

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

STATION NEWS

GENEVA
NEW • YORK

VOLUME LXXVIII • NO. 5

FEBRUARY 7-14, 1997

BRIEFS

NEWS CORRECTIONS

The article on winter pruning in last week's *Station News* should have stated that Buildings and Properties is responsible for all snow removal on the Experiment Station main campus. The Field Research Unit is responsible for snow removal on the Station farms. In addition, B&P plows out the weather station on the Fruit & Vegetable Research Farm so FRU can take the daily weather readings for the National Weather Service.

VEGETABLES RANKED BY
PRODUCTION VALUE

According to the New York Agricultural Statistics office, the top 12 vegetables in New York State in 1995, ranked as a percentage of relative production value were: potatoes, 21.6%; cabbage, 17.0%; onions, 14.8%; sweet corn (fresh), 14.4%; sweet corn (processed), 6.1%; snap beans (processed), 4.7%; green peas (processed), 3.6%; strawberries, 3.4%; snap beans (fresh), 3.3%; tomatoes, 2.8%; cucumbers; 2.5%; and cauliflower, 1.8 %.

According to Enrique E. Figueroa, Assoc. Professor of ARME, processed vegetables in New York had their best production value year in 1995; the value was nearly 21% higher than the five year average. Green peas and sweet corn had both higher prices and higher production in 1995 than in 1994. The production value of both snap beans and sweet corn increased by 22% in 1995.

Fresh market sweet corn prices were nearly 50% higher in 1995 than in 1994 and production declined by 16%. Fresh market cabbage prices were higher in 1995 than 1994, and production was the same in both years.

(BRIEFS, Continued on page 3)

State Vegetable Conference is Next Week

The ninth annual New York State Vegetable Conference will be held in Syracuse, February 11-13. The Conference is the highlight of the winter season for New York State growers who have acreage devoted to the commercial production of corn, peas, beans, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, or leafy greens. Over 80 exhibitors will be showcasing the latest in equipment, products and services. And nearly all Experiment Station researchers who have extension or research responsibilities in vegetables will be in attendance. Most of them are presenters at the Conference's highly-respected educational sessions.

Education is the main draw for many of the growers, as they have the opportunity to participate in three concurrently-run sessions each day. Topics include production research, marketing strategies, labor issues, disease control, pesticide and health issues, recordkeeping, cultural practices, post harvest handling, online services, and more. Growers, specialists, and industry leaders will present more than 100 talks in 20 sessions over the three full days.

Experiment Station researchers who have been crunching data from last summer's trials, preparing slides on their research, and writing talks for their sessions include: Helene Dillard who is scheduled for four sessions on diseases in snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn, tomatoes and peppers; Thomas Bjorkman and George Abawi on root health in snap beans; Bjorkman on buckwheat as a soil conditioner; Tony Shelton on cabbage pests; Steve Reiners on cultural practices for sweet corn; and Chuck Eckenrode on onion pests.

This year's Conference is dedicated to the memory of Robert F. Becker, for his outstanding contributions to and support of the New York State vegetable industry. Becker died unexpectedly in July 1996 and is greatly missed by his friends in the industry.

The conference draws over 1,200 growers and industry representatives from the Northeast and Canada, according to Executive Secretary Jean Warholic, who is Conference co-chair and trade show manager. "We are expecting 450 to 500 people per day," said Steve Reiners, of the Department of Horticultural Sciences, who is the other conference co-chair.

Reiners said the good news for 1997 is that "things have to improve." The weather in 1996 was a depressing factor for the New York State vegetable industry. "It was too wet in the spring, the summer was not very warm, and we had an early frost," said Reiners. "The result was, the value of fresh market vegetables dropped from \$170 million to \$110 million, even though acreage was about the same." New York State vegetables do much better in dry years than in wet.

Growers put in 20,000 additional acres of processing vegetables in 1996, mostly in corn, beans and peas. Again, weather affected the yields, said Reiners. "Growers and processors were lucky to get what they did," said Reiners.

Reiners noted several trends for 1997 which will be addressed during the Conference. "The organic vegetable industry is experiencing steady growth at about 3-5% per year," he

(Continued on page 2)



This year's Conference is dedicated to the memory of Robert F. Becker.

(CONFERENCE cont.)

said, noting that the rate of growth was "healthy" and "about as much as the growers could sustain."

Reiners also noted that growers were taking soil quality much more seriously. "At the Conference, we will be addressing issues like soil compaction—which is always a problem in New York State—soil tilth, cover cropping, deep tillage, and other ways to maintain and improve soil quality."

A noticeable trend among growers and industry reps is the burgeoning interest in computer information services. At the Conference, there will be on-going sessions featuring the latest in online services for agriculture, including basic information about the Internet, the World Wide Web, and the technology needed to access them. In addition, market information services like Acres, DTN, Produce Network, and Lind will be covered. City Bank and M&T Bank will be offering a program on on-line banking services.

