

# Rutgers Food Innovation Center

## *e-innovator News*

February 2008

*Welcome to the February issue of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center's e-innovator News! e-innovator News is a monthly email newsletter for our friends, colleagues and partners that highlights the latest news from the Food Innovation Center, a business incubation and economic development accelerator program of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.*

### **Food Innovation Center News**

#### **Food Innovation Center to Host International Conference on Business Incubators**

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center will host a major international conference and networking forum on best practices in food business incubation from October 4-8, 2008 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Food Business Incubation Network 2008, or FoodBIN 2008, will attract a multitude of domestic and international government and university organizations, as well as community non-profits to New Jersey. Attendees will also be able to benefit from the 2008 national conference of the Community Food Security Coalition, which will be held concurrently. For more information on this upcoming conference, please see: <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/2008FoodBINPR.pdf>

#### **Value Added Producer Grant Available for New Jersey Producers**

The USDA Rural Development has announced the availability of \$18.4 million in grants for value-added agricultural ventures. To aid in the application process, the Rutgers Food Innovation Center had created a website with information and resources for preparing and submitting a Value-Added Producer Grant application, including links to the USDA's website, mock applications and grant requirements. Final applications are due no later than March 31, 2008, so applicants should be encouraged to begin preparing their applications immediately. <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/VAPG2008.html>

#### **Incubator Construction Update**

Construction on our 23,000 sq. ft food business incubator facility is progressing rapidly. Much of the interior infrastructure has been completed, and the "Rutgers Red" exterior walls are now enclosing the facility. For updated photos of the progress, please see:

<http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/incubatorupdateFEB.html>

For more information about our incubator's capabilities, see:

<http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/plans.html>

## Upcoming Events

### **The Food Innovation Center Hosts Forums on Community Farmers Markets**

The Food Innovation Center has been leading a comprehensive study to better understand New Jersey's farmer's markets, identify best practices, and benchmark measures of success. It is anticipated that this research will result in improved profitability for farmer participants in New Jersey farmer's markets, and create new opportunities and destinations for the state's rural and urban municipalities. An extensive survey has been conducted and focus groups and interviews have been held.

A series of three forums will be provided on April 1, 2 and 3 to highlight the findings of the Center's research efforts. These will be free, and will be held on:

- April 1 - from 9:30 to 1:00 PM at Holly House in Rutgers Community Gardens, Log Cabin and Ryder Roads, New Brunswick, 08901
- April 2 – from 2:30 to 6:00 PM in the Freeholder's Meeting Room on the first floor of the Passaic County Administration Building Annex, 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, Patterson, NJ 07503
- April 3 – from 9:30 to 1:00 PM at the Food Innovation Center, 87 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

For more information on these forums, and to register to attend these free seminars, please see: <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/FarmersMarketRegistration.pdf>

### **The Food Innovation Center Partners with EPPA for Conference**

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center has partnered with the Eastern Perishable Products Association (EPPA) for the 2008 EPPA Show 'N Sell exhibition. The exhibition will be held on April 9, 2008 at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center (Raritan Center) in Edison, NJ, and will feature a marketplace, exhibition and an outstanding panel of industry experts that will speak at this event. Prior EPPA annual conventions have been attended by as many as 4,000 food industry executives and managers. Jim Prevor, a leading voice for the international prepared food industry, will be a keynote speaker at the conference. Prevor is publisher and editor-in-chief of Deli Business and Produce Business magazines. He also publishes and edits the Perishable Pundit, a web-based publication that provides daily intelligence to food industry marketers. Lou Cooperhouse, Director of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center, will also be a keynote speaker and will present "Food Trends 2008: Ten Industry Trends that Will Impact Your Business". For more information, please see:

<http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/EPPA%20conference.pdf>  
[http://www.eppainc.org/images/Show\\_N\\_Sell\\_Brochure\\_2008.pdf](http://www.eppainc.org/images/Show_N_Sell_Brochure_2008.pdf)

### **Upcoming FIC Presentations at Regional & National Conferences**

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center team will be presenting at several conference events over the coming months. These include the following:

March 18, 2008- Food Safety and Security Summit, "Processing and Packaging Strategies for Optimal Food Quality and Safety" - Lou Cooperhouse presenter,  
<http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/2008FoodSafetySummit.pdf>  
<http://www.foodsafetysummit.com/fssevent.php>

April 9, 2008 – Eastern Perishable Products Association’s 2008 Show ‘N Sell exhibition, “Food Trends 2008: Ten Industry Trends that Will Impact Your Business” - Lou Cooperhouse presenter.

<http://www.eppainc.org/showsell.html>

April 14, 2008 - Prepared Foods’ R&D Applications Seminar East, “Value-Added Prepared Foods: Growth Opportunities, Food Safety and Quality Challenges, and Technology Innovations and Solutions” – Lou Cooperhouse presenter.

<http://bnpevents.com/PF/RD-East/>

May 4-7, 2008 - NBIA’s 22nd International Conference on Business Incubation, “Best Practices in Business Incubation for the Agriculture and Food Industries” – Lou Cooperhouse presenter.

[http://nbia.org/nbia\\_events/conf2008/index.php](http://nbia.org/nbia_events/conf2008/index.php)

### **Brief Feedback Survey**

Please take a moment to complete a brief, 5 question survey about e-nnovator News. Your feedback will allow us to tailor e-nnovator News to best suit your needs.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=aCOZSIWQTjymLqgsBnlHqQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=aCOZSIWQTjymLqgsBnlHqQ_3d_3d)

More information about the Rutgers Food Innovation Center can be found on our website at <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/>