



STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

VOLUME LXXXVIX • NO. 5
FEB 29 - MAR 15, 2008

BRIEFS

58th Annual Finger Lakes Grape Growers' Convention to be held in Waterloo

The 58th Annual Finger Lakes Grape Growers' Convention and Trade Show will be held Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Waterloo, NY.

The convention program will cover a variety of topics related to grape growing on both days. Saturday's program will focus primarily on production and pest management topics. The trade show will feature 42 exhibitors of grape production-related products. Registration includes lunch for each day registered, admission to the trade show (Saturday), and the Annual Wine Reception (Friday).

For program and registration information visit the Finger Lakes Grape Program's Web Site, <http://flg.cce.cornell.edu> or call the Program's office in Penn Yan at 536-5134.

Technology, Food, and Agricultural Career Day Set for April 8, 2008

On April 8, 2008, the Finger Lakes New Knowledge Fusion Project in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Finger Lakes Works will host the Second Annual "Technology, Food & Agricultural Career Day." This event is designed as a three-site progressive bus tour to: the Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park (Geneva, NY), Spring Hope Dairy Farm (Hopewell, NY), and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station De-

(Continued on page 2)

Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo Looks to the Future

Close to 1500 individuals participated in the 2008 Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo held in Syracuse, NY on February 13 and 14. Participants at the Expo were able to take full advantage of the multiple educational sessions held, the trade show with 100 vendors



View of Expo trade show area.

and demonstrations held in the exhibit hall. Participants, speakers and exhibitors were able to get together to exchange information, renew acquaintances and enjoy the Expo.

The educational sessions at the Expo, many of which were provided by Cornell faculty and CCE educators, ranged in topics from tree fruit to potatoes, berries to vine crops, tomatoes, and peppers to alternative energy, transitioning to organic to cut flowers, soil health to sweet corn and much more! All the sessions were well attended with some experiencing standing room only as growers crowded into the rooms to learn more about specific crop production practices. Growers were able to take advantage of information that will assist in crucial decision-making as they plan for the 2008 growing season.

The trade show at the Expo featured the wares of a wide variety of vendors, from the latest in precision ag equipment to new seed varieties to packaging possibilities to weather systems and more! Attendees were able to spend time in the trade show to learn more about the latest products available and how these products will benefit their farms. In addition to the vendor booths, the trade show also featured a demonstration area. The demonstrations provided attendees with information from speakers, DVDs and exhibits on soil health and reduced tillage, sweet corn varieties, weed control, food safety, tree fruit varieties, high tunnel information, pumpkin and melon varieties, and more. These sessions too were often standing room only.

"Coping With Ag Labor Uncertainties in 2008" was the title for the 2008 Becker Forum held on February 12; over 170 individuals attended what proved to be the most popular Becker Forum ever! Attendees gathered to hear labor experts from across the country discuss the most crucial issues facing growers for the upcoming season.

Nationally known experts discussed several issues facing growers as they navigate the confusing and ever-changing agricultural labor landscape in the United States. Craig Regelbrugge, Senior Director of Government Relations from the American Nursery and Landscape Association spoke first and focused on the political landscape surrounding immigration reform. Regelbrugge provided a national perspective on the current labor issue and addressed whether an immigration solution is within reach. Regelbrugge stated that "Legislative reform is essential," and then went on to discuss the legislation known as the

(Continued on page 2)



(BRIEFS, continued)

partment of Food Science & Technology.

Students from 28 school districts within Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, and Yates counties have been invited to this event to tour each site, and learn about different careers in a variety of fields associated with each site. Careers represented include: culinary arts, finance, sales, business, production, food science, electrical and mechanical engineering, management, the physical and life sciences, machinery manufacturing, economics, etc. New York State colleges and universities, as well as employers and industry representatives within the fields of food, technology, and agriculture will be at each site to interactively explain about their organization, jobs available in that organization.

“The goal of the event is to expose students to a variety of careers in the fields of technology, food, and agriculture, to help broaden their understanding of the different kinds of careers available to them and the impact and importance of these types of jobs in the region” said Kitty Noble, one of the event organizers and the Project Administrator for Finger Lakes New Knowledge Fusion Project.

