

VOLUME LXXVII • NO. 2
JANUARY 12-19, 1996

BRIEFS

SEMINAR ON FEDERAL GRANTS
AND CONTRACTS SCHEDULED

On Tuesday, January 16, in the Staff Room, Jordan Hall, Pat Fitzgerald and Anne McKenna from the Controller's Office will make a presentation to Geneva faculty on financial issues on federal grants and contracts. Staff members involved in administering federal grants and contracts should also plan to attend.

They will present information on indirect costs, cost sharing, administrative salaries, and direct charging federal grants and contracts.

This is intended to be a two-way discussion and questions and concerns are welcome.

10th ANNUAL EMPLOYEE/
FAMILY NIGHT AT THE COURT

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, January 27, to attend the 10th Annual Employee/Family Night at the Court. Make a trip to the Ithaca campus and enjoy a delicious meal and watch as the Cornell Big Red takes on Columbia in both women's and men's basketball.

The women's basketball game will begin at 5:00 pm and the men's game will begin at 7:30 pm in the Alberding Field House. Dinner will be served from 4:30-7:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room at Alberding. There will be two meal choices offered, chicken barbecue and cheese tortellini.

Combination basketball/meal tickets (\$4.00 each), discount basketball tickets (\$2.00 each), and meal only tickets (\$2.00 each) are available. Combination basketball/meal and meal only tickets can be purchased through January 22; discount basketball tickets can be purchased through January 26.

You may purchase discount tickets by using the coupon provided in the recent memo sent to each employee regarding this event or by contacting Charlene Dunham in Personnel at x203.

AMERICANS ON THE INTERNET

Almost 10 million American adults now have access to the Internet and another 6 million are expected to join them on line over the next year, according to a recent survey commissioned by O'Reilly & Associates, which publishes books to help Internet users, and Trish Information Services. The survey found that 5.8 million American adults

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Ensuring Safe, High Quality Packaged Foods



Roundtable discussion of minimally processed fruit and vegetables.

On Thursday, December 14, 1995, the Department of Food Science & Technology at Geneva hosted a meeting of regulatory personnel, industry and Cornell researchers on the topic of "Low Oxygen Packaging for Minimally Processed Fruits and Vegetables." The purpose of the meeting was to get industry, regulatory and research staff together to discuss current packaging developments and applications concerning low oxygen packaging and regulatory guidelines. This was an opportunity to ensure that regulatory guidelines matched the proper science, producing the safest and highest quality packaged product.

Mark McLellan, Chair of Food Science & Technology, indicated after this meeting that, "It represented a significant level of cooperation and communication between all participants in the low oxygen packaging arena. Key safety issues were covered and important technical developments were reviewed as well as the current state of regulatory review. Continued meetings of this sort will enhance the quality and safety of our minimally processed fruits and vegetables packaged and delivered for extended shelf life to New York State consumers."

Presentations were made by the NYS Department of Ag. & Markets concerning New York State guidelines on refrigerated foods in reduced oxygen packages. Presentations were also made by researchers from the Cryovac Division of W. R. Grace Co. discussing flexible film technology and the biochemistry of fruits and vegetables, and representatives of various processing companies. Both Dr. Chang Lee, Food Science & Technology-Geneva and Dr. Joseph Hotchkiss of Food Science-Ithaca discussed their research programs in relation to low oxygen packaging.

The meeting covered various concerns including use of competent processing authorities, development of hazard analysis and critical control point program (HACCP), and the recognition of reduced oxygen systems and their applications in the various food packaging industries.

A review of the New York State guidelines was made in great detail with comments coming from Cornell, the processing industry, and packaging personnel. In general, the New York State guidelines were well received with specific comments noted as to their application in various situations.

Of noted concern was the blanket 14-day shelf life that the guidelines insist on. These are "use by" date and not "sell by" date. Discussions included the possibility that an appropriate HACCP program may supersede a blanket 14-day shelf life limitation. Specific applications to fruits and vegetables were included and also specific packaging systems were discussed in detail.

All participants at the meeting felt that it was a very worthwhile exercise to review New York State guidelines and industry concerns.

Attending this meeting from the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets were Al Bugenham, Joe Corby, Jim Bierce, Charles Richardson, David Sion, and Jim Sevchik. Attending from industry were Jim Rotella of R & B Product Co. Attending from Cryovac Division, of W. R. Grace Co. were Charles Barrymore, and Jeff Rhodehamel. Attending from the Associations was the International Fresh Cut Produce Association was Edith Garrett, President. Attending from Cornell University were Drs. Don Splittstoesser, Chang Y. Lee, Don Downing, Joe Hotchkiss, and Mark McLellan.

