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**EPC members, NJDA gather for Jersey Fresh Cookout**

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By

Ryan G. Beckman, senior editor

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HILLSDALE, NJ — The New Jersey Department of Agriculture hosted the Eastern Produce Council's Jersey Fresh Cookout May 23, here, at Demarest Farms.

Jersey Fresh foods held a starring role throughout the evening as the state-sponsored program — the oldest of its kind — marked its 39th year. Douglas Fisher, New Jersey's secretary of agriculture, extolled the virtues of New Jersey produce and the Jersey Fresh program before other speakers shifted the focus to Fisher, who is retiring July 1 after 15 years in his current role.

[Ryan Beckman](#)

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## About Ryan Beckman |

Ryan Beckman was born and raised in New Jersey. After studying creative writing at Rutgers University, he attended SUNY Binghamton and earned his master's degree in English. The following year he and his wife, Amanda, journeyed to the province of Ontario to spend some time living in Toronto and cheering for the Maple Leafs. Ryan and Amanda now live in New York and spend their evenings staring at their ever-smiling son, Oscar.

Ryan is always looking for a good book to read, is sure to be a few hours behind on sleep and will never stop loving 8-bit games.

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