

## The Honorable Charles M. Kuperus

Secretary  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
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Base Grant: \$500,000  
Specialty Crop Grant: \$1,100,000  
Total Grant: \$1,600,000

### **Precision Agriculture - Improving Farm Management & the Environment:**

Rutgers, The State University, \$161,572.

Growers collect significant amounts of information in regards to record keeping, cost analyses and farm inputs. Increasingly, government is requiring information about on-farm use of land, labor, water, nutrients, pesticides, and other resources. Grant funds assisted in implementing pilot demonstrations with farmers to deploy handheld mobile GIS/GPS units with software and technical support. The goal is to improve farm profitability and viability through precise management. At the same time, the burdens of compliance can be eased, especially since environmental regulatory compliance is mandated but does not add to the farm's profitability.

### **Livestock Quality Assurance:**

New Jersey Department of Agriculture, \$70,000.

The issue of standards for the care of livestock and poultry is of national concern. Grant funds enabled NJ to develop minimum standards of care for the humane raising, keeping, care, treatment, marketing and sale of livestock.

### **Right to Farm Program:**

Rutgers, The State University, \$100,000.

The NJ Right to Farm program provides protection to farmers against nuisance complaints when approved agricultural management practices are being followed. The grant funds assisted with the development of four additional agricultural management practices related to key sectors of the state's agriculture.

### **Insect Detection Program:**

Rutgers, The State University, \$30,000.

As one of the most important pests affecting the NJ nursery and horticulture industries, grant funds assisted in developing a trapping, monitoring and assessment system for Oriental Beetles. Based on this system, management strategies to cope with potential outbreaks are being developed.

### **Live Poultry Market Avian Influenza Control Program:**

New Jersey Department of Agriculture, \$20,000.

This program provided critical education, technical assistance and equipment to NJ's largest poultry industry, the urban live poultry marketing system in order to prevent the spread of the low path strain of avian influenza.