

# Rutgers Food Innovation Center

## *e-nnovator News*

June 2008

- Over 800 food businesses and entrepreneurs assisted to date •
- Awarded *Incubator of the Year* by the National Business Incubation Association in 2007 •

*Welcome to the June issue of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center's e-nnovator News! e-nnovator 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.*

## **Awards & Accomplishments**

### **Food Innovation Center Receives Rutgers University Award**

The Food Innovation Center was honored to be awarded the President's Award for Research in Service to New Jersey by Rutgers President Richard McCormick. This prestigious award was given during a ceremony held on May 7, in which President McCormick stated "The Rutgers Food Innovation Center, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is recognized for providing technological and business assistance to food-related and agricultural companies across the state, such as business mentoring, small business incubation, product development, and technology transfer. The center has assisted more than 800 businesses since its creation in 2001, and is particularly noted for its work with businesses in rural communities in the southern part of the state." The award was accepted by Robert Goodman, Executive Director NJAES and Executive Dean of the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences; Margaret Brennan, Director Economic Development NJAES; and Lou Cooperhouse, Director of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center. To view a full list of award recipients, visit:

[http://news.rutgers.edu/focus/issue.2008-05-27.4193860801/article.2008-05-28.4123520091/article\\_page\\_view](http://news.rutgers.edu/focus/issue.2008-05-27.4193860801/article.2008-05-28.4123520091/article_page_view)

More information about this and other national and international awards that the Rutgers Food Innovation Center has received can be found at: <http://foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/message.html>

### **NBIA Appoints Cooperhouse to Board of Directors**

Center Director Lou Cooperhouse has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA). NBIA - a private, nonprofit 501(c) (3) membership organization based in Athens, Ohio - is the world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship. An elected board of directors, representing the world's leading incubators, governs the association. The NBIA estimates that there are about 7,000 business incubators and small business support centers globally, including over 1,400 in North America. For more information, visit:

[http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/2008\\_NBIA\\_Lou%20Cooperhouse.pdf](http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/2008_NBIA_Lou%20Cooperhouse.pdf)

### **Center Director Appointed to NJ-Israel Commission**

Center Director Lou Cooperhouse has been appointed by Governor Jon Corzine to serve on the New Jersey-Israel Commission. Established in 1995, the Commission was created to foster increased economic, scientific, educational and cultural relations between New Jersey and Israel. In this role, Lou will be focused on the attraction of Israeli-based food and agribusiness companies to New Jersey, funding opportunities for collaborating New Jersey and Israeli scientists, and the fostering of partnerships between New Jersey and Israeli business incubator programs that can result in enhanced opportunities for New Jersey technology-based companies. For more information regarding the appointment, visit:

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/2008/approved/20080509a.html>

For more information regarding the Commission, see: <http://www.state.nj.us/commerce/israel/>

## **Food Innovation Center News**

### **Center Featured in Front Page Story in SNJ Business People**

The latest issue of *SNJ Business People* features the Rutgers Food Innovation Center as its lead story, with an article titled "Rutgers Shaping Future of Food Industry from 'Secret' Facility in Bridgeton". The lengthy article begins with "If somebody told you that the future of the food industry was being shaped at a cutting edge facility right here in New Jersey, would you believe it?" To view the article, visit: <http://snjbp.com/node/401>

### **Center Featured in *The Star Ledger***

On June 11, 2008, The Rutgers Food Innovation Center was featured in the lead article of the *The Star Ledger's* "Savor" section, which focuses on start-up food companies in New Jersey. Also featured in this article is Food Innovation Center client Marcia Blackwell of Blackwell's Organic. To view the article, visit:

<http://www.nj.com/living/ledger/index.ssf?/base/living-1/1213158910111510.xml&coll=1>

### **Center Launches Food Industry Partners Program**

The center has created a food industry Partners Program to enable food equipment suppliers and service providers to showcase their capabilities and technologies at the Center's new food business incubator in Bridgeton. In addition to being able to use the center as a demonstration site, Partners will be recognized in the building's grand opening ceremony, acknowledged on a permanent plaque in the Center's lobby, and highlighted in media materials that will detail the specific equipment and services they've provided. For more information on Food Industry Partners Program, visit:

<http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/RutgersFICIndustryPartnePR.pdf>

### **Incubator Construction Update**

We are rapidly nearing completion of the construction of our new 23,000 square foot business incubator facility! The processing floors have been finished, coolers and freezers completed, hoods and ductwork installed, walkways around the building poured, interior has been painted, carpet and tile have been laid, and the windows have been installed. For photos of the progress, please see: <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/incubatorupdateJUNE.html>

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

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

### **Webinar on Food Safety Technologies Provided to National Audience**

On May 15, Center Director Lou Cooperhouse presented an online webinar to member companies of the Refrigerated Foods Association, who are based at food manufacturing locations throughout the US. This webinar, entitled “Hurdle Technologies for Optimizing Food Safety and Quality” was provided primarily to Quality Assurance, Operations, and Research and Development personnel, and described food technologies used from “farm to fork”, including agricultural practices, food formulation, processing, packaging, distribution and merchandising. For more information on the Refrigerated Foods Association, please see: <http://www.refrigeratedfoods.org/>

## Upcoming Events

### **Food Innovation Center to Exhibit at the 2008 Fancy Food Show**

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center will be exhibiting at this summer’s NASFT Fancy Food Show. The 54<sup>th</sup> Summer Fancy Food Show will be held at the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>. This New York Fancy Food Shows attracts over 20,000 attendees from the specialty food industry, who come to visit more than 2,300 exhibitors from around the world. It is estimated that over 180,000 specialty foods can be discovered, and many can be sampled as well. Any New Jersey companies or organizations interested in exhibiting in the New Jersey Pavilion should request a co-location in that area. For more information on membership to NASFT, the Fancy Food Show, or how to register, please see:

<http://www.specialtyfood.com/do/fancyFoodShow/LocationsAndDates>

### **Center Organizing International Conference on Food Business Incubation**

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center is organizing 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> or visit the website of the Community Food Security Coalition at <http://www.foodsecurity.org/>

### **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:

August 11-13, 2008 - CSP Fare 08: Food Service at Retail Expo 2008, “Innovations in Perishable Food and Packaging Technology” – Lou Cooperhouse presenter. For more information see

<http://www.foodserviceatretail.com/>

## Brief Feedback Survey

Your feedback is important to us. Please take a moment to answer just five questions regarding the Food Innovation Center’s **e-nnovator News**, so that we can tailor future issues to best meet your needs. To complete the survey, go to:

[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/>