

## Eastern Region Update

*Sharon McDonald (PA), Eastern Regional Director*

Maryland – Awarded a \$1.1 million Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Grant. The goal is to strengthen understanding of the epidemic and prevention strategies in rural Maryland and to provide technical assistance with cutting edge research. Includes the creation of prevention materials, treatment strategies, and recovery programs.

Delaware – Extension online program [“Health Insurance Literacy”](#) is available to consumers free of charge. This was a collaborative effort with Maryland Extension and the Smart Choice Health Insurance Program. A special [text messaging initiative](#) designed for millennials was developed. Those that signed up received lessons via text messaging. Upon completion of the program, they were eligible for a \$50 gift card.

Pennsylvania – Annual PA JCEP Conference in November where the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NEAFCS was celebrated with a special cake. NEAFCS members from the western part of the state visited Burch Farms in Erie, PA. This is a third-generation family farm with an active apple orchard and vineyard as well as a farm market, bakery, and winery. A perfect example of agritourism as a way to diversify the family farm.



New Jersey – As an 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration members put together a collage of members in action. Congratulations to Dr. Barbara O’Neill who will be retiring after 41 years with Rutgers Extension but will continue to work in the financial education field as an entrepreneur. Kudos to Dr. O’Neill and Dr. Nurgul Fitzgerald on being recognized as two of 50 Rutgers faculty most cited for expertise in various media.



# NEAFCS-NJ Members in Action

## Life Members

## Active Members