The Finger Lakes New Knowledge Fusion Project Announces RFP Opportunity for Pre-seed Funds

The Finger Lakes New Knowledge Fusion Project, a \$600,000 economic development grant funded by the National Science Foundation’s Partnerships for Innovation Program, has put out a request for proposals from researchers and/or businesses in the technology, food, agriculture, and medical sectors offering (phase 0) R & D funding. Pre-seed funds of up to \$25,000 will be given to awarded proposals to develop or re-configure new or existing technologies for applications in the food and agriculture arenas.

The goal of the Finger Lakes New Knowledge Fusion Project is to encourage the development of new technologies and businesses in the region in the fields of food and agriculture by enticing expert resources in the fields of food, agriculture, medicine

(Continued on page 3)

(EXPO, continued)

the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act or AgJOBS.

Wally Ruehle, Director of the Legal Aid Society Immigration Program in Rochester, NY, addressed issues that employers need to be aware of regarding detentions, deportations, drivers licenses and much more. Ruehle provided information on issues ranging from transportation to clothing to rights afforded all individuals under the U.S Constitution. Jorge Estrada from the Leadership Coaching International located in Washington State shared information regarding training, feedback, motivation and retention of employees.

The afternoon session included information for employers from Mary Jo Dudley, from the Cornell Farmworker Program. Dudley provided information regarding resources for employers that are available from the program. Bob Smith from Farm Credit Associations of New York shared information on the economic impact that farm labor and immigration reform has on New York State agriculture. His report reflected the impact that labor shortages would have and related this information to the loss of economic activity in local communities. This loss of economic activity would include less locally grown farm product and a heavier reliance on imported foods. A labor shortage would also have and impact on farm-related jobs such as farm service, processing and the marketing sectors involved with agriculture. Jorge Estrada finished up the afternoon session with information on communication skills for peak business performance. His talk focused on non-verbal communication and critical aspects to consider each time an employer communicates with employees.

This forum attracted a wide range of participants, who after attending, were able to better understand the intricacies regarding the information related to ag immigration reform. This information will be especially relevant as growers head into the 2008 growing season,

The Becker Forum was held in conjunction with the 2008 Expo and was sponsored by Motts North America, DairyLea, Dairy Farmers of America, National Grape Cooperative, Cornell Cooperative Extension, CCE Vegetable Program Work Team, Cornell Farmworker Program, the NYS Horticultural Society, the NYS Apple Association and the NYS Vegetable Growers Association.

Plans are already underway for 2009 (February 11 & 12).The Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo is sponsored by the New York State Vegetable Growers Association, Empire State Potato Growers, New York State Berry Growers Association, New York State Horticultural Society, Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

HWSC/Experiment Station Summer Research

As many of you may know, the Station and HWSC have recently completed a memorandum of understanding to codify opportunities for HWS undergraduates to work and learn in the research programs at the Station. Copies of the MOU are available in the Director’s Office and have been sent to all Department Chairs and Program Leaders. Initially the Colleges have committed resources to support a small number of summer internships at the Station. Students awarded these internships would work eight to ten weeks in the summer on various projects and will have principle responsibility for a project or one segment of a research program. These students will be paid a stipend by the Colleges and will receive free room and board on campus during the internship. Each intern will complete a poster summarizing their work and may be asked to give a public seminar within their academic department at HWSC.

To apply for one of these students for your program, please submit a one-page outline of the intended research and the approximate start and stop dates for the work to Tom Glover at Glover@HWS.EDU by March 5th.

Additionally, if you are looking to fill summer work positions and hire HWS students we will try to provide them with room and board to supplement the salary that you provide. If you would like us to recruit appropriate applicants for your position from our student pool, let us know the parameters of the position and the contact person. We will do our best to find well-qualified and eager students for your summer work.

During the academic year, if you have part-time positions and would like a college student worker, again let us know your needs by contacting me at 781-3602 or Glover@HWS.EDU. We will make every attempt to match your position with a qualified and conscientious student. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these opportunities, feel free to contact me or Jim Ryan at 781-3601.

Tom Glover



Cornell Soil Health Team Offers Resources for Growers

Soil is one of our most basic resources, yet it is one that is often taken for granted. The health of the soil has a direct impact on the health of plants and consequently crop yield; poor soil health leads to disease and losses for growers. The Soil Health Project Work Team (PWT) has published the new Soil Health Manual to raise awareness and educate growers and the public about practices that can restore poor soil and maintain healthy soil.

