

CORNELL UNIVERSITY STATION NEWS GENEVA NEW YORK

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BRIEFS

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FIGURES ARE UP

In a paper delivered at the annual Cornell Economic Outlook Conference on December 14, 1999, Wen-fei L. Uva, senior extension associate, reported some figures on vegetable production in New York State. "According to the 1997 Census of Agriculture, there were 2,719 vegetable farms in New York State in 1997, with around 170,000 acres and \$207 million of vegetable production," she wrote. The number of farms is decreasing in the state, but production value and acreage has increased in the past 10 years.

Total farm value of New York vegetable (fresh market and processing) was \$301 million in 1998. This figure excludes potatoes and dry beans, which were valued at \$61 million and \$9 million, respectively. The combined value of vegetables, potatoes, and dry beans (\$371 million), was about 12 percent of the total New York agricultural farm marketing receipts and about 44 percent of the total New York horticultural crop production receipts in 1998.

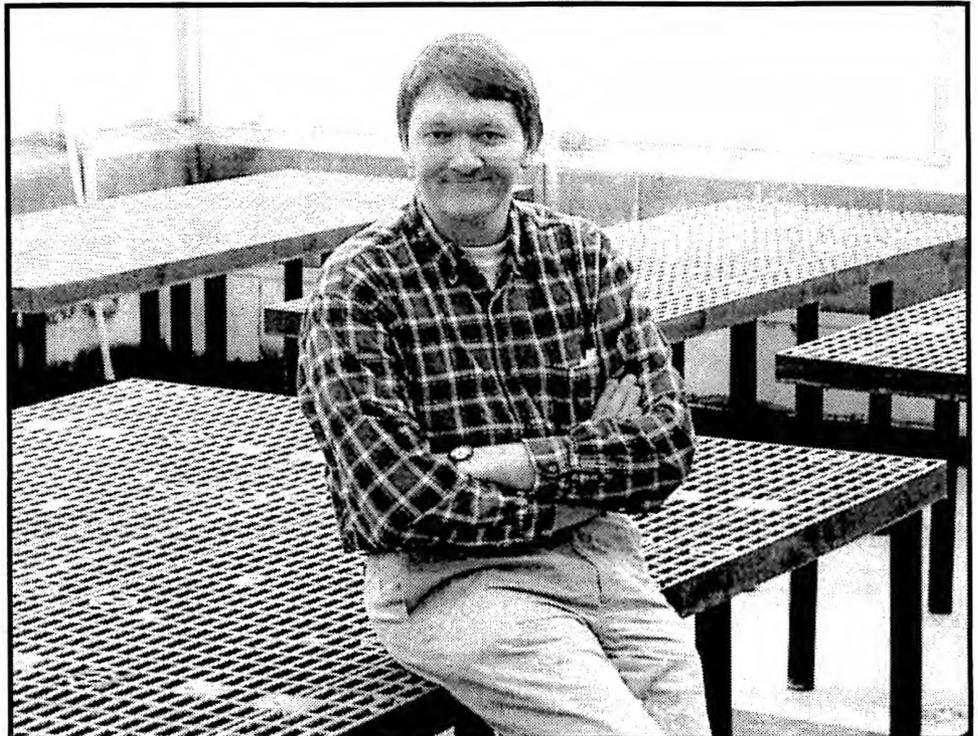
The three major fresh market vegetables in New York are cabbage, onions and sweet corn. The top three processing vegetables are sweet corn, snap beans and green peas.

All major fresh vegetables except carrots and lettuce saw growth in New York from 1996-98. And, although the total area of processing vegetables harvested in 1998 (84,900 acres) decreased slightly from 1997 (87,600 acres), the total production value increased 15 percent to \$49.8 million.

In 1998, the highest average market prices for vegetables produced in New York were snap beans (\$50.60/cwt) for fresh market vegetables, and green beans (\$330/ton) for processed vegetables. The highest production value per acre for fresh market was cauliflower (\$6,884/acre), and carrots (\$1,470/acre) for processing.

(BRIEFS, Continued on page 2)

NEW GENETICIST HIRED AT PGRU



Peter Cousins plans to fill this greenhouse in the spring with grape rootstock seedlings and grape varieties for pest resistance evaluation.

Peter S. M. Cousins has joined the USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit at the Agricultural Experiment Station as a Plant Geneticist. Cousins became the unit's Grape Rootstock Breeder on November 8, 1999.

"We are delighted Peter decided to join PGRU," said Warren Lamboy, research leader of PGRU in Geneva. "He brings to the unit a rare combination of a broad knowledge of the grape industry and the ability to rapidly establish experiments and research collaborations. Peter has demonstrated the desire and ability to improve grape rootstock selections using the most appropriate tools and technologies."

