New Jersey News

Secretary of Agriculture Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Delicious Orchards

Praises Long-Time Commitment to Provide Jersey Fresh and Jersey-Made Products to Consumers

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher, State Board of Agriculture member Hugh McKittrick and a variety of local dignitaries visited the popular Colts Neck country food market, Delicious Orchards, today to help celebrate the business' 100th anniversary.

"We congratulate Delicious Orchards for 100 years of serving the community, supporting local farmers and providing its customers with access to Jersey Fresh produce and Jersey-made products," said Secretary Fisher. "We rely upon businesses such as Delicious Orchards to promote the sale of local produce and provide the public with access to these products."

Starting out in 1911 as wholesale apple growers, Delicious Orchards has evolved into a destination, not just for nearby residents, but for people from all over the region. The store specializes in fresh produce – local when in season – from scratch baked goods, cheeses, meats, seafood – wild caught and local when available – gourmet groceries, coffee and tea.

In 2011, Delicious Orchards sold 1.2 million doughnuts and more than 200,000 pies, made from scratch, sticking as close to their original recipe as possible. To help with the process, owner Bill McDonald said they bought an apple peeling machine that peels a bushel of apples in a minute.

"We had to bring in a sophisticated apple peeler because we could not keep up with the volume of apples by hand," said McDonald. "Other areas where we could use 'innovation' we take pride that we do not. For example, we still hand-fill our pies and bag

Bill McDonald (seated center and his family own and operate Delicious Orchards, Colts Neck, NJ.

our doughnuts. Bagging 1.2 million doughnuts is not an easy task, but this assures that you are only getting the very best."

The very best for Delicious Orchards, according to McDonald, is selling Jersey Fresh and Jersey Seafood at every opportunity. During New Jersey's growing season, people will find Jersey peaches, strawberries, blueberries, corn, peppers, tomatoes, eggplant and many other varieties of produce, much of it purchased from Monmouth County farmers. In the winter, McDonald purchases greenhouse tomatoes from a Vineland grower.

In addition, after adding fresh seafood to the store's offerings, McDonald said they use a local purveyor, preferring wild-caught, Jersey Seafood.

During today's visit, Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini presented Delicious Orchards with a Legislative Resolution.

"I am pleased to join Secretary Fisher in recognizing Delicious Orchards, which is renowned throughout Monmouth County and New Jersey," said Assemblywoman Angelini. "Delicious Orchards, which exemplifies the rich farming tradition of our state, is vital to our economy and quality of life and should be applauded as they celebrate their 100th anniversary."

Delicious Orchards was started by the Barclay family and in 1959, Carroll Barclay began selling apples at a makeshift roadside stand, opening a 1,200-square-foot stand the next year. Through the 1960's, the business was expanded to year-round, with the addition of pies and more produce. In 1966, the Barclays bought a building on Route 34, where the current day Delicious Orchards now resides.

In 1977, the original owners sold the business to their management team, Bill McDonald, Tom Gesualdo and Frank McMahon. Gesualdo and McMahon retired a few years ago and McDonald and his family are now owner/operators.

"With our attention to quality, freshness, detail and service, people have and continue to come to our store," said McDonald. "We pride ourselves on our long term vendor and employee relationships. With several second and third-generation employees, we are able to maintain the highest of qualities and the superior customer service."

Delicious Orchards currently employs 250 people and has more than 2.5 million visitors each year.

The Department of Agriculture developed Jersey Fresh in 1984 as a promotional tool for New Jersey agricultural products, the first such programs in the country. Since then, it has been the model for many other states' agricultural promotion programs. For more information, visit www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov.

Dr. Roy Flannery, Rutgers Extension Specialist and Professor in Soils

Dr. Roy Lovell Flannery, a resident of Dothan, died Monday, January 16, 2012. He was 85.

Dr. Flannery worked at Rutgers University from 1957 to 1988 retiring as a Professor Emeritus. During his tenure at Rutgers University, Dr. Flannery became internationally renowned as a soils specialist having the distinction of producing world record corn and soybean yields in maximum yield research plots grown in Adelphia, New Jersey and recorded in the Agricultural Hall of Records in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, he was integral in developing a productivity index for rating soils, authored dozens of highly regarded technical papers, numerous chapters in scientific publications and over 100 circulars, bulletins, and magazine articles on soils and related topics. Dr. Flannery received numerous local and national awards throughout his career.

Born and raised on a farm near Morehead, Kentucky, Dr. Flannery went on to serve in the Navy during WWII. Upon returning home he attended the University of Kentucky receiving his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agronomy. Dr. Flannery continued his education at Rutgers University in New Jersey receiving his doctorate degree in fertility and plant physiology. He spent his retirement years playing golf with his friends, gardening, and spending time with his grandchildren. Dr. Flannery is survived by his wife of 59 years Betty; two sons, Kevin and Keith (Anne Marie); grandchildren, Kyle, Ryan, Sean (all of Dothan) and Mary (of Florida); his brother, Doc Flannery (of Ohio) and numerous nieces and nephews.

John Hauser is the New Jersey State Horticultural Society's Outstanding Fruit Grower for 2011!

