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BRIEFS

GRAPE PATHOLOGIST NAMED

On Dec. 6, 1994, Wayne Wilcox, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at the Geneva Experiment Station, officially assumed responsibility for research and extension on grape diseases.



He will continue to handle extension on small fruit diseases. Robert Seem will pick up some of the research on small fruit diseases, and Dave Rosenberger, located at the Hudson Valley Lab in Highland, NY, will contribute to extension on small fruit diseases in eastern New York. The Station will be recruiting a Tree Fruit Pathologist for a position that combines extension and research responsibilities with the help of a Search Advisory Committee chaired by Helen Dillard. Until someone is hired to fill that position, Wilcox and Tom Burr will continue to handle tree fruit responsibilities.

REINERS RECEIVES AWARD

Stephen Reiners, Assistant Professor of Horticulture, has recently been honored with the "Friend of the Small Farm" award from *Growing for Market* magazine. The award was instituted this year to recognize researchers who have devoted their careers to the cause of small-sale agriculture.



"He was really the first person courageous enough to start using the O-word ('organic') in the university system," said

(Continued on page 2)

SURFING THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY FOR AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION:

Will the Internet be Farmer-Friendly?



In Gary Larsen's vision of the future, animals talk and walk on two legs and farmers on the "North Forty" keep in touch via cow phones. Larsen's humor is one of the lowest common denominators on the market; he keeps the global community laughing heartily about life science, entomology and agriculture. The highest common denominator—whose technology generates nervous laughter at best—is represented by the computer information networks available on the "information superhighway." These networks promise to deliver text, photographic, graphical and audio-video-based material in an interactive format over the Internet to agricultural and life science users in academia, research, and extension. These users can be based anywhere: classrooms, laboratories, inner city

schools, rural libraries, at home, or on the farm.

In a conference entitled "Highest Denominator Agricultural Information Systems: Issues and Implications," presented on December 9 and 10 in Warren Hall on the Ithaca campus by Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, participants and panelists addressed some of the implications and issues of this emerging infrastructure. The conference was masterminded by Geneva librarian, Peter McDonald, in cooperation with Henry DeVries, Electronic Specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension.

"We felt people throughout the agricultural community were beginning to use network systems to disseminate information, but that there was very little quality control and overview," said McDonald,

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(INTERNET, Cont. from page 1)

who has been at the forefront of creating a presence for Geneva on the Internet vis à vis the World Wide Web. "We feel it is imperative that the information be presented in such a fashion that it is coherent and follows standards. There are fiscal, sociological and non-technological issues that must be addressed."

"In fact," as one conference participant wryly noted, "there are electronic toys all over the place but very few people know how to organize and manage the information of which they are capable."

At the conference, there were presentations on "Issues and Implications" from an administrator's, networker's, technologist's, information provider's and user's perspective; "Economic Implications from Paper to Paperless"; "Working Models" including agricultural information systems currently available at North Carolina State, Penn State and Cornell; "Geographical Information Systems and Mosaic"; and "Models for Providing Connectivity Access and Educational Support." On Saturday afternoon, attendees participated in several working groups, including ones on "Standards, Copyright and Server Protection," "Costs and Cost Recovery," "Last Mile Connectivity," "Audience Identification," and "Document Authentication."

Participants numbered nearly 100 including college administrators of the land grant community; extension and experiment station personnel; networking, library, and computer specialists; farm magazine editors; USDA personnel; and representatives from the private sector. Participants exchanged ideas, http's, and experiences generating and maintaining and educating users about information infrastructures. They came from 15 states, and as far away as Texas, New Mexico, and Alberta.

The Geneva Experiment Station was well-represented; attendees included Bob Andersen, Mark McLellan, Bob Seem, Peter McDonald, and Linda McCandless.

"The conference generated great enthusiasm. People were starved for this sort of overview—to see not only the potential of information management and networking, but also its pitfalls," said McDonald, who is concerned with the creation and subsequent abandonment of what he calls "information orphans"—information bytes that are unorganized, unindexed and unsearchable. "Administrators and people interested in the dissemination of information should really begin to understand the issues and implications of these emerging networks. The management of information is a very complex issue.

There is a lot of potential, but if we don't understand the basics, it is too easy for too many people to put up too much information too fast."

One of the things driving the conference, in part, was the realization that CALS is going to begin to use the WWW to disseminate academic, administrative and extension information. By spring break, a CALS web server should be in operation, modeled after a prototype developed at Geneva.

"The Geneva Library has been awarded a funded position to assist with the creation of this CALS World Wide Web and to insure that our own server has the quality controls that we feel at this time are lacking," said McDonald. At that time, workshops and other outreach programs will be offered to the university community at large. CALS is one of the first colleges at Cornell to begin the systematic design of a web server.

"Top administrators in Day Hall should recognize that this is a very powerful and malleable tool," said McDonald. "Without firm guidance, it will get out from under us. If anybody can publish anything they want under the aegis of Cornell, the university needs to establish very firm guidelines."

McDonald expects the conference to be an annual event. 🐾

(BRIEFS, Cont. from page 1)

Jennifer Morgan, director of NOFA-NJ, the organic certification group in New Jersey who nominated him. "That was really sticking his neck out at the time."

