

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mr. Douglas Zee, Jr. and Dr. Mary Nikola Honored for Accomplishments in Agriculture

Mr. Douglas Zee, Jr. of Mullica Hill and Dr. Mary Nikola of New Brunswick were recently honored by the Gloucester County Board of Agriculture for their accomplishments in agriculture and service to their communities.

Mr. Zee was presented the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for his leadership in agriculture and the fruit industry and for his innovations as a farmer and fruit grower. Mr. Zee is the owner of JerZee Orchards in Richwood, growers of over 300 acres of peaches, soybeans, and wheat. Mr. Zee's fruit is sold through the Jersey Fruit Marketing Cooperative in Glassboro and also through his farm market operation on Route 322 outside of Glassboro. He has been a long time subscriber to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Integrated Pest Management Program and has reduced pesticide and fertilizer applications by means of precision agriculture.

"Mr. Zee has given freely of his time as a leader in agriculture," said Jeff Link President of the Gloucester County Board of Agriculture. He is Past President and longtime director of the New Jersey State Horticultural Society, a director and past President of the Gloucester County Board of Agriculture and a director of the New Jersey Farm Bureau. He is also a director of the New Jersey Peach Council and the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council. He currently serves as treasurer of the latter organization.

He was a long time member and recently President of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Board of Managers. Doug Zee, Jr. is best known for his famous peaches; his "JerZee" label has won Best of Show and the Governors cup at the New Jersey Peach Festival.

Dr. Mary Nikola was presented the Special Service to Agriculture Award for her professional accomplishments and dedication to training agricultural leaders as Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program. Dr. Nikola was recognized as an enthusiastic, dynamic and innovative trainer and leader. Under her direction 9 residents of Gloucester County have been trained through the NJ Agriculture



Left to Right- Mr. Doug Zee, Jr., Dr. Mary Nikola, and Mr. Jeff Link, President of Gloucester County Board of Agriculture.

Leadership Development Program and are current and future leaders in the agricultural industry.

Dr. Nikola currently serves as Director of Leadership and Organizational Development at the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in New Brunswick.

The Gloucester County Board of Agriculture is currently the local unit of the New Jersey Farm Bureau and an advisory group to the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension in Gloucester County. Currently 1500 farm families and agricultural businesses are members in Gloucester County.