, retirement planning, life simplification, overcoming procrastination, credit card fees and traps, asset allocation, and investing. Over half of the participants at

programs indicated planned behavior changes on post-class evaluation forms.

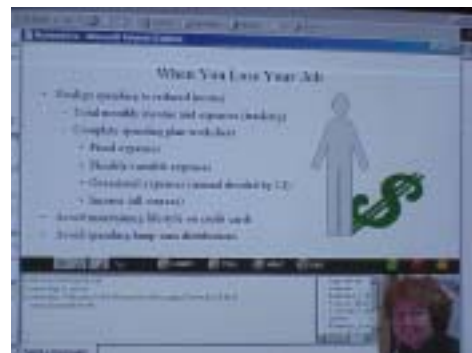
Personalized answers to questions were provided to almost 1,000 county residents via in-person consultations and telephone and e-mail queries via the office Web site <http://sussex.rce.rutgers.edu>.

Provided educational programs and services for the following organizations:

- Sussex County Community College
- NORWESCAP
- Project Self Sufficiency
- New Jersey Department of Labor
- Adventist Health Care
- Sussex County Senior Nutrition Program
- Sussex County Farm & Horse Show
- Sussex County One-E-Z-Link Collaborative
- Various churches, schools, and community organizations.

Provided counseling to two survivors of victims of the events of September 11, 2001 and information to local and state media about related topics, such as coping with financial uncertainty and adequate life insurance. Also participated, via phone and computer, as a videoconference guest expert on post 9-11 issues with New Mexico State University.

Pilot-tested a five-week personal finance class series, called *Money Talk: Women's Financial Education Series*, developed with RCE of Morris County. The program also includes a 275 page workbook for participants. Over two hundred women have attended to date.



Barbara O'Neill provides "distance education" via telephone and computer.

Agriculture and Resource Management



Sussex County Agricultural Agent, Dan Wunderlich

Revitalizing and creating a sustainable agricultural industry through adult education in New Jersey has been the main theme for Agriculture Resource Management Agent (ARMA), Daniel Wunderlich.

Survival of the agriculture industry in the most densely populated state in the Union creates many unique challenges. Developing value-added marketing options, changes in production techniques, establishing conservation practices, and addressing right-to-farm issues are just a few of the challenges agriculture producers face today.

To disseminate information on current topics to the agriculture community, Agent Wunderlich publishes two newsletters with subscriptions to over 350 agriculture operations in Sussex County. Utilization of press interviews to inform the urban as well as the agriculture community on current topics of interest have been used more than 20 times during the last year, as well as 6 television spots. During the year, Agent Wunderlich has offered 13 meetings and has given 24 presentations with an average attendance of 32 people for each program offered. Meetings were offered in areas of dairy production, crop production, agritourism, agriculture re-engineering, bio-security, nutrient management, value-added agriculture, food processing, and youth development

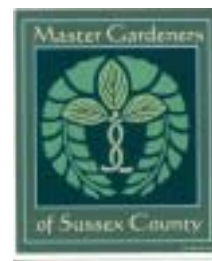
One-on-one consultation is the main tool utilized to individualize education for Sussex County producers. This method of education has guided more than 4,000 contacts over the past year via telephone, email, and/or farm visits.

In conjunction with partnering organizations, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Sussex County projects include:

- Establishment of the Olde Lafayette Village Farmers Market
- Establishment of Sussex County Marketing Association
- Creation of the Skylands Agritourism Brochure
- Planning committee for the Lustcroft farm project
- Development of the New Jersey Cattle Health Assurance Program (NJCHAP)
- Development of the Minimum Livestock Standards for New Jersey
- Expansion of Agriculture in the Classroom
- Development of a feasibility study for a pilot processing plant for "Jersey Fresh" products
- Establishment of Wallkill Watershed Nutrient Management
- Planning committee for the New Jersey Livestock Youth Symposium

Agent Wunderlich gave support as Extension Liaison to:

