



**NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Members of the media may contact Jeannette Rea-Keywood of the Rutgers 4-H Youth Development Program by phone at 609-898-0928 ext. 11 or by email at [reakeywood@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:reakeywood@njaes.rutgers.edu).

**NEW JERSEY 4-H TO HOST SCIENCE OF SOIL YOUTH SUMMIT**

The New Jersey 4-H Program of Rutgers Cooperative Extension will be hosting the Science of Soil 4-H Youth Summit on January 29 at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Over 100 youth in grades 6-8 from 12 sites representing schools and organizations will be participating in this event. The purpose of this program is to provide young people with the opportunity to interact with soil scientists to develop an understanding soil health, collect soil data, and identify soil issues and possible solutions in their local communities. Schools and organizations participating in the New Jersey 4-H Science of Soil Youth Summit include: Kearny High School, Memorial Middle School, Lincoln Middle School, Nicholas M. Butler #23, Joyce Kilmer Elementary School, Egbert Intermediate School, Collier Youth Services/ Collier School, Mill Pond School, Planeteers Club of Marquis de Lafayette School 6, Township of Ocean Intermediate School, New Brunswick 4-H, and Cora Hartshorn Arboretum.

Prior to attending the summit, educators participated in a two-day professional development where they were provided content based knowledge of soil science and supplied with tool kits to complete citizen science projects with their student teams. Teams collected and recorded soil data doing site assessments of their local soils. Youth shared their data using a 4-H Soil Science App and compared their results with teams across the state.

While at the 4-H Science of Soil Youth Summit, teams will join together with faculty, staff, and educators from Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Soil Conservation District on the Rutgers University Cook/Douglass Campus to discuss soil science research and gain exposure to career and research opportunities in soil science related sciences. Youth will participate in a series of hands-on activities to enrich their knowledge and understanding of soil science and learn about the characteristics of healthy soil. In addition, teams will present posters highlighting the soil data they collected from their communities.

This program was funded through a grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board. For more information about the New Jersey 4-H Soil of Science Youth Summit visit: <http://4hset.rutgers.edu/soilsummit/>.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13(one year out of high school), on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status and any other category protected by law. For more information about the New Jersey 4-H Program, administered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension visit the website at <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu>

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