



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING  
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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*  
KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

DOUGLAS H. FISHER  
*Secretary*

Dear Fairgoers:

Welcome to the Middlesex County Fair. A visit to one of our premier agricultural fairs highlights the evolution of farming in New Jersey. From 33,487 farms on 2.6 million acres in 1916, when the New Jersey Department of Agriculture was formed to 9,100 farms on 720,000 acres today, we have gone from a focus on dairy, grain and forage to some of the most diverse agriculture in the nation.

Now, as it was then, it is our farm families that have sustained our industry. These hard-working, innovated people are who will lead us into the future of agriculture.

Here at the fair, we showcase all that is good in New Jersey agriculture, whether it is the fruits and vegetables we love so much, the fiber from our livestock, dairy products from our cows, goats and sheep, eggs from our poultry, fish and shellfish caught by our fishermen, the grains from our field crops and nursery stock to beautify our world.

You can see the many lives that intersect through agriculture – the 4-H and FFA youth, the County Board of Agriculture and the citizens from all walks of life who are celebrating our agricultural traditions. Visit with them, talk to them and get to know them. They are your neighbors.

Enjoy your day at the Middlesex County Fair.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Fisher".

Douglas H. Fisher