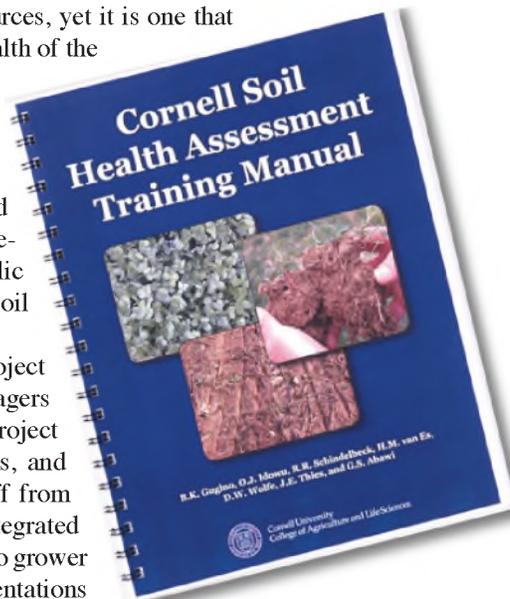
The team is made up of growers, Project Coordinator John Idowu; Project Managers Bob Schindelbeck and Beth Gugino; Project Leaders George Abawi, Harold Van Es, and David Wolfe; students and several staff from Cornell Cooperative Extension and Integrated Pest Management. Together, they travel to grower meetings and conferences, making presentations and working with growers to address issues which range from creating a readable soil health report to reducing tillage and recognizing stressed or diseased root structures. They have set up ten large, long-term demonstration plots in the fields of collaborating growers and six long-term research and training sites to assess the impact of management practices. These research areas have led to recommendations including reduced compaction through reduced tillage and the development of a new tilling blade that lifts and replaces chunks of soil instead of turning it over which results in erosion.

When the team began work, there was no holistic set of tests for researching soil health. Standard soil tests only addressed chemical levels, which reflect nutrient content necessary for plant growth. Issues like soil compaction, which inhibits water from penetrating soil and makes root growth difficult, were not addressed. Through research in the field and lab, the team was able to recommend a set of tests, which evaluate soil health holistically and enable growers to address all aspects of the quality of their soil.

The PWT now offers growers a comprehensive soil health report on holistic soil quality. The report shows the results of twelve soil sample tests and compares the results to optimum numbers, indicating the level of concern for each test with red, yellow, and green highlights—just like a traffic light. The report gives growers a quick and accurate sense of the criteria in which their soil is doing well and recommends action to remedy poor performance areas.

Additional efforts are underway to hold a series of graduated educational workshops where growers and scientists learn to evaluate soil quality with a comprehensive set of indicators. Workshops will range from a one-day time commitment to a week or several weeks for growers and scholars who have more time and interest. The team would also like to expand their services and research to cover the entire northeast. Moreover, there is growing interest from urban gardeners and horticulture societies, which have unique needs, growing conditions and questions. To help address widespread interest in soil health, the PWT has developed a website: soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu

To purchase a copy of the manual visit: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/store/catalog>.



E. Keller

(BRIEFS, continued)

and technology to partner on collaborative projects. Lead organizations supporting this grant include:

1. Cornell University's NYS Agricultural Experiment Station
2. Infotonics Technology Center, Inc.
3. Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
4. Ontario County Office of Economic Development
5. The Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park, Corp.

For more information on this RFP announcement please visit: <http://www.fusiongrant.org/funding.php>

*Kitty Noble
Project Administrator
Finger Lakes New Knowledge
Fusion Project*

Consumer Forum Provides Facts About Choosing Among Milk Options

Many consumers are influenced by advertisements and personal testimonials about the benefits of consuming one milk product over another. Today's grocery store dairy section features a wide range of fluid milk products, confounding the ability to make a sound choice between conventional milk, rBST-free milk, organic milk, soy milk, skim milk, whole milk, and many other variations. So what are the similarities, differences, and health benefits of the different kinds of products in today's dairy case? Is one milk product really better than another?

