

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

STATION NEWS

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SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4, 1996

BRIEFS

APPLE FACTS

- The 1995 apple crop in New York was 1.11 billion pounds, or 26.4 million bushels. Projections for 1996 are 25 million bushels, or 1.05 billion pounds.
- In 1996, New York is projected to be the second largest apple producer in the U.S., behind Washington, and in front of Michigan.
- In 1996, as in previous years, McIntosh will be the leading variety produced in the state, accounting for 21% of total production.
- In 1995, the value of utilized apple production, based on packinghouse door equivalent returns, totaled \$134 million.

“LIKE THE SMELL OF A WET
DISH CLOTH”

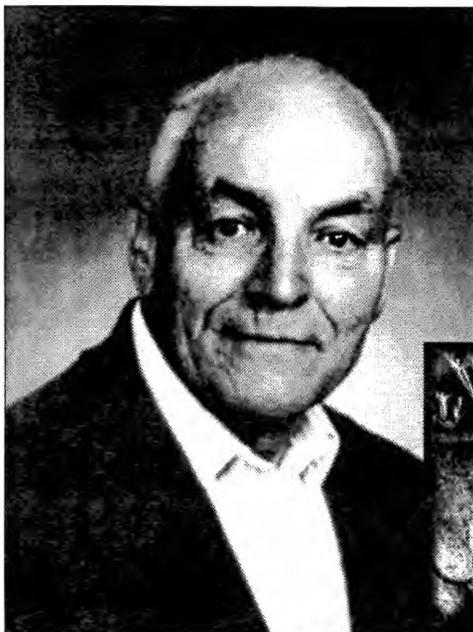
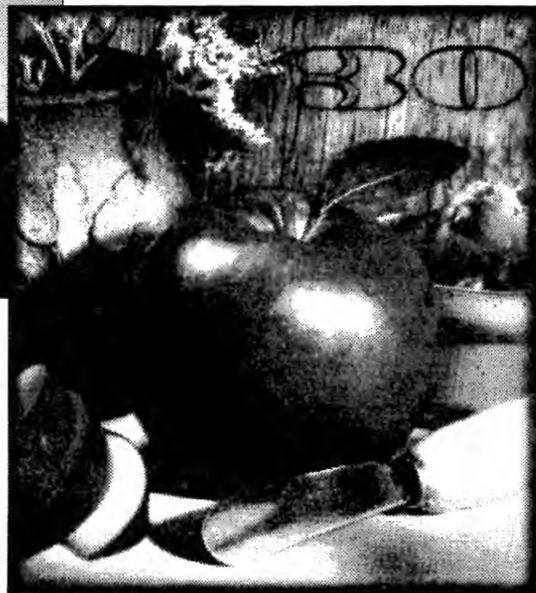
In early September, Station enologist Thomas Henick-Kling reported tasting premature aging off-odors in a few 1994 and 1995 Finger Lakes wines at area wineries. “The odor is that of a wet dish cloth or wet mop. Some people might call it oxidized,” said Henick-Kling, in a recent letter to New York winemakers.

Nobody can tell yet what the chemistry is of this off-odor, he said. Apparent precursors for this odor are formed in grapes when the vines are under water stress—grown in dry years and on dry sites, for instance.

He reported that the general conditions that lead to this off-odor are predominant in many vineyards in New York, especially in 1994 and to some extent in 1995—perhaps, also in 1996.

Water deficit can lead to a nitrogen deficit in the vines, which, in turn, can lead to the formation of the precursors. Elimination of the water deficit helps. So does the addition of nitrogen nutrients for the yeast. Apparently, when the yeast have enough usable nitrogen, they produce less of the off-odor.

Given the generally (very) low (usable) ni-
(Continued on page 2)

The Empire
is 30!

Empire, the most successful apple variety ever released by the Geneva Experiment Station, is 30! Pomologist Roger D. Way officially introduced Empire to the world on September 15, 1966, after two decades of careful evaluation.

“Empire is a cross between a McIntosh and Red Delicious—a medium-sized, attractive, dark red apple, of excellent eating quality,” said Way. In the orchard, Empire trees are highly productive and grower-friendly. They consistently outyield Red Delicious and are better than McIntosh as far as marketable yield is concerned. Empire stores well and is very suitable for high-density apple orchards.

