



WEEK of APRIL 26, 1992

STATION NOTES

CORNELL AND PENN STATE TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL GRAPE CENTER

Cornell and Penn State Universities have joined forces to create the Lake Erie Regional Center for Grape Research and Extension.

“With public funding of existing research and extension programs continuing to decline, the formation of a multi-state research and extension center offers greater efficiency and capacity in the development and delivery of new information and programs,” says Dr. David L. Call, dean of Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

“If the Lake Erie grape industry is to remain competitive with other grape-growing regions, growers need aggressive research and extension programs that result in maximizing yield and profit,” added Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, dean of Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences and former director of the Geneva Station.

The Lake Erie grape-growing region encompasses about 20,000 acres in western New York, 11,000 acres in Erie County, Pennsylvania, and 1,500 acres in northern Ohio. Most grapes grown in the region are native varieties such as Concord or Niagara that are used predominantly for non-fermented juices, concentrates, and jams.

The region’s growers face significant challenges, including the limited availability and increased regulation of farm labor. In addition, the region has stiff competition from growers in Washington state and from foreign countries that have an abundance of inexpensive labor.

The Lake Erie Regional Center for Grape Research and Extension is the result of nearly a year of discussions among industry and academic representatives from New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Although they may become part of the Center in the future, Ohio has chosen not to formally participate at this time.

A 17-member committee of growers, processors, and university representatives was appointed in May 1991 by Deans Call and Hood. The committee, chaired by Patrick O’Donnell, General Manager of the National Grape Cooperative, held four public meetings in New York and Pennsylvania to define the needed extension and research programs. Subsequently, they developed analyses of Cornell’s and Penn State’s capabilities in the Lake Erie region and prepared a series of recommendations. All of the committee’s recommendations have been accepted by the two deans, and an implementation plan is being developed by faculty and staff at the two universities. The Center will be officially established on July 1, 1992.

Specific recommendations of the committee include:

- Establish a single, centrally located facility to house both research and extension activities;
- Develop a coordinated research effort with existing faculty from Cornell and Penn State that is carried out by on-site research staff;
- Establish an extension team to carry out educational programming in the combined production area. The recommendation favors the addition of an Extension Farm Management Specialist to meet the changing needs of the industry;
- Funding for the combined program should approximate current acreage from participating states, i.e., two-thirds from New York and one-third from Pennsylvania;
- Increased industry support of research and extension;
- Establish a multi-state industry advisory committee to develop, coordinate, and allocate funding for viticulture research and technology-transfer programs aimed at addressing industry needs and priorities.

Dave Vercant, a grower in the area, said, “I think having a regional center for grape research and extension is a good idea and certainly a forward step for the industry. Combining the research and extension resources in New York and Pennsylvania should give us a stronger overall program. Basically, it’s the same industry in the two states—the growing and marketing of Concord and Niagara grapes, plus we have the same environment. In these days of tight budgets, it makes good sense not to be running two separate programs.”

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, April 27
Time: 11:00 am
Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Speaker: Dr. Thomas Whitlow
 Research Associate
 Department of Floriculture
 and Ornamental Horticulture,
 Ithaca

Topic: Intraspecific Variation in
 Drought Response of Red
 Maple and Implications
 for Cultivar Selection

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, April 29
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Room A133, Barton Lab
Speaker: Mr. Hector Alvizo-Villasana
 Department of Plant
 Pathology, Geneva

Topic: Cloning from dsRNA Associ-
 ated with *Uncinula necator*
 (Schw.) Burr and Grapevine
 Virus A

FOOD SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, April 29
Time: 10:30 am
Place: Food Science Conference
 Room
Speaker: MingAi Ku
Topic: Production of Yeast Lactase
 and Inulinase from Sauerkraut
 Brine

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Thursday, April 30
Time: 3:30 pm
Place: Room 310, Barton Lab
Speaker: Dr. Peter W. K. Ma
 Postdoctoral Associate
 Department of Entomology,
 Geneva

Topic: Hormonal Control of
 Pheromone Biosynthesis in
 Moths, Part II

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Tuesday, April 28, 3:00 pm
 Lounge, Jordan Hall
Safety Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 pm
 Sawdust Cafe
English as a Second Language

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 pm
 Sawdust Cafe
English as a Second Language

POLICIES, PROCEDURES
and PEOPLE• *Update on Bob Nellis*

Don't forget to drop a card or note to Bob. His address is New Medico Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center of Cortland, 28 Kellogg Road PO Box 5510, Cortland, NY 13045 2 South Room 208. The telephone number for the facility is: 1-800-473-5369

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: 1982 Subaru sedan, 5-speed, air, stereo, 77,000 miles. Mechanically sound: new battery, starter, exhaust. Reliable local transportation — perfect for visiting scientist. \$700/offer; Call Dave at x364 (days) or 789-8758 (evenings).

FOR SALE: Antique dresser with mirror; Antique nightstand; Simmons queen size mattress, box springs and bed frame; 100% wool oriental look 7'11 x 11'3 rug (rose); Huffy stationary exercise bike, Entertainment center. Call 789-6135 mornings.



Don't forget,
TODAY is the

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

at 3:30 pm

on the Station grounds-just north of the Heating Plant.

(If the weather calls for umbrellas,
 the celebration will be held in the Jordan Hall auditorium.)