[](http://sebsnjaesnews.rutgers.edu/)

[**$20m subsidy stalled in NJ Legislature**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15380)  
Harnesslink, 1/18/2019

A bill introduced in the New Jersey Legislature four months ago would provide a $20 million subsidy to the industry to make it more competitive. But it has been stalled, and if the legislation isn't approved soon, it could be too late.By 2013, New Jersey's purse awards dropped by 54 percent while New York and Pennsylvania purse awards increased 23 percent and 83 percent respectively because they had the benefit of state support. As a 2014 **Rutgers Equine Science Center** report indicated, breeding also has been dramatically affected -- resulting in a decrease of jobs for New Jersey residents.

[**The World's Oceans Flunk the #10YearChallenge**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15377)  
The Daily Beast, 1/22/2019

As the #10yearchallenge sweeps social media it seems more worthy to take stock of our planet's transformation... Worrisome new studies suggest that the oceans are at the brink of their limit, heating up faster than expected just five years ago... "The last ten years have seen a dramatic change in our understanding of how fast ocean life is being affected by warming temperatures," said **Malin Pinsky, an Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Rutgers University**, in an email. "We have a massive movement of life headed towards the poles that is happening right now, and yet we barely realized it a decade ago."

[**Science on Your Side: A sea lettuce solution**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15381)  
National Fisherman, 1/22/2019

Sea lettuces in the genus Ulva are green seaweeds that appear as mats attached to intertidal rocks or floating along marine coastlines. These species "bloom" in spring and usually die off in summer... The Ulva genome project was launched to learn what makes this seaweed "tick."This project promised new knowledge of coastal and marine ecosystems and the evolution of green seaweeds. Comparison of Ulva species that bloom and don't bloom also could boost understanding of the molecular mechanisms underpinning growth and reproduction in response to environmental conditions. -- **Debashish Bhattacharya is a professor of biochemistry and microbiology at Rutgers University.**

[**4-H members attend National Agri-Science Summit**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15374)  
Morning Ag Clips, 1/23/2019

Twenty-four New Jersey 4-H members attended the National Agri-Science Youth Summit held in January at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Maryland. The purpose of the conference was to provide youth with an opportunity to learn about and develop an understanding of the critical role that agricultural science innovation plays in addressing the world's most pressing issues... "The summit provided the New Jersey delegates to the National Agri-Science Youth Summit with an excellent opportunity to learn about the challenges facing agriculture, including global food security and sustainability and how they can play a role in addressing these challenges today and in their future," said **Jeannette Rea Keywood, state 4-H agent, Department of 4-H Youth Development**.

[**Gardener State: Home Gardeners School returns to Rutgers March 23**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15384)  
MyCentralJersey.com, 1/23/2019

The annual **Rutgers Home Gardeners School**, offering "something for everyone," will be held at on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's program consists of 40 workshop sessions covering a wide array of horticulture topics. Attendees can create a personalized schedule for a fun day of learning by selecting the workshops that are most relevant to their gardening interests and skill level.

[**The earth is warming. His data on snow helped prove it.**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15375)  
NorthJersey.com, 1/24/2019

**David Robinson** is among the world's foremost authorities on snow. Data about snow - its annual creep down the lines of latitude from the globe's northernmost extremities, its thickness and reach, the speed of its retreat - packs his brain... "As winter began, the pace of the southward snow advance into the middle latitudes slowed, resulting in the 20th least extensive [Northern Hemisphere] snow cover of the past 52 Decembers," Robinson wrote of snow cover during the winter of 2017-2018 in the latest edition of "State of the Climate," which the American Meteorological Society describes as "the authoritative annual summary of the global climate." This combination of snow obsession plus access to some of the world's most comprehensive climate data helped make Robinson one of the first people to see that humans are warming the planet.

[**N.J. weather: Will our big snow drought ever end (and did we just jinx ourselves)?**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15376)  
The Star Ledger NJ.com, 1/24/2019

New Jersey is clearly stuck in a winter weather pattern that has been dumping excessive amounts of rain and very little snow... Don't blame our snow drought on the El Nino weather pattern, says **David Robinson**, a New Jersey weather expert who serves as the **state climatologist at Rutgers University**. So far, the El Nino pattern -- in which sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean warm up and trigger big changes in weather patterns around the world -- has not taken hold in our region of the nation, Robinson said.

[**ACUA to host master composter workshop**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15379)  
The Beachcomber, 1/24/2019

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority and the **Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County** will hold a comprehensive two-day training that goes beyond the basic "do's and don'ts" of backyard composting... To become a certified master composter, Atlantic County participants are required to complete 20 compost-related volunteer hours, during which participants can share what they learned through community outreach opportunities.

[**Rutgers helps offshore wind firms predict breezes off Atlantic City**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15378)  
The Press of Atlantic City, 1/25/2019

The way the wind blows is often inconsistent. But a team of researchers at Rutgers University has predicted offshore sea breeze patterns on the Jersey Shore - data that could be useful for companies hoping to build wind farms off Atlantic City... "There's a lot of variability in the wind," said**Greg Seroka, who got his doctorate with Rutgers' Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences** and is now a wind energy consultant for them. "And there's no monitoring of offshore sea breezes. We have ships and buoys, but it's less observed than on land where the people are."

[**Rutgers helps offshore wind firms predict coastal breezes**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15382)  
Los Angeles Times, 1/27/2019

The way the wind blows is often inconsistent. But a team of researchers at Rutgers University has predicted offshore sea breeze patterns on the Jersey Shore - data that could be useful for companies hoping to build wind farms off Atlantic City... "There's a lot of variability in the wind," said **Greg Seroka**, who got his doctorate with Rutgers' **Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences** and is now a wind energy consultant for them. "And there's no monitoring of offshore sea breezes. We have ships and buoys, but it's less observed than on land where the people are." The Rutgers study, published in September, used computer models of the atmosphere to predict winds along Atlantic, Cape May and Ocean counties based on weather conditions.

[**Offshore wind power: Rutgers helping understand sea breezes**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15383)  
NJ101.5, 1/28/2019

Rutgers scientists are leading a study to better understand the nature of sea breezes along New Jersey's shore, to make the proposed offshore wind farms a more predictable energy source. Rutgers graduate **Greg Seroka** works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and consulted on this study. Seroka said he's working in collaboration with other Rutgers researchers on this wind energy project to help developers determine two things: "One, where to put the actual turbines, and how to formulate the wind farm offshore. And two, they need to understand, for the next day and the day at the market, how much energy are they going to be providing."

[**What is the polar vortex?**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15385)  
USA Today, 1/28/2019

Here comes the polar vortex. But what is it? The polar vortex - everyone's favorite wintertime whipping boy - is a large area of cold air high up in the atmosphere that normally spins over the North Pole (as its name suggests)... "Warm temperatures in the Arctic cause the jet stream to take these wild swings, and when it swings farther south, that causes cold air to reach farther south," said **Jennifer Francis, a climate scientist at Rutgers University**, who published a study on the phenomenon last year.

[**Love Snow? Here's How It's Changing**](https://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/inthenews.php?15386)  
Scientific American, 1/28/2019

Scientists broadly agree that snow will change in most places as the climate continues to warm, he told E&E News. But exactly how and why, from one location to the next, may be among the most challenging questions about weather and climate change... In short, there are "no easy answers" to the question of climate change and snow, according to **David Robinson, New Jersey's state climatologist and head of the Rutgers University Global Snow Lab.**

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