This meeting was organized by Donald L. Downing, Food Venture Center, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Food Science & Technology.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

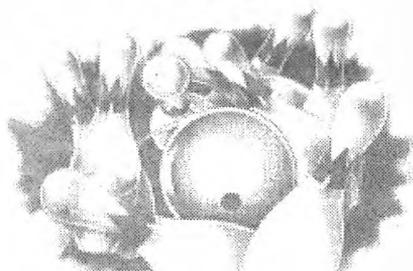
JANUARY 12-19, 1996

EVENTS • MEETINGS

Monday, January 16, 2:30 pm
 401 Room, Jordan Hall
*Workshop in Geneva faculty on
 the issues on federal grants and
 loans (see related story in BRIEFS)*

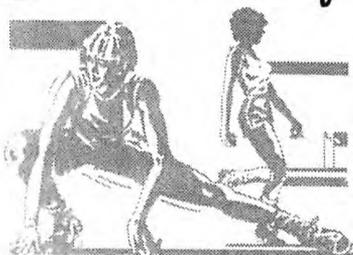
Tuesday, January 16, 3:30 pm
 401 Room, Jordan Hall
Geneva Faculty Meeting

BOWLING PARTY SET



Start getting your five-person team together for the Twelfth Annual Station Club Bowling Party scheduled for SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, at Sunset Bowl, Geneva. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this fun-filled evening. Watch for sign-up forms in next weeks Station News.

Aerobics at the Sawdust Cafe



beginning at 12:10 pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
 Everyone is welcome!
 No sign-up is necessary.

CLASSIFIED

MOVING SALE: 15" JVC color TV \$110, black wooden shelf unit for TV and/or books \$50, Queen size futon and frame \$120, Twin size futon \$50, 3-speed oscillating fan \$20, and floor halogen lamp \$20. Prices are negotiable. Call Ana at 781-0051. Please leave a message.

A.W.O.L.: Three Rainin Pipetmen, serial numbers E30027N(P20), N8318292(P20), and E16300N(P20). Last seen wearing white slacks, navy blue jackets and berets, and speaking with French accents. If located, please contact Pat at x221, or return to the Sanford Lab, Hedrick Hall (no questions asked). Huge reward!

(BRIEFS, cont.)

had direct access to the Internet, and 3.9 million have access by subscribing to commercial on-line services. In addition, 67% of direct Internet users were male; more than half were between the ages of 18-34; and 25% were between 35 and 44.

Source: NYS Vegetable Growers News, Dec. 1995

RETAIL PRODUCE SALES ARE UP

As consumers become more health conscious and the USDA's 5 A Daily spreads, consumption and sales in produce departments across the country show a healthy upward trend.

Fresh fruit and vegetable retail sales topped \$57 billion in 1993, with fresh fruit accounting for \$37.7 billion of this amount. Retail product departments have showed steady growth in sales, profits, gross margins, and variety offered for the past 20 years.

In 1993, of the \$57 billion in retail sales (including grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores), fresh fruit accounted for \$15.8 billion, and fresh vegetables accounted for \$40.4 billion. The variety of items being offered in produce departments has also grown. In 1975, the average number of items was 65; in 1993, 282 to 301 items.

Of interest to researchers at the Experiment Station is the fact that apples continue to be the top seller, accounting for nearly 10% of all produce sales, followed by bananas and citrus at 6%. Among vegetables, tomatoes account for 9% of produce sales, potatoes account for 7% and lettuce accounts for 5%.

Source: NYS Vegetable Growers News, citing from PMA's Freshline and Supermarket Business.



LIBRARY NEWS

Please check your office and lab for the following missing books and return to the Jordan Hall Library. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Physical properties of foods | 664 .P57 |
| Food hydrocolloids, vol. 1 & 2 | 664.01 .F74 |
| Viticulture and environment.... | Mann SB388 .G54 1992 |

SURPLUS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

The following are being surplusd by the Station. Minimum bid prices are given for each item. Sealed bids will be accepted in the Station Buildings and Properties Office until January 19, 1996, at 2:00 pm. Please be sure to include your name, campus telephone number, and department on each bid. The Station has the right to reject any or all bids.

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| 1 Dodge Aries, 1987, 4-door sedan, Ser. No. 1B3BD36D4HF1999556, poor condition, minimum bid \$700. | 1 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup, 1981, Ser. No. 2GCCC14DXB1159557, poor condition, minimum bid \$800. |
| 1 Dodge Aries, 1986, 4-door sedan, Ser. No. 1B3BD36DXGF145127, poor condition, minimum bid \$500. | 1 Economy Power King Tractor, 1971, with attachments, mower, blower and cab, Ser. No. 22851, poor condition, minimum bid \$400 |
| 1 Dodge Aries, 1986, 4-door sedan, Ser. No. 1B3BD36D8GF145126, poor condition, minimum bid \$600. | |