Win Cowgill
Rutgers Cooperative Extension

John Hauser farms over 200 acres in Oldbridge, NJ raising tree fruit, mixed vegetables, small fruit crops, greenhouse floral crops and field crops. He markets direct with a road side market "Hauser Hill Farms" and participates in numerous NJ Tailgate markets. In his spare time he operates Browntown Bus Company with 20 school buses and numerous airport limos.

The number one criterion for this distinguished award is service to the New Jersey State Horticultural Society (NJSHS). John has been a long time director, including past president, and has held other offices in the society as well. He always participates in the North Jersey Fruit meeting sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension promoting membership in NJSHS.

The most critical role John has done for NJSHS is chair the Research Grant committee. When the NJ Apple Institute monies were rolled into the NJSHS in the mid 1990's- John took on the task of creating a research application form and agreed to administer the process. John has handled the administration of this broad important task to the society for the past 15 plus years.

John has also been a big asset to the agricultural industry in NJ. He has been an active member of the Middlesex County Board of Agriculture, and has been an excellent advocate for Rutgers Cooperative Extension. John was instrumental in getting our North Jersey Tree Fruit Program Associate Position refilled 7 years ago and maintaining the funding for this position.

John is most deserving of this award, I am proud to present it on behalf of the NJSHS!

Win Cowgill, Carolyn "Midge" Hauser, John Joseph Hauser (left to right). Win Cowgill presents the NJSHS Outstanding Fruit Grower Award to John and Midge Hauser at the 68th Annual North Jersey Fruit Meeting, Broadway NJ on March 7, 2012.

David M. Rizzotte of Glossy Fruit Farm Passes

David M. Rizzotte, 58, of Hammonton, passed away Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at his residence.

David was born in Hammonton and was a resident his entire life. He was a 1971 graduate of St. Joseph High School and 1975 graduate of Villanova University. In 1977, he became president of the family business, Glossy Fruit Farms. He was the past president of The State of NJ Agricultural Board and a former president of the Hammonton Board of Education. David was a member of the Atlantic County Board of Agriculture, the Italian Sons & Daughters of America, and St. Joseph High School Sports Hall of Fame. David loved the Eagles and was recently on 1360 am sports talk radio, and was a dedicated sports coach to his sons while they were young. David was an avid hunter and president of Boot Hill Gun Club, loved to dance and have a good time with people. David was involved in numerous local civic affairs, and was known as "Hammonton Hammer."

David is predeceased by his parents David Sr. and Frances. Surviving are his wife Michele (nee Moffa), his sons David Rizzotte III and girlfriend Nicole DelGozzo and her son Nicholas Seppy of Egg Harbor Twp., and Michael and his wife, Jamie, of Hammonton. Brother to Anthony J. and his wife Mary and Frank and his wife Mary Ann, all of Hammonton. He is also survived by 7 nieces, 1 nephew, and 1 great niece, and 1 great nephew.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Teen Challenge of Christian Life Ranch, 47819 N. Fig Springs Rd. New River, AZ. 85087-8181 (www.marinellafuneralhome.com).

Norman Tomasello Passes

Norman F. Tomasello of Winslow Township, NJ passed away on December 12, 2011 at the age of 89. He was married to the late Thelma (nee Tano) Tomasello for over 60 years. Loving father to Lee (Marcy) Tomasello and Ronald (Dorann) Tomasello. Proud grandfather of Ronald L. Tomasello, Bonnie Tomasello, Natalie Tomasello, and Norman Tomasello Jr. Also survived by his sister-in-law Constance (nee Tano) Goff. Norman was also the brother of the late Charles Caruso.

In his retirement, Norman loved to drive around area farms to check on the crops, eat breakfast at the Silver Coin Diner most mornings; go to Mister Green Jeans to visit and get flowers for his yard; and stop by the Winslow Township Municipal Complex to visit friends. When not doing that, Norman could usually be seen on his International Harvester 140 tractor mowing fields from early spring to late fall.

Norman was born and raised in the Elm section of Winslow Township. In his early years, Norman worked with his father on their family farm known as Sunny Brook Farms. Later, he owned and operated Ron Lee Fruit Farms for over fifty years. He is a graduate of Hammonton High School's Class of 1940, the last class from Winslow Township to attend that school. He served as both Mayor and Ward One Committeeman in Winslow Township for over a decade where he also served as Public Safety Director and as a member of the township planning board. He was serving as Chairman of the Camden County Agricultural Development Board at the time of his death. He also served as a member and chairman of the Camden County Mosquito Control Commission for many years, president of the Camden County Board of Agriculture for ten years and chairman of the Camden/Gloucester County Farmers Home Administration. He was a member and past director of the NJ Farm Bureau. Norman was a founding member of the Elm Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 and a life member of the Winslow Township Fire Department. Norman recently retired from the NJ Pinelands Commission after serving fourteen years as the Camden County representative. He served as both vice-chairman and acting chairman during his tenure.

Norman loved to play golf and was the first club champion at Pine Crest Golf Course. As a youth, he was a member of the Elm Blue Eagles baseball team; played on a men's basketball team; and bowled in three different bowling leagues. He also enjoyed following the Philadelphia Phillies.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Presbyterian Church of Hammonton, 326 Bellevue Avenue, Hammonton, NJ 08037.