Do lacrosse parents have opinions about the playing surfaces on which their sons and daughters compete? A survey developed in cooperation with the Rutgers University Snyder Research & Extension Farm, Pittstown, NJ determined lacrosse parent stakeholders’ views on issues including field quality expectations, pesticide applications, increased budgeting for sports field improvement, and synthetic infill fields.

In late summer 2007, the Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm established seven acres of a tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass turf for the purpose of demonstrating how farming principles can be used to develop “utility” sports fields. In many rural and suburban areas of New Jersey where land selection is still feasible, “utility” sports fields can potentially be developed on land that is naturally suited for sports fields - and subsequently reduce the high cost of major construction activity.

These principles included first choosing a naturally crowned site with good quality agricultural soils that did not require extensive earthmoving as part of the site preparation process and had adequate internal drainage and moderate rock issues. Lime and pre-plant fertilizers were applied based on soil test results and incorporated using a disc harrow.

A land leveler was then used to create a (continued on page 6)