

# Rutgers Food Innovation Center

## *e-innovator News*

October 2008

- Over 1000 food businesses and entrepreneurs assisted to date •
- Awarded *Incubator of the Year* by the National Business Incubation Association in 2007 •

*Welcome to the October issue of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center's e-innovator News. e-innovator News is a bi-monthly email newsletter for our clients, 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 Grand Opening Event Held on October 17th!**

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center held its grand opening on October 17, 2008. Over 300 people attended this event, and heard presentations from a number of federal, state and community leaders who made this momentous occasion possible. Tours of the new 23,000 sq. ft. food business incubator and processing facility were held and lunch included a tasting of products from many of the entrepreneurial clients of the Center. It was a fantastic day, and we greatly appreciate the tremendous support and enthusiasm from all that attended this event. This is only the beginning, and we look forward to providing continued and expanded service to the Southern New Jersey community, and to the entire state of New Jersey and beyond, during the years ahead!

We've launched a special section of our website, specifically about the Grand Opening, and this can be found at: <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/grandopening.html>. This page contains links to the agenda (that lists the 19 federal, state, and community leaders who spoke at this event), opening remarks, information on our construction team, photos from the event, and a map of the facility with room-by-room descriptions.

In addition, this section of our website contains links to press coverage from local, regional and national media that published stories about our grand opening. This includes a news story about our grand opening, which was featured on ABC in the Philadelphia region (Channel 6), and can be seen at: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/business&id=6456075>.

### **City of Bridgeton and Rutgers FIC partnering towards creation of a "Food Business Cluster"**

The City of Bridgeton has announced a strategy for attracting and retaining food businesses in the community, leveraging its 300 years of history in serving the food industry, and the capabilities and outreach programs that will be part of the mission of the new Rutgers Food Innovation Center facility. The Bridgeton UEZ Office of Development & Planning has unveiled a strategy establishing *The Food-Business Parks of Bridgeton*, featuring Food-Business Park North (formerly Florida Ave Industrial Park, which is the location in which the Food Innovation Center is located) and Food-Business Park South (formerly Burlington Rd Industrial Park). The city's strategy is to create advantages for food related businesses through proximity, which will foster

supply-chain integration and create a food “business cluster” which will allow greater business-to-business relationships. The Food Innovation Center and the City of Bridgeton are in ongoing discussions regarding optimizing this strategy, and will be unveiling plans to provide educational programs for the local workforce in the months ahead. Additional information can be found at [http://www.cityofbridgeton.com/pdf/CityofBridgeton\\_FoodBusinessParks.pdf](http://www.cityofbridgeton.com/pdf/CityofBridgeton_FoodBusinessParks.pdf) and <http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/182/story/266109.html>

## **Updates & Accomplishments**

### **Food Innovation Center Organizes and Hosts National Program on Food Business Incubation**

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center organized a series of workshops and seminars regarding best practices in food business incubation, which was held October 4-8, 2008 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey as part of the national conference of the Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC). Food Business Incubation Network 2008, or FoodBIN 2008, attracted a number of domestic and international government and university organizations, as well as community non-profits to New Jersey. The overall conference was attended by about 700 people, and food business incubation was identified by the many seminar attendees as a vehicle that can serve a great variety of community benefits, including regional economic development, farmer entrepreneurship, poverty alleviation, technology transfer, healthy foods for school children via farm-to-school programs, and much more.

The 2008 FoodBIN Agenda, and each of the 15 presentations that were part of the FoodBIN business incubation track at the CFSC conference, can be viewed on our website at: <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/foodbin.html>

### **FIC Team Member Presents at the Microwave Steam-Pack 2008 Conference**

Food Innovation Center team member Tom Orton, Ph.D., who is Professor of Plant Science and part of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension network, spoke at the Microwave Steam-Pack 2008 Conference in Monroe, NJ on September 24<sup>th</sup>. His presentation was entitled: "Development of a New Microwavable Fresh Asparagus Package" and was attended by approximately 50 people.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Preparedness and Response to Agricultural Terrorism Course – Reply by Oct. 27!**

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) Food and Drug Safety Program and the Philadelphia Conference of the Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials are hosting a “Preparedness and Response to Agricultural Terrorism” course October 28<sup>th</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be provided with the skills they need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a terrorist attack to agriculture. More information on this course can be found at: <http://foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/CourseAnnouncement.doc> and a registration form can be found at <http://foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/RegistrationForm.doc> Only a few spots are still available, and registration must occur by Monday, October 27. For further information, please contact Gloria Dougherty, Acting Food Defense Project Coordinator at NJDHSS at 609-588-3123 or [Gloria.Dougherty@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:Gloria.Dougherty@doh.state.nj.us)

## **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/>