

STATION NOTES

HAPPY WINTER HOLIDAYS BEST WISHES FOR 1994

As I reflect on this past year I first think of all of the Station's employees and the happiness life brought to some and the sadness experienced by others. And I think of how fortunate I am to work with people who truly care for each other's welfare, help each other in time of need, and make the expression "Station Family" have real meaning. We must keep this spirit alive at the Station as we struggle to meet the challenges in our daily jobs. The Station is a good place to work because of the many outstanding employees, our mission is important, and many outside of the Station are increasingly recognizing that the Station is a world class organization. These are the positive elements we need to focus on as we enter 1994, and as we continue to build a future for ourselves and the Station by developing and using scientific information to better serve agriculture and society in general.

In last year's holiday message I said that "the success you have in your work will provide the ammunition those of us in administration need to convince farmers, food processors, environmentalists, consumers and government officials that the work we do is important to the economy and well-being of everyone and deserving of their support." One way we communicate this is "Show and Tell" performances for selected groups invited to the Station. This has been a lot of work for many of you this year, and I am proud of the way everyone has enthusiastically participated in these efforts. We have hosted the Council of Agricultural Organizations, the Advisory Council for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, members of the state legislative staff, key representatives of the apple and grape industries, President Rhodes and Provost Nesheim, and many others. And the Show and Tell performance for Governor Cuomo the previous year was obviously very influential in his decision to call for a Conference on Science and Technology for Agriculture that was held in Albany in November with many of the speakers being from Geneva.

Dr. Plane used to say that the Geneva Experiment Station was one of the best kept secrets in the state. Gradually this is being corrected and we hope this will lead to sustained and increased support for our research and extension programs. Clearly the Governor's Conference could lead to a new funding mechanism, industry is seeking ways to increase funding from their own pockets, and industry is telling our representatives in Albany that a way must be found to support Geneva. And friends in Albany, especially Senator Nozzolio and Assemblyman Parment, to name just two, have already been most helpful by obtaining a special appropriation of \$400,000 for equipment for this year. This is clear evidence that the Station's contributions—which means your work—are appreciated by others.

I wish recognition of your outstanding work would mean a special appropriation for salary increases at the Station. But as you know, we are part of a big bureaucracy and what we receive for salary increases depends upon the success of those who bargain with the state for salary increases. At least we had some increase in appropriation for salaries this year after two dry years, and with the state's tax revenue seemingly stable now we hope for more monetary rewards in the future. I can't do much about that but I can use this article to express my appreciation for the dedication, hard work, and quality performance I see daily by so many Station employees. I can say sincerely that it has been a pleasure to work with you in 1993, and that I look forward to 1994 with optimism and the expectation of much success resulting from your efforts.

Enjoy your winter holidays!


Director



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY AT THE EXPERIMENT STATION

The Experiment Station has one emergency "mode" of operation during inclement weather. This is a cancellation of all functions except those essential to safety and basic physical plant operation. The latter functions, covering seven days and three shifts, have special guidelines.

The Director or his designee has the responsibility to make the decision to declare the emergency mode. The decision at Geneva is made independent of any emergency mode decisions affecting the Cornell Campus at Ithaca.

If the city or county announces that motorists are prohibited from driving on all or some of the roads, we do not expect employees to violate those rules. However, some essential personnel will be needed on the job. Essential personnel are designated by their supervisors based on certain criteria and are issued cards identifying their essential service function.

Whenever possible, announcement of decisions on inclement weather conditions will be made by 6:30 a.m. on the day affected through the Director's Office.

The following radio stations have agreed to cooperate with us in announcements of the inclement weather emergency:

CALL LETTERS	DIAL SETTING	CITY
WCGR (AM)	1550	CANANDAIGUA
WGVA (AM)	1240	GENEVA
WNYR (FM)	98.5	GENEVA
WACK (AM)	1420	NEWARK
WFLR (AM)	1570	PENN YAN
WHAM (AM)	1180	ROCHESTER
WSFW (AM)	1110	SENECA FALLS
WHCU (AM)	870	ITHACA

In the event that a weather emergency is called during the day, notification will be made through departmental offices.

As in the past, the compensatory time policy is that on any day in which the Station is operating in the emergency mode of operation during inclement weather, those employees normally scheduled to work will be compensated as if they had worked. Employees on vacation and sick leave, or on a regularly scheduled day off, will not be additionally compensated for an inclement weather day.

Those regular full-time or part-time overtime pay eligible essential employees who are required to work will receive pay at time and one-half their normal rate for hours actually worked during the closing (delayed, partial, full) plus compensatory time off, equal to the employee's hours worked during the closing

(delayed, partial, full). As an alternative, upon mutual agreement between the employee and supervisor, the overtime pay eligible employee may receive straight pay for the day plus compensatory time off equal to one and one half times the number of hours actually worked during the closing (delayed, partial, full). All compensatory time must be taken within the fiscal year (July 1-June 30) in which it is earned. These days should be recorded as leave with pay. Departments are responsible for maintaining compensatory time records for overtime pay eligible employees who work under these inclement weather conditions.

B&P SAVES THE DAY AGAIN

A special thanks goes to members of Buildings and Properties who reacted so quickly and professionally when a two-inch water pipe broke in Barton Laboratory on Monday of this week. The pipe apparently was not properly capped and drained by the contractors who have been working on replacing the growth chambers in that building. Consequently, it froze and burst. Water poured onto the sixth floor and eventually made its way to the second floor. