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Cornell's Geneva Experiment Station to Host Agricultural Educators

By Trevor Linn

Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station (NYSAES) in Geneva, N.Y. will offer a daylong program on June 24 as part of CULTIVATE New York (Creating Unlimited Learning, Teaching, Investigating, and Versatile Activities Through Experiences around New York), a professional development conference for agricultural educators to be held June 22 through June 25.

Following two days of workshops at the Inn on the Lake in Canandaigua, N.Y., the conference will move to the NYSAES and the neighboring Cornell Agricultural and Food Technology Park ([The Technology Farm](#)) for a full day of informative tours and workshops focused on advanced sustainable plant agriculture and food systems. Highlights will include:

- A tour of the Technology Farm, an agribusiness incubator where Cherrypharm, Inc., Organic Green Industries, and other enterprises are getting their start. These businesses often work with NYSAES researchers to develop their products. Susan Noble, Executive Assistant at the Technology farm, will lead the tour.
- "Name that Pathogen!", a session on incorporating bioinformatics and molecular diagnosis of plant diseases into classroom. Instruction presented by [Kerik Cox](#), Cornell assistant professor of plant pathology specializing in fungal diseases of fruit trees and berry crops.
- "Seed Police: Yes, we exist and we're always watching," by Kyle Arvin, director of the NYSAES New York State Seed Testing Lab, who will explain how seeds are tested to ensure they will indeed germinate and are properly labeled.
- "The Chemistry of Aromas," a "nose-on" demonstration by [Gavin Sacks](#), Cornell assistant professor of food science and technology, showing how the most complex aromas can be broken down into their most basic elements.
- "Do you Want to Play Plant Doctor?", a presentation by [Mark Fuchs](#), Cornell assistant professor of plant pathology, about forensic approaches to diagnosing fruit diseases.
- "Let there be Jelly!", a demonstration by [Olga Padilla-Zakour](#), Cornell associate professor of food processing, of the conditions and equipment needed to produce perfect apple jelly.
- "The Age of Insects," a workshop on insect growth, respiration, and reproduction by Paul Robbins (aka "BeetleMan"), a Cornell research associate in entomology. This session will also discuss the adaptations that allow insects, particularly beetles, to be so successful on our planet.

"We at New York Association of Agricultural Educators (NYAAE) are extremely excited to have the opportunity to work with the experiment station," said Tara Berescik, NYAAE's past president. "Since many teachers in New York state are actively seeking to place more agriscience in our curriculum, the chance to see true research in action is exciting. We appreciate the Station's continued support of agricultural education on both the secondary and postsecondary levels. Working together, we are cultivating our youth to become better citizens and workers and are better preparing them for the challenges they will face in the future."

The conference is sponsored by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Agricultural Education Outreach Program, the NYAAE Executive Council, New York Agri-Tech Prep Career Pathways, and the New York State Department of Education.

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