"We had a small demonstration program on weather systems accessible by computer last year that was very well attended," said Reiners. "There is a lot of interest among growers to see what kind of hardware and software is out there for them. Increasingly, they are looking for more than the weather."

Daryl Lund, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, will join the Conference on Tuesday evening to make some remarks about the industry at the annual Social Hour. During that time, the Integrated Pest Management group at Geneva will be making their annual awards, and Jim Hunter will be making comments to honor Bob Becker.

As in the past, the published *Proceedings* from the 1997 NYS Vegetable Conference will be available for those who attend the Conference. Non-participants can purchase the *Proceedings* after the Conference for \$14 each, by contacting Jean Warholic at 607-539-7648. This year, the *Proceedings* are 210 pages long—the largest and more informative ever. Most of the talks presented at the Conference are included in the packet. Publishing the *Proceedings* is an annual project of the Print Shop at the Experiment Station, and is printer Bruce Moore's most ambitious project of the year.

The Conference is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the New York State Vegetable Growers Association, the Empire State Potato Club, and the Associated New York State Food Processors.

WORKSHOP ON CLARISWORKS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 18

Many individuals have been looking for a suitable and relatively inexpensive alternative to Microsoft Office. An application, called ClarisWorks, is becoming increasingly accepted as a friendly and fairly complete program that can be used in place of Microsoft Office. ClarisWorks includes the following programs: word processing, draw, paint, spreadsheet, and database.

A workshop on ClarisWorks will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 1997 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Auditorium of Jordan Hall. Refreshments will be served and features of all the various programs in ClarisWorks will be explained and demonstrated, including how to combine drawings easily within word processing documents, the ease with which mail merge documents can be created using a combination of the word processing and database programs, the ease with which slides can be made using either the word processing or draw programs, and a general discussion of advantages and disadvantages of ClarisWorks compared to Microsoft Office.

Instructor for the workshop will be Pat Krauss, assistant to the director, who has been using ClarisWorks as his principal program for word processing, drawing, spreadsheets, and database work for more than six months. Ample opportunity will be given participants in the workshop to ask questions.

If you already have specific questions that you would like addressed, it would be helpful for you to send them to Pat Krauss at rek3@nysaes.cornell.edu in advance of the workshop.

Going... Going... Gone!



Food Science Stockroom Give-A-Way!!

Who:
To All Station Depts/Units

What:
Free" Inventory Stock

When:
February 3rd-28th

Time:
8:00am-Noon and
1:00-4:00 pm daily

Where:
FST Stockroom (G-17)

Terms:
For Station Use Only

(BRIEFS, cont.)

NIFTY URLS FROM THE LIBRARY

Ever wonder what the quickest route is between Geneva and Corning, NY, or maybe between Geneva and New York City, Chicago, or Philadelphia? A new site on the WWW provides instantaneous directions including highlighted maps between any two locations in the continental USA. You can bring up detailed instructions for both "quickest" routing (often via highways) and "shortest" routing (often via rural roads). To find out, point your browser to URL: <http://www.delorme.com/cybermaps/cyberrouter.htm>

You get both maps and text-based routing directions. So don't leave home without downloading your own personal itinerary brought to you by map makers Delorme, Inc. Happy travels.

THROOP JOINS LAKE ERIE GRAPE PROGRAM AT FREDONIA

Phil Throop was recently hired as the area viticulture Extension educator for the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program. He will be in charge of the education efforts of the team that includes Cornell Extension agents Barry Shaffer and Tim Weigle, and Penn State's Tom Obourn.

Throop graduated with a bachelor's degree in fruit and vegetable science from Michigan State University in 1991, and received his master's degree in horticulture and fruit science in 1995. Most recently he was a groundwater technician in Michigan, and performed a three-month research project on blueberry plant nutrition.

RESEARCH FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE NYS VEGETABLE GROWERS

The New York State Vegetables Growers Association has announced that they will be awarding nearly \$11,000 for research projects in 1997. A review committee has been appointed, and project proposals are being solicited. The committee will give an update on the fund at the upcoming NYS Vegetable Conference in Syracuse next week.

The research fund was first established in 1996 and is based on voluntary contributions from growers in the industry. The NYSVGA sends out pledge cards with membership renewal forms. Their suggested donation rate is \$2 per acre.

Apple Industry Leadership Forum



The 1997 Apple Industry Leadership Forum was held Jan. 28-30 in Syracuse and was attended by growers, industry leaders, and Station researchers who met to discuss trade and marketing issues. Pictured here: Dave Rosenberger of the Hudson Valley Lab discusses the Hudson Valley industry with Rod Dressel, Sr., a grower from Downstate. New York is the second largest apple producing state in the U.S., averaging 25.24 million bushels of apples annually, valued at about \$130 million.

Wondering what to give your sweetheart for Valentine's Day?