To help consumers answer some of these questions and make more informed decisions about the products they are buying, a consumer forum will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 from 6:30 PM -8:30 PM at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County, 480 N. Main Street, Canandaigua, NY. This Consumer Forum on Today's Dairy Case will discuss the similarities and differences between different fluid milk products, including newer flavored milk beverages for children. Speakers include Dr. David Barbano of Cornell University's Department of Food Science, Fred Lightfoote,

(Continued on page 4)



CALENDAR of EVENTS
FEB 29 - MAR 15, 2008

MEETINGS

**THE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS
MEETING ON MARCH 4, 2008
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

**CALS FACULTY SENATE
MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Time: 4 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Audio/Visual Linkage

**2008 STATE OF EXTENSION
ADDRESS**

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2008
Time: 1:30 PM
Place: A134 Barton via live webcast

SEMINARS

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Time: 3:30 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Title: Studies on Fire Blight of Apples and Epidemiology of Cherry Leaf Spot in Pennsylvania
Speaker: Henry Ngugi, Penn State University, Biglerville, PA

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Time: 3:30 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Title: Cornell Cooperative Extension LOF Program: From the Experiment Station to the Farmer
Speaker: Debbie Breth, CCE, Albion, NY

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, March 3, 2008
Time: 11:15 AM-12:10 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Title: Hormonal Control of Gummosis in Tulips and in the Species of Rosaceae Family
Speaker: Marion Saniewski, Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Poland
Via Polycom

Date: Monday, March 10, 2008
Time: 11:15 AM-12:10 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab

(Continued in next Column)

SEMINARS CONTINUED

Title: The Impact of Special Events on Public Gardens
Speaker: Mariam Pinsker, Ithaca

Title: Interpretation at Public Gardens
Speaker: Jessica Blom, Ithaca
Via Polycom

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Monday, March 4, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM, Coffee at 10:15
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Title: Synergistic Interactions In White Grub Control
Speaker: Anwar Morales, Geneva

Title: Habitat Exploitation By The Annual Bluegrass Weevil, *Listronotus maculicollis* (Coleoptera, Curculionidae). In Golf Course Turf: Interpreting The Link Between Damage Prevalence and Population Distribution
Speaker: Masa Seto, Geneva

Date: Monday, March 10, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM, Coffee at 10:15
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Title: Drift and Environmental Contamination

Speaker: Andrew Landers, Geneva
Polycomed to Suffolk County CCE for part of pesticide credits

FOOD SCIENCE

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Time: 11 AM
Place: FST Conference Room
Title: Odor Mixture Perception of Straight Chain Aldehydes C6-C11

Speaker: Anne Kurtz, Geneva

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Time: 11 AM
Place: FST Conference Room
Title: Functional Foods: How Functional Are They?

Speaker: Cy Lee, Geneva

LTC

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2008
Time: 9 - 11 AM
Place: LTC
Title: Excel Intermediate I
Instructor: Cheryl Ten Eyck, Geneva

CLASSIFIEDS

ITEMS FOR SALE: Benchcraft microfiber chaise sofa, 3 yrs old, excellent condition, asking \$250, Kenmore washing machine, 2 yrs old, good condition, asking \$175, queen size bed and mattress- good condition, asking \$150, oval solid oak table and oak chairs(2), asking \$100. If interested please contact Jay at jlo25

FOR SALE: 1997 Honda Civic Sedan DX 4d 109,500 miles. Excellent condition, automatic, A/C, radio, cd player, sunroof, inspection just passed. \$4,500. Contact Diego at ds15, x2601 or 585-472-9267

FOR SALE: Vanity and sink, white w/brass knobs, 36" wide (sink 37"), 3 drawers plus cabinet, very good condition - nearly new. Photos available upon request. \$150 or B/O. Contact: ELL10 or x2308

FOR SALE: 2000 Toyota Camry CE, 90,000 miles, White, excellent condition, automatic, A/C, power windows power mirrors radio/tape/cd player, \$5,500. Contact Terence Robinson 315-787-2227 or thr1@cornell.edu

(BRIEFS, continued)

a local dairy farmer, and Beth Meyer from the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council. There will be time for consumers to ask questions about fluid milk choices.

The forum is free and open to the public; it is part of series of public forums exploring current consumer food and agriculture technology issues. Please pre-register by calling (585) 394-3977 x427.

Ithaca Campus Parking

There is Permit-Free parking for Geneva Fleet Vehicles (Official Plates and Upgraded Plates with NYSAES plate frames) Flex Spaces for up to two hrs (spaces used to be visitor parking). CF, F, K, N, O, and X Geneva Faculty/Staff/Students are not considered visitors on Ithaca Campus so DO NOT PARK in visitor parking.

Vehicles that are going to be on the Ithaca Campus three or more days a week need to contact Transportation Services for a parking permit. Contact Annette Payne @ 85-6605 or amr10@cornell.edu

For the Ithaca Campus parking map go to: <http://www.parking.cornell.edu/pdf/FSmap.pdf>