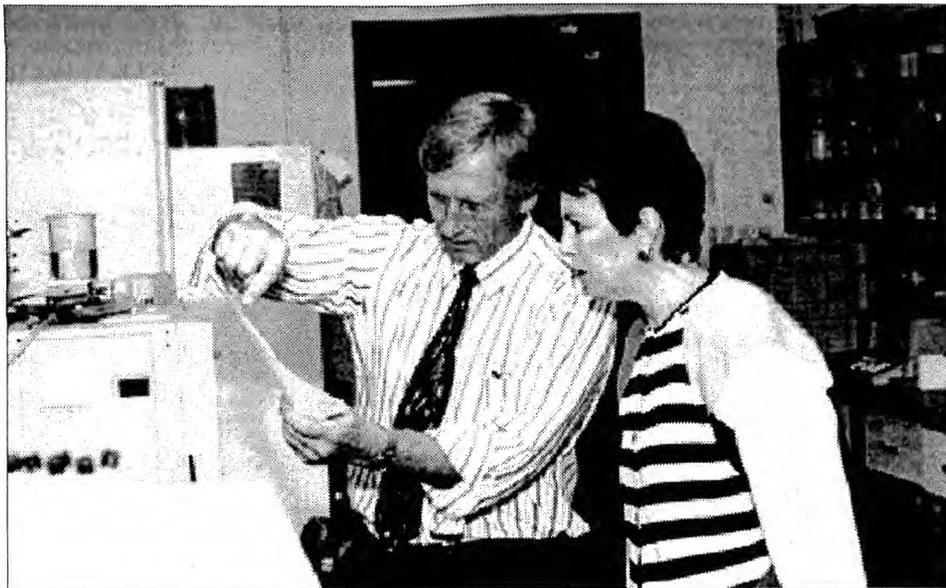
“Empire is arguably the most successful apple variety ever released by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station,” said Ken Silsby, fruit extension specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension, in an article on “Tree Fruits” in the August issue of *American Agriculturist*.

According to Silsby, Empire has gained a wide acceptance for a number of reasons. It is productive under a wide range of planting systems; it is harvested during the gap between McIntosh and Delicious; it is resistant to preharvest fruit drop and storage scald; it has low susceptibility to fire blight; and it has outstanding fruit quality for both color, firmness, and storage.

“It can take 15 to 20 years for a new introduction to gain wide acceptance among commercial growers and consumers,” said Susan K. Brown, the current director of the Station’s apple breeding program. She released the station’s newest apple, Fortune, last January. “Empire is an excellent example of just how worthwhile these introductions can be in the long term,” Brown said. Fortune, a firm, juicy apple with a sprightly, spicy flavor, is good for fresh eating, pies, and sauce, and will be available in limited quantities at local supermarkets this fall.

(Continued on page 2)

UNDER SECRETARY WOTEKI VISITS STATION



Catherine Woteki, Acting Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics of the USDA, toured the Experiment Station on Tuesday, September 24. In the course of her tour, she learned more about the biological control of insects. Here, Wendell Roelofs explains how an insect's antenna can be connected to the outlet of a gas chromatograph to detect possible attractant chemicals from host plants.

(BRIEFS, Cont.)

trogen content in New York grape musts, Henick-Kling recommends adding 8 lbs/1000 gallons (1g/L) of DAP (diammonium hydrogen phosphate). Add the DAP to the must after racking, for red grapes immediately after crushing, then add the yeast starter culture.

This recommendation is based on a limited number of samples of grape must tested by enologists in the Wine Research and Extension Program at Geneva. Station enologists need to know more about particular winemakers' musts in order to make better recommendations. Henick-Kling suggest collecting samples from different musts over the course of this harvest, and sending the samples to him by overnight express, still frozen, or dropping them off at the lab.

The Wine Research and Extension program can provide free plastic sampling bottles. The cost of analysis for 6 and more samples for New York wineries is \$25.

For more information, call 315-787-2277.

NYS VEGETABLE CONFERENCE: Feb. 11-13

The 9th Annual New York State Vegetable Conference will be held on February 11-13, 1997, at the Four Points Hotel Sheraton Inn & Convention Center, in Liverpool, NY. The conference draws more than 1,200 fresh market and processing vegetable growers and allied industry representatives from around the state, the Northeast, and Canada.

Principle commodities to be covered will include kraut cabbage, onions, potatoes, leafy greens, beans, and market/specialty crops. In addition, a half-day Potato Short Course, and an in-depth all-day Sweet Corn School are planned, along with sessions on organic production, soil quality management, labor regulations and management, and two special computer workshops. Over 80 exhibitors are expected at the trade show.