Hugh Price, chairman of the Horticultural Sciences department in Geneva, where Cousins will have a courtesy assistant professor appointment, said, "The Station is extremely fortunate to have Peter Cousins located on our campus. His interest and background in plant breeding, grapes and rootstocks will complement several Geneva programs. I look forward to his active participation in both research and extension programming."

Cousins, whose degree is in genetics but whose training is in plant breeding, felt he was a natural fit for the job. He finds the many aspects of grape rootstock improvement fascinating and challenging. When asked what he finds most appealing about the new position, Cousins

(COUSINS, Continued on page 2)

(BRIEFS, Continued from page 1)

NEW YORKERS APPOINTED TO USDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AG BIOTECHNOLOGY

Mary-Howell Martens, organic farmer and adjunct biology instructor at the Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, and Dale E. Bauman, Department of Animal Science at Cornell University, have been appointed by Agriculture Secretary Glickman to USDA's Advisory Committee on Biotechnology.

The 38 member committee will advise the Secretary on policy related to the creation, application, marketability, trade and use of agricultural biotechnology.

In announcing appointments to the committee, Glickman said, "It is my hope that this group, which brings together people with a range of perspectives and experiences, will engage in the kind of thoughtful and civil debate on biotechnology that our country now needs. The panel will examine many of the complex issues related to biotechnology."

Martens has many ties to the Experiment Station. She was a graduate student of Mike Dickson's from 1980-82, and worked in Bruce Reisch's program for 10 years, from 1983-93. She has returned to the Station to do special projects in grapes every summer since.

Martens and her husband have an 1,100-acre organic farm near Penn Yan, where they produce soy beans, corn, kidney beans, sweet corn, small grains like wheat, spelt, barley and rye, and hay. They also have an organic feed business.

Martens is very active in the New York Certified Organic Association. At FLCC she teaches plant structure and function. "I think it is a very valuable opportunity to bring balance and the organic perspective to the discussions," said Martens.

"It is essential to carefully interpret and balance the potentially valuable aspects of genetic engineering with the legitimate concern that consumers do not currently have the choice whether they eat GM food or not as long as it is unlabeled," said Martens. "This also needs to be balanced with our concerns as organic farmers and those of any other farmer who chooses not to grow GM crops that our ability to do so without genetic contamination may be jeopardized by current policy."

(COUSINS, Continued from page 1)

replied, "The position is one with national responsibility. The challenge of addressing diverse rootstock needs from across America's grape producing regions appeals to me. I recognize that, in the position I now occupy, I will be able to contribute to American viticulture through advancing grape rootstock knowledge and improving varieties."

Cousin's goals with his new program are: To establish rootstock trials in California and New York, plant rootstock breeding blocks in those states including commercial and elite varieties, make crosses, and establish colonies of grape-pathogenic nematodes and insects. He also plans to hire technicians and begin planning and construction of a new greenhouse.

Cousins has ambitious goals for the future. "Within five years I hope to be planting rootstock trials with selections from crosses made this spring. Rootstock trials planted this year will be producing, and data collection will be underway. Fundamental knowledge on aspects of root-knot nematode resistance and host specificity, and fan-leaf virus resistance mechanisms will have been revealed," Cousins says.

When asked what he appreciates most about the Station so far, Cousins remarked, "The extensive depth and breadth of research at the Station in viticulture and plant breeding—the disciplines at whose intersection I work—create an exciting environment receptive to the examination of a wide range of scientific topics relevant to my grape rootstock program." He particularly appreciates the many interesting horticultural sciences and plant pathology seminars as a means of keeping in touch with current research in a range of fields.

Cousins received his B.S. in Biological Sciences in 1994 from Stanford University, and his Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of California, Davis, in 1999. His dissertation was on the genetics of resistance to *Meloidogyne incognita* in crosses of grape rootstocks. He developed a new more efficient assay system for evaluation of grape rootstock resistance to root-knot nematode (*M. incognita*), and using it, found significant differences between grape varieties with respect to their nematode resistance. While at Davis, Cousins served as a teaching assistant for classes in Viticulture Practices and Plant Breeding. He has published numerous papers on the genetics of grapes and grape rootstocks.

Peter lives near Trumansburg and enjoys reading and gardening. He said he felt immediately welcome by Station and PGRU personnel. Despite the fact that he hails from California, Peter plans to take a few cross-country skiing lessons to take advantage of our natural snowy resources.

