



What is Rutgers Cooperative Extension?

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is the statewide outreach network of Rutgers University. In 2014, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, which officially created the national Cooperative Extension System. This national celebration highlighted Extension's past and focused on the contemporary application of Extension's transformational, educational programming into the future. Funding is provided by Federal, State and Local Government. Research based educational programs are provided for New Jersey residents through each local county office. The Ocean County office is located in Toms River.

What We Do

4-H Youth Development

- 4-H is America's largest youth development organization—empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime. 4-H is for all youth, wherever they live - on farms, in suburbs, or in cities.
- 4-H is based on a positive youth development (PYD) approach, recognizing that all youth have interests, abilities, and strengths. Research shows that participation in high quality 4-H programs increases thriving in youth, and thriving youth achieve important developmental outcomes.
- Ocean County 4-H offers youth in grades K-13 free membership to several clubs and programs offered in areas of Agriculture, Animal Science, Sewing, STEM, Shooting Sports, Seeing Eye Puppy Raising, and much more. Clubs are led by adult volunteers who have completed the 4-H appointment process. New clubs can be started at any time of year and can be held anywhere in Ocean County.

Agriculture and Resource Management

- Educates and works with residents, town officials, environmental organizations, and scientists in Ocean County to conserve water and improve the quality of local waterways, especially Barnegat Bay.
- Researches innovative ways to re-establish soil health and improve water quality in Ocean County.
- Assists the agricultural community in implementing sound farming practices.

Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS)

- Promotes healthy families, schools and communities.
- Provides evidence-based information about Food, Nutrition, Health, Obesity & Disease Prevention, Fitness and Food Safety.
- Provides programs and resources to assist employers and employees as they integrate workplace wellness into their worksites.

Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Coastal Resource Management

- Marine extension programming focuses on implementing educational programs and conducting applied research that supports New Jersey's fishing and aquaculture industries, including the responsible stewardship of coastal marine resources.
- Educational programming is offered on fisheries science and management, shellfish biology and aquaculture, and other key issues impacting our marine resources (e.g., climate change, ocean acidification, coastal resilience, offshore wind) through multiple courses, a seminar series, and various publications.
- Major educational programs include the Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders (IFISSH) course, the Coastal Stewardship course through the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program, and the Marine Extension Program Seminar Series (MEPSS).

Our Goals

Ensure healthy lifestyles; provide productive futures for youth, adults, and communities; enhance and protect environmental resources; ensure economic growth and agricultural sustainability; and improve food safety and nutrition.

The program focus areas include:

- Economic Growth and Agricultural Sustainability
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Human and Community Development
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Food Safety and Nutrition



The **Department of 4-H Youth Development (732-349-1227)** - provides educational outreach programming for youth in grades K-13 (one year out of high school) through 4-H clubs, special interest programs, and community outreach. Regardless of the subject matter - whether it be science, healthy living, or citizenship, 4-H uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth learn responsibility, community awareness and character development. Along with Rutgers faculty and staff, volunteers share their knowledge and time with today's youth.

The **Department of Agriculture (732-349-1246) and Natural Resources (732-505-3671)** - assists commercial businesses, government agencies, agribusinesses and residents with information, field research, and consultation on various issues related to agriculture, environmental issues, and natural resources management. Integrated Pest Management, Rutgers Master Gardeners, water conservation workshops, pesticide applicator recertification, horticultural therapy, and Extension Bulletins and Factsheets are some of our most well-known and subscribed efforts.



Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS) (732-349-1247) - helps people stay healthy, enjoy life, be active, and reduce health care costs. Many of today's health problems--obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer--can be reduced through good nutrition and a healthy life style. FCHS encourages today's busy families and individuals to learn more and make personal choices to improve health. FCHS combines research and practical advice to improve your health for a better tomorrow.



Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Coastal Resource Management (732-349-1152) – Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County has been conducting educational programming and applied research related to fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal resource management for over 35 years. Current programs focus on fisheries science and management, including recommended best catch-and-release practices in marine fisheries, the behavior and migration of marine fishes, surveys of marine fishery resources, and stock assessments of fishery resources. Additional programming is conducted annually that focuses on shellfish biology and aquaculture, and estuarine ecology as a part of the Barnegat Bay Restoration Program (BBSRP). Other educational opportunities are also conducted on key issues impacting our marine ecosystems (e.g., climate change, coastal resilience, ocean acidification, offshore wind energy).



The **Office of Continuing Professional Education (OCPE)** provides educational opportunities for adults and adolescents through short courses, workplace training, and youth services. Our creative, friendly, and collaborative team includes program coordinators, grant managers, multimedia producers, registrars, event planners, marketers, accountants and customer service staff.

To learn more about Rutgers Cooperative Extensions upcoming programs and events, join our mailing list by contacting us at 732-349-1246.