The ever-popular Social Hour on Tuesday evening will include a tribute to the late Robert Becker, who was a special friend to growers and the New York State processing industry.

For more information, call Jean Warholc at 607-539-7648.

(EMPIRE, Cont.)

Empire originated from the cross McIntosh x Delicious, made in 1945 from open-pollinated seeds collected by Lester C. Anderson, a Cornell fruit nutritionist who used his own orchards in the Hudson Valley for research. Under the directive of then Station Director A.J. Heinicke, apple breeders from Geneva went to one of Anderson's orchard in which only McIntosh and Delicious apples grew, harvested 20 bushels, removed the seeds, ran them through the usual after-ripening, dormancy treatment process, and grew out large populations. In 1947, approximately 1,199 seedlings of N.Y. 45500, as the McIntosh x Delicious was called, were planted at the Geneva Station. From these seedlings, further selections were made in 1954 and observed for 12 years in a second trial planting. Roger Way, who came to work at the Station in 1949, determined N.Y. 45500-5 was suitable for release and went about finding an appropriate name for the new apple.

"The process of naming a new apple is quite involved," said Way. For Empire, more than 100 names were suggested and 21 finalists sent to chain store produce buyers for their opinions. Empire received the most votes. The Apple Variety Committee of the New York State Horticultural Society recommended that it be named Empire, for New York, the Empire State, and it was officially introduced to the world at the New York State Fruit Testing Association meetings in Geneva, on September 15, 1966.

Empire is in large production in Michigan, New York, and New England states and has tended to replace some production of Cortland and McIntosh. Because of its favorable name recognition and excellent eating qualities, Empire apples are increasingly exported to the United Kingdom.

In 1966, New York growers will produce 110 million lbs. of Empire, which is an increase of 16 percent from 1995 figures. That is roughly half of the total U.S. Empire crop.

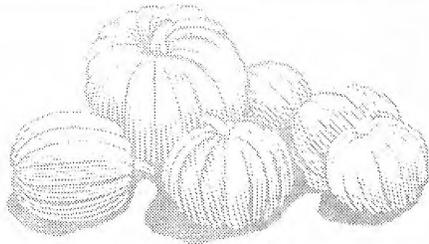
Empire is one of five prominent commercial varieties that have been released by Geneva during its 116-year history of service to New York State agriculture. The other four are Cortland, Jonagold, Macoun, and Jonamac. In 1996, these varieties will account for roughly one-fifth of all New York production.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT

This year's Outstanding Employee of the Year will be announced at the November 8 Station Club Banquet.

Send your letter of nomination to Al Fairbrother via campus mail or E-mail (arf2@nysaes.cornell.edu) by Friday, October 18.

It's an easy way to give that co-worker a well deserved pat on the back.



Pumpkins available today
Friday, September 27
3:30-4:30 pm

Vegetable Research Farm, Field #25
Rain date:
Monday, September 30, same time

DATES TO SAVE



**Station Club
BANQUET**
Friday, November 8

...and the next day

Station Craft Fair/Book Sale

Saturday, November 9

Station Club Holiday Party

Saturday, December 14

NEW PHONE LISTING

Pick up in your department/unit a copy of the new phone listing sent out with this issue of *News*. (The phone list is also available on the CC File Server in the folder titled "Station Info".)

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE/FAMILY DAY SET

Saturday, October 19, is the date set for the 22nd Annual Employee/Family Day on the Ithaca campus. The Cornell-Colgate football game will kick off at 1:30 pm at Schoellkopf Field, followed by a chicken barbecue or vegetarian entree choice, to be served in Barton Hall from 3:30-5:30 pm.

To purchase tickets, complete the form below and send to the Personnel Office, Jordan Hall. Make check payable to "Cornell University."



Name: _____

Department: _____

Extension: _____ E-mail address: _____

No.	Ticket Type	Total
___	Football @ \$3.00 each	\$ ___
___	Chicken Barbecue @ \$2.50 each	\$ ___
___	Vegetarian Entree @ \$2.50 each	\$ ___
Total amount enclosed		= \$ ___

PLANNING FOR LIFE STAGES SEMINAR OFFERED

A one-day seminar entitled "Planning for Life Stages" is being offered Saturday, October 5, on the Ithaca campus by Work and Family Service, Office of Human Resources. This one-day seminar is designed to help you and your partner, spouse or other family members decide where you want to go in life and what path you plan to take—before you get there. Topics to be covered include interpersonal relationships, leisure and work, financial planning, and health and wellness. It will focus on the special situations of the class participants.