- Sussex County Emergency Management
- Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey
- North Jersey Farm Service Agency
- North Jersey Food and Agriculture Council
- Sussex County Agriculture Development Board
- Sussex County Farm & Horse Show/NJ State Fair
- New Jersey Dairy Industry Council
- Sussex County Soil Conservation District
- Wallkill Watershed PAC
- Skylands Agritourism
- Sussex County Marketing Association



Horticultural Program Associate, Brian Oleksak

Brian Oleksak, the Horticultural Program Associate, is responsible for the program areas of residential horticulture, commercial horticulture, and the Sussex County Master Gardener program. The program associate has trained 85 volunteers to date in the Master Gardener program to assist in a variety of community service projects that serve the mission of Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Sussex County Master Gardener Community Outreach Programs

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Home Horticulture Helpline (973-579-0985)
- Horticultural Therapy at Sussex County Homestead and Westwind Hall Senior Center
- The Long Pond School Butterfly Garden
- The Vernon High School/Harvest House Food Pantry Garden
- Barrett Farm 1850's Kitchen Garden (Vernon Historical Society)
- Gardens of Waterloo Village
- Gardens of the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show/NJ State Fair
- Master Gardeners/4-H Summer Blossoms gardening club
- Springfest Flower and Garden Show

Commercial Horticultural Programming

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension North Jersey Ornamentals Symposium (co-chair)
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Greenhouse Working Group (participant)
- Springfest Flower and Garden Show (organizer)
- Garden State Garlic Growers (technical advisor)
- On-site farm and service-provider visits



Dan Wunderlich works closely with local farmers to market agricultural commodities.

4-H Youth Development

4-H programs use a learn-by doing approach to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to become competent, caring, and contributing citizens. Trained volunteer 4-H leaders provide thousands of hours of volunteer service annually. 4-H, nationally, is celebrating the centennial year of the 4-H program in 2002. Initiated in 1902 as “corn and canning clubs,” 4-H is a premier U.S. youth development program.



Celebrating the
4-H Centennial

Sussex County 4-H Agent, Sherman Tomasino

During the October 2001-September 2002 project year:

Sixty-six 4-H project clubs were organized in the county reaching 750 youth. One hundred and sixty-five adult volunteers served as project club leaders.

Twenty-six new club leaders were recruited and trained on how to work with youth in a 4-H club setting.

Over 220 4-H members participated in one of two countywide public speaking events, with 12 members going on to the State 4-H Public Presentation event at Cook College.

A program assistant, funded through the National Farm Bill, conducted special educational programs on farm youth safety. Farm safety fact sheets were distributed to all 4-H livestock members and farm operators. A news release described the results of a farm safety survey conducted among Sussex County farm operators. In May 15, 2002, youth and adults completed a basic first-aid certification class that focused on working in a farm setting.

Youth development through outdoor education camps included 36 teens attending a winter camp weekend, 78 4-H members attending 4-H summer resident camp, and 64 4-H prep members and their parents participating in a 4-H prep camp weekend at the Lindley G. Cook State 4-H camp facility in Stokes State Forest.

Leadership and personal development was the focus of special 4-H teen programs offered through the Sussex County 4-H Teen Council. Over 35 teens participated throughout the year. They attended monthly council meetings; conducted senior citizen programs at Bristol Glen; participated in the first countywide Red Ribbon Day Celebration of fostering a greater awareness of abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; carried out a youth mentoring program with children living at Brookside apartments; and successfully ran a ten-day small business enterprise during the 2002 Sussex County Farm & Horse Show/NJ State Fair.

Key Volunteer Support Groups

Sussex County Board of Agriculture
Sussex County 4-H Advisory Council
Sussex County 4-H Foundation
Sussex County Family & Consumer Sciences Advisory Council
Master Gardeners of Sussex County

RCE of Sussex County Faculty and Staff



L to R: Extension agents Dan Wunderlich, Sherman (Buz) Tomasino, and Barbara O'Neill, and Brian Oleksak, Horticultural Program Associate.