Reiners served on the group's certification board when the program was started. Until June, Reiners was assistant extension specialist in vegetables at Rutgers University in New Jersey where his areas of study included a systems approach to vegetable production allowing for decreased use of pesticides and fertilizers while maintaining farm profitability, cultural techniques to extend the harvest season of fresh vegetables, and examining new specialty vegetables for their potential use. At the Experiment Station, where his appointment is 60% extension and 40% research in vegetable crops, Reiners' research will focus on cabbage, sweet corn, and beans.

Six researchers were chosen for the award. The others include Aref Abdul-Baki, a USDA researcher who has been working on hairy vetch as a living mulch for weed suppression and increased crop yield; Howard W. Kerr, Jr., head of the Office for Small-Scale Agriculture at the USDA; Russell Messing, association research entomologist at the University of Hawaii Tropical Research Station in Kapaa; Marianne Sarrantonio, coordinator of the soil health initiative at the Rodale Institute; and Mark Van Horn, director of the Student Experimental Farm at UC-Davis.

DOMESTIC POSTAGE RATES INCREASE

Matt Lewis wants to remind everyone that Domestic Postage Rates and Fees increased as of January 1. While certain Inter-

national Postage Rates and Fees did change, none of those commonly used by visitors and staff here at the Station were affected. Below are some commonly used Domestic Postal Services and their new rates:

First-Class Letter:	
1st ounce	\$0.32
Each additional ounce	0.23
Postcard:	0.20
Priority Mail (up to 1 pound):	3.00
Certified Mail:	1.10
Return Receipt:	1.10

Departments need not worry about adding extra postage themselves to pre-stamped 29¢ envelopes. Upon sorting outgoing mail, Matt will add the additional postage needed to envelopes before they are taken to the Post Office. Any questions about other postal rates can be directed to Matt at x251.

THE OUTLOOK FOR AGRIBUSINESS

More than 150 people attended the annual Cornell Agribusiness Situation and Outlook Conference, held in Ithaca on December 13. Dr. John Brake, W.I. Myers Professor of Agricultural Finance, presented an interesting talk on the current situation and outlook for the national economy. Over the past year, we have seen a broad-based improvement in every industry except in defense and space industries, he said. The Gross Domestic Product will be up over 4% in 1994 and the inflation rate will be under 3% for the first time since 1991. The low inflation rate may not seem to warrant the higher interest rates that the feds have increased over the last year. Brake believes the feds are doing the right thing to try to prevent an overheated economy and that the time to do that is now before inflation is seen and not later when it starts to rise. Brake called it a "preemptive strike on inflation." As for his predictions, Brake was quite proud of the ones he made for 1994. For 1995 he sees:

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow at a 3.5% rate, down slightly from '94.
- Inflation will be up to 3.5-4%.
- Inflation rates will continue to rise through the first half of '95.
- Unemployment rate will rise to over 6% by year's end.
- Continued lower grain and livestock prices in 1995.
- U.S. net farm income will be down 5% to 10% in 1995 from 1994 levels.

Implications:

- Watch the FED closely, when GDP starts to decline, interest rates will be peaking
- For borrowers, use adjustable rates on loans since we may be nearing peak interest rates

Fruit, Grape and Wine Situation

- Overall, the value of the six major fruit crops in 1993 was at its lowest level since 1987, worth only \$146 million. For 1994 the value is expected to increase to about \$166 million.

Apple Outlook

Alison DeMarree, Area Specialist in the Lake Ontario Fruit Program reported on the outlook for apples. Some of the things she sees includes:

- decrease in net worth of growers over last three years
- growers at greater risk
- growers are worried and may be replanting less acreage than in previous years
- cash flow will be the driving force in decision-making

Over the next 5 years, DeMarree sees:

- many older growers will retire and get out of the business
- older plantings (standard trees) will be abandoned since they can't compete with newer plantings for yield and quality
 - Farmers that are just getting by will not be able to survive low juice and processing prices

—Stephen Reiners

SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGE FOR 1995

The Social Security "wage base" for 1995 will be \$61,200. In 1994 the taxable wage base was \$60,600. The wage base is the maximum amount of earnings taxed for Social Security. Questions? Call the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. Or call or

visit the Geneva Social Security Office. The office is located at 845 Canandaigua Road (Route 5 & 20) just west of Pre-emption Road and Tops Plaza. The phone number is (315) 789-0809. The office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

BENCH PRESS TO FAME

Lyle Hanvey, who has been a security officer with the Experiment Station's



Buildings and Properties crew for eight years, won the New York State Bench Press championship in the Novice/Heavy-weight division in Chester, NY, on

Dec. 3. Lyle bench-pressed 380 lbs.—which is 112 lbs. more than what he weighs.

"I've always been an athlete," said Hanvey, who played semi-pro football for the Camp Limfort Gladiators when he was stationed in Germany. "Now that I'm older, I've had to find different ways to compete. What I like about powerlifting is I can still go to the competitions and keep my family life together."