This one-day seminar is similar to the program Charie Hibbard has tried to arrange for Geneva, but due to insufficient registration numbers to support the seminars, they were not held. The feedback Charie has received from participants who have attended past seminars is that "this seminar is worth the time spent on a Saturday."

There is a fee of \$25 for course materials that you will be able to take home (you may share your materials with your guest if you wish). If you are interested in registering or would like more information, please contact Sonja Baylor at ssb2@cornell.edu or call her at 8-5-3649.

BOWHUNTING ON STATION PROPERTY

Any station employee interested in bowhunting on the Station's property should see Mark L. Scott in the Field Research Unit. Please bring a copy of your hunting license with you when signing up. If you have any questions, give Mark a call at x296.

*I want to dance always, to be good and not evil,
and when it is all over not to have the feeling
that I might have done it better...*



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4, 1996

EVENTS/MEETINGS

Monday, September 30, 4:00 pm

Staff Room, Jordan Hall

CALS Chairs meeting via CUSeeMe

SEMINAR

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, October 1

Time: 3:30 pm

Place: Room A133, Barton Lab

Speaker: Ji-Hyun Kim

Department of Plant Pathology,
Ithaca

Topic: Comparison of the hrpNC regions of *E. amylovora* and *E. chrysanthemi*

REMINDER

Bonnie Carney Retirement Dinner

Friday, October 25 • Holiday Inn in Waterloo

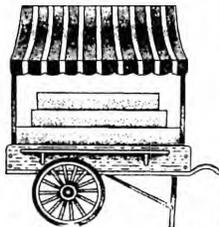
6:00 pm—Social Hour • 7:00 pm—Dinner

Call Nancy Staton at x323 to sign up.

PEOPLE

A note of thanks:

The retirement party's over — but the memories linger on! I want to thank my many friends who shared this special evening with me and for all the gifts—especially the one behind Door #3.



The beautiful flower cart carefully handcrafted by Matt Lewis was a vision to behold. Absolutely perfect and I wouldn't have wanted anything else. I will always treasure my flowery investment for the future—complete with a generous allowance for buying next year's seeds and bulbs.

I also want to thank Joe Ogradnick for his "well done" ROAST BERNADINE, the program speakers, and all the other party favors from Communications Services. I think Communications Services should now add "planning retirement parties" to their list of services to the Station.

Thanks again to all of you, and now I can't wait for the **Summer of 1997** and my flower customers!

Bernadine Aldwinckle

CLASSIFIEDS

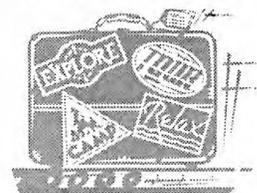
FOR RENT: Apartments in restored row house on South Main St. with studio, 1, and 2 bedroom apartments available. Furnished or unfurnished. Apartments include features such as lake views, hardwood floors, fireplaces, and porches. Call 781-2932.

FOUND: Bag of clothing found in Staff Room, Jordan Hall. Claim by calling Sandy Antinelli at x248.

SKI/BIKE CLUB: Do you enjoy Nordic skiing, mountain biking, road biking? The Finger Lakes Ski and Bike Club will be holding an organizational meeting on Wednesday, October 2 at 7:30 pm. Room B-100, Geneva Extension Center, Finger Lakes Community College, 361 South Main Street, Geneva (top of Seneca Street hill).

FOR SALE: New 5-gallon carboys for home wine making. \$16 each. Call John Ludwig at 539-3155 or x317.

Don Lipker • Charlie D'Amico • Tom Bryan



Retirement Party

Entree Choices:

Baked Chicken • NY Strip Steak • Broiled Fish

Please respond by **October 14** to Dave Lasher, Buildings and Properties, NYSAES, PO Box 462, Geneva, NY 14456



Please print:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

• Dinner Choices •

No.	Entree	Total
_____	Baked Chicken (\$15.00)	_____
_____	NY Strip Steak (\$20.00)	_____
_____	Broiled Fish (\$18.00)	_____

*Gift donation included in dinner price

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Please respond by **October 14, 1996**. Make check payable to Dave Lasher