The Bulletin Office, Jordan Hall, stocks a full-line of official Station Club apparel. Items include sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats, and aprons. The Bulletin Office is open from 1-5 Monday through Thursday, and 8:00-Noon on Friday.

SWEATSHIRTS

Adult	XXL	\$15.00
Adult	M,L,XL	\$13.00
Children	M (10-12), L (14-16)	\$11.00

T-SHIRTS

Adult	S,M,L,XL,XXL	\$7.00
Children	M (12-14), L (14-16)	\$6.00

HATS (Adjustable Sizing) \$6.00

APRONS (One size fits all) \$10.00

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 7-14, 1997

EVENTS/MEETINGS

Saturday, February 8, 9:00 pm

Sunset Bowl, Geneva

13th Annual Station Club Bowling Party

Tuesday-Thursday, February 11-13

Hotel Sheraton and Convention Center,
Liverpool, NY

1997 Vegetable Conference and Trade Show



DEADLINES

Wednesday, February 12

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program/Grape Production Research Fund/Wine and Grape Foundation progress reports and proposals due in Director's Office.

PEOPLE

• Correction to B&P position change:

It was reported in last week's *News* that Jeffrey Thibault will replace Chris Bauer as Custodian in Barton Lab. This information was reported incorrectly—Jeffrey Thibault will replace Chris Bauer as custodian in PGRU, Seed Lab, and B&P.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOUND: Black watch on the west side of Hedrick Hall. To claim at Room 101, Hedrick Hall or call x394.

FOR RENT: Furnished room to non-smoker. Use of kitchen and laundry. Separate bathroom, garage. Must supply own linen, towels, etc. South Main St. (near HWS), 1-1/2 mi from Station. Available immediately. \$275/month. Call 789-3226.

FOR SALE: Ladies figure skates. Size 8. Only worn one time. \$25.00. Contact Colleen at x318 or cmh6@cornell.edu.

FORSALE: Three-bedroom house on Route 96, Phelps. No pets. Security deposit required. \$550/month plus utilities. Washer and dryer hook-up. Please call (315)548-2516.

MOVING SALE: White love seat, like new—orig. \$350 asking \$150. Antique, drop-leaf cherry table—\$200. Jane Fonda treadmill (not used much!) Orig. \$300—asking \$75. TV stand—\$20. Please call 331-6332.

SKI TICKET BARGAIN: Get a lift ticket for downhill skiing at Bristol Mt. on Sunday, Feb. 16, 5-10 pm for only \$11! Rentals will be available for \$9, and lessons for \$5. Proceeds will benefit the Bristol Mt. Ski Patrol. Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 7. Contact Jennifer Grant (jag7, x342 or 789-2126).

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

The Department of Horticultural Sciences is hosting a half-day mini workshop on root biology of horticultural crops. Main speakers will be from the Penn State University Root Biology Program:

Date: Monday, February 10

Time: 1:00-5:00 pm

Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall

Speakers and Topics:

Dr. Jonathan Lynch

Effect of phosphorus nutrition on root architecture in beans

Dr. Dave Eissenstat

Factors affecting root lifespan in woody perennials

Ms. Christina Wells

Fine Root Turnover in Apple: a demographic approach.

After the presentations, there will be coffee and refreshments, followed by an open discussion of questions and interests in root biology. Those who are working on root biology are invited to briefly explain (2-3 minutes) their activities to the group (a simple handout describing activities is suggested).

For further information contact Drs. Thomas Bjorkman (tnb1@cornell.edu or 315-787-2218) or Alan Lakso (anl2@cornell.edu or 315-787-2399).

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, February 11

Time: 10:30 am

Place: FST Conference Room,
Second Floor

Speaker: Frank Duncan

Engineer of Glass Packaging Institute

Topic: Light Weight Glass Containers

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, February 11

Time: 3:30 pm

Place: Room A133, Barton Lab

Speaker: Margret More

Department of Microbiology
Cornell University, Ithaca

Topic: Quorum dependent activation of conjugation in *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*: *In vitro* autoinducer synthesis by Tral

"WHAT IS HE?"

—D.H. LAWRENCE—



"What is He?"

A man of course.

Yes, but what does he do?

He lives and he is a man.

*Oh quite! but he must work.
He must have a job of some sort.*

Why?

*Because obviously he's not one
of the leisured classes.*

I don't know.
He has lots of leisure. And
he makes quite beautiful chairs.

*There you are then!
He is a cabinet maker.*

No, no!

Anyhow a carpenter and a joiner.

No, not at all.

But you said so.

What did I say?

*That he made chairs, and
was a joiner and a carpenter.*

I said he made chairs, but
I did not say he was a carpenter.

*All right then,
he's just an amateur?*

Perhaps! Would you say a thrush
was a professional flautist, or just
an amateur?

I'd say it was just a bird.

And I say he is just a man.

All right! You always did quibble."