Hanvey, who says he is in a lot better shape than when he started, is self-trained and works out at home. For equipment, he has a Nautilus bench press, incline benches, and close to 2000 lbs. of weights in his basement. His routine includes working out three days a week for one and one-half hours each day. "It's all weight work," he said. "As you can imagine, being a powerlifter, I do very little aerobics."

Working and attending competitions is a family affair. "My wife goes to the competitions and all four kids lift," said the 34-year-old Hanvey who first got into the sport by reading powerlifting magazines.

When he started, Hanvey could bench press 295 lbs. Two years ago, he started competing in small meets in Elmira and Hornell. "As I got stronger, I started going to more serious competitions," he said. "Now my goal is to press 500 lbs. and go to the East Coast Regionals, hopefully by next year."



MAC "ATTACK"

HAVING TROUBLE WITH WORD 6.0? • If you're having trouble with Word 6.0, you're not alone. Although Word 6.0 has many exciting and new features, most of which have been requested by customers during the past two years since the last major revision, there are penalties to pay as well. This includes the need for at least 4 MB of RAM and 24MB of disk space for a complete installation of the program. Many users say that Word 6.0 is much slower than previous versions of Word. One of the worst delays occurs when a large number of extensions and fonts are installed. Under these circumstances, loading Word 6.0 can take several minutes. For example, on a Centris 610, the launch time was more than seven minutes, compared to about two minutes for Word 5.1. Fonts play a part because Word 6.0 checks each font as it launches to see if it is corrupted. A filter has been installed on the Station CC Server that enables Word 5.1 to read Word 6.0 documents. If you don't like to use Word 6.0, but have need to access documents prepared by someone else in Word 6.0, you should install this filter on your Mac according to the instructions below:

There is a folder called CC:Software:Miscellaneous:Word 6.0 Converter (for MW5.x) which contains the software & instructions. Briefly,

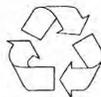
1. Quit Microsoft Word if it is running on your Macintosh.
2. Copy the file "Word 6.0 for Windows & Macintosh" to your Word Commands folder.
3. Move the file "Word 6.0 for Windows/Macintosh" to the trash, if it exists.
4. Restart Word. The converter should now be properly installed.

EMPIRE PLAN PARTICIPANTS

A supply of cards with Empire Plan phone numbers is now available in Personnel. For convenience, the card fits into the Empire Plan card envelope. Having the card helps remind participants to place a call to Empire when a hospital admission occurs, a second opinion is necessary, mental health and substance abuse services are needed, or when the Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP) may be utilized, etc. Contact Personnel, x203, for your card(s).



STATION RECYCLABLES ONLY



It appears that the Station's bins for holding recyclables are being used for more than just Station materials. This is just a reminder that these bins are not to be used for disposal of items from your personal household that you want recycled. Your cooperation on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: Room available for female student/scientist. Reasonable rent. Kitchen privileges. Walking distance to Station. Available after January 1. Call 789-1837.

AVAILABLE: A limited supply of extra NYNEX phone books are available. If you need additional copies, contact the business office at x202.

WANTED: Three-ring notebooks. The Finger Lakes Stamp Club is preparing stamp albums for use by area youth stamp clubs. If you have any old (used) either plain or with advertisements that you can part with, please contact John Bourke at x281, or send them to John, c/o Food Science.

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED: Roommate needed to share a cozy, clean, two bedroom apartment. Rent is very reasonable with no lease. Located in the upstairs of a two-family house with off-street parking near Geneva General Hospital. Cable and heat included; electric and phone extra. For further details call 789-4482 anytime and leave message.

FOR RENT: : To Female Student/Scientist—Large furnished bedroom with full private bath available January 1995, located close to Station in a quiet neighborhood. Rent includes kitchen and laundry privileges, cable television in room, local phone privileges, off-street parking, basement storage and all utilities. Call Marcella at x281 or 789-6702.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

JANUARY 6-13, 1995

EVENTS • MEETINGS

Monday, January 9, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe

Aerobics/Fitness Class for all employees

Tuesday, January 10, 10:30 am

38 Morris Hall, 11a

CALS Chairs' and Unit Leaders' meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe

Aerobics/Fitness Class for all employees

Friday, January 13, 9:00 am

Best Western Sunrise Hill Inn, Victor

Table Beet Roundtable

Friday, January 13, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe

Aerobics/Fitness Class for all employees

PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A separate memorandum from Charie Hibbard is being distributed with this week's issue of *Station News* regarding a workshop entitled "Preventing Sexual Harassment" to be held on the Geneva campus on January 23 from 10:00 am-noon and again from 1:30-3:30 pm. The workshop is open to all staff and students at no charge. Additional information regarding this workshop along with a sign-up form is included with the memo.



DEADLINES

Friday, January 13

Apple Research and Development Program proposals due to Director's Office.

EMPIRE VISION CENTERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

A separate memo from Charie Hibbard and Judy Birkett is being sent out with this week's issue of *Station News* regarding a discount program now available from Empire Vision Center. Be sure to pick up a copy of this memo explaining discount pricing for prescription safety glasses and cosmetic/street glasses for all regular full-time/part-time employees and their family members.