J. Zakour

STATE FIRE INSPECTION

Thanks to the conscientious efforts of everyone at the Experiment Station, the annual state fire safety inspection held on Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1, 1999 resulted in very few recommendations for corrective action. The fire inspection is coordinated through the Fire Services Bureau of the NYS Academy of Fire Sciences at Moutour Falls, NY. When the Fire Inspector visits our campus, a walk-through of all buildings (including storage buildings and barns) is performed to inspect life safety related issues based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes.

The following items for corrective action were noted in the preliminary report:

- Lab doors left open
- Blocked fire escapes
- Housekeeping (storage of combustible materials such as boxes, and storage of old equipment such as computers)

Ralph D'Amato and Soon Kong will be working together to address the recommendations for corrective action. With everyone's heightened awareness of these details and continued good attention to fire safety - the NYSAES will continue to maintain its excellent record for fire safety in the year 2000.

THANKS TO EVERYONE ON THE NYSAES CAMPUS!

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Ralph D'Amato, Chief Fire Warden at X2310 or Soon Kong, EH&S Coordinator at X2350

THE NYS VEGETABLE CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 7-10

The 12th Annual 2000 New York State Vegetable Conference and Trade Show will be taking place February 7-10 at the Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool Hotel and Convention Center in Liverpool, NY.

The well-known and respected statewide conference draws over 1,300 growers and industry representatives from around the state as well as the Northeast and Canada. Growers, university specialists and industry leaders will present nearly 100 talks during 14 sessions over the three full days.

Tuesday will be devoted to potatoes, snap beans, pumpkins and vine crops, carrots, beets and cabbage and labor management. On Wednesday, the topics will be sweet corn, onions and drip irrigation. Tomatoes and peppers, high quality greens, herb and berries are the topics for Thursday.

Cornell faculty and extension educators from Ithaca and Geneva will be participating in their usual record numbers. From the Station, George Abawi will address diseases of beets, and carrots. Chuck Eckenrode, Helene Dillard, Steve Reiners and Abawi will participate in the snap bean presentations. Phillip Griffiths, John Curtis, Tony Shelton and Dillard will talk about cabbage. Mike Hoffmann, Curt Petzoldt and Steve Reiners will talk about sweet corn. Eckenrode, Mary Lou Hessney, Abawi, and John Roberts will talk about onions. As for tomatoes and peppers, expect to hear Dillard and Randy Worobo. The berry growers will be listening to Courtney Webber and Bob Kime.

The new Becker Forum, held in honor of Bob Becker, on Monday afternoon, February 7, from 1-5 p.m. will provide information on the topic "Genetically Engineered Vegetables: Are They Worth It?" The goal of the forum is to help increase grower understanding of the technology and what is coming for vegetables; to learn more about how GE crops fit into food production and marketing; to appreciate the multiple perspectives about GE, including growers, processors, marketers, consumers, policy makers, and environmental groups; and to increase growers ability to respond to questions about GE crops from customers.

Key to this important event are the exhibitors in the Trade Show. Over 80 companies will be there with the latest in equipment, packaging, biocontrols, seeds, supplies, crop protectants, products and services for the vegetable industry. A variety of organizations will also have booths outside the trade show area.

The conference social hour on Wednesday is one of the best-attended conference events. Starting at 5:30 and running until 7 p.m., it is a wonderful opportunity to mingle with invited guests and legislators, fellow growers, and company representatives, as well as university faculty and out-of-area speakers. Larry Eckhardt, president of the NYS Vegetable Growers Association, will emcee.

The NYS Berry Growers will meet again this year during the Vegetable Conference. Two concurrent morning sessions on February 10 will focus on currants and gooseberries, and new cultivation tools for strawberries. In addition, the growers will consider the mechanics of drip irrigation and biennial raspberries (production without pruning).

Conference proceedings are currently being printed in the Experiment Station's print shop by Bruce Moore. The 240-page book contains valuable information from all the presenters, and is available free with registration. Extra copies may be purchased for \$10 each (\$20, if mailed). Contact Jean Warholic at 607-539-7648 for more information.

**Y'ALL ARE INVITED TO A RETIREMENT PARTY
FOR GOOD OLE BOY**

CHUCK ECKENRODE

**ON FEBRUARY 19, 2000
AT THE GENEVA COUNTRY CLUB RANCH
BREWS: 6PM VITTLES: 7PM**

\$19.50 PER PERSON (INCLUDES TIP) SIGN UP WITH NANCY REISSIG BY 2/14/00

CALENDAR of EVENTS

JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 4, 2000

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, January 31
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Speaker: Tom Facer, Vice President Agricultural Services, Agrilink Foods, Inc.
Title: "Fruit and Vegetable Processing in the New Millennium"

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: February 1, 2000
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: A133 Barton Lab
Speaker: Professor George Hudler, Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Title: "Great Moments in History and How Fungi Got Us There"

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DATE: Friday, February 11
TIME: 3p.m.
PLACE: Jordan Hall Staff Room
SPEAKER: Dr. Randy Worobo, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Food Science, Cornell University, NYSAES
TITLE: "Bacterial Seduction, Sex and Murder"

LTC

Date: January 31, 2000
Time: 2-3 p.m.
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall
Title: SciFinder Scholar

Service abstract and registry database, from 1967 to the present. SciFinder Scholar allows the researcher to search this vast database by chemical name, chemical structure, molecular formula, research topic, and other document information. This workshop will introduce the myriad of possibilities for searching and navigating through results, with closer looks at structure and topic searching. We will also explore printing, saving and exporting results to various computer applications and reference management options. Bring questions and examples.

Leah Solla - Librarian from Physical Sciences Library, Key Contact for SciFinder Scholar - Instructor.

(LTC, Continued)

Date: February 3, 2000
Time: 10-11:30 am.
Title: e-Journals
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall

Prerequisite: MS Windows or Macintosh experience. Academic publishing, especially in the sciences, has been moving headlong into the realm of electronic journals. Find out what is available from your own desktop. This class will cover how to locate e-journals, as well as cover the technical limitations concerning access, printing and saving.

Marty Schlabach - Acting Director, Geneva Library, Librarian, Entomology Library and Mann Library- Instructor.

REMINDER

RESEARCH PROPOSALS for the Apple Research and Development Program are due by Thursday, February 10. Send 20 copies to Mary Lou Dumbleton, Jordan Hall.

FORKLIFT TRAINING: Please register for either the morning (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) or afternoon (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) on Feb. 2, if you have not already done so. *Please note that the afternoon session will be from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. The earlier time given was incorrect.*

FITNESS

AEROBICS AT THE SAWDUST CAFE

Date: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Time: 12:10 to 1 p.m.

This group uses the videotapes of the fitness expert "Gilad." VCR and tapes are provided by the Station Club. For more information contact Julie Kikkert at x2221 or jrk2@cornell.edu.

TAEKARDIO

Date: Monday, January 31, 2000
Time: Noon
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

★ LOCATION CHANGE ★

Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2000
Time: Noon
Place: Sawdust Cafe

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: 1990 Chevrolet Beretta, 116,000 miles, no rust (spent most of its days in Florida) with A/C and cruise control. Just had checked out by a mechanic and said the engine is in good shape. Please contact soon if interested (x2407 or x2474).

FOR SALE: Honda Accord LX (1987, 134 k miles) runs smooth, and is in good condition. Automatic transmission, power windows & mirror, power & tilt steering, stereo, AC, and cruise control. New timing belt, four new tires, two new rear ball joints, one new front axle & control arm, new water pump, and new brakes. Price: \$2,000, or best offer. Contact 787-2344 (office), 789-0107 (home) or sej7@cornell.edu, and ask for Seong.

FOR SALE: Refrigerator and electric range and electric dryer. All in excellent condition. Call Nancy at x2313 or 789-5485.

CAR FOR SALE: 1990 Chevrolet Beretta GTZ. 115,00 miles, air, no rust. Car was checked out by a mechanic who said the engine is in good shape but the car needs a new timing chain and wheel bearing. Edmunds.com lists resale price at over \$3,000 but I am asking \$1,200 due to needed repairs. Please contact Tim at tlw10 or x2374.

FOR SALE: Casio electronic keyboard with stand. Model CT 620. Full size keys. \$100. Contact John Ludwig at x2407, jwl2@nysaes.cornell.edu or 539-3155.

WANTED: Tops grocery tapes in support of Geneva High School's Marching Band/Color Guard. Please send tapes to Judy Birkett, Jordan Hall.

FOR SALE: Men's size 10 hockey skates. Never used, asking \$35, originally \$50 new. Contact Jim at jpe6@cornell.edu or ext 2378.

WANTED TO RENT: Studio apartment with cooking facilities, bath, bed, chair, desk for U.S. Visiting Fellow. Non-smoker, no animals. Will have transportation to and from Station. March 15 - July 31, 2000. Contact Dona Soper X2234 or dns1@cornell.edu.

DAY CARE OPENING: Full or part-time. Some restrictions apply. Call Penny VanKirk at 789-9518.



**VINIFICATION & BREWING
 TECHNOLOGY
 LABORATORY**

Open House

Third Annual Gala Dinner

Premiere Wine Country Auction

Friday, March 31, 2000

Ramada Inn, Geneva Lakefront

\$100 per person

(\$50 tax-deductible contribution)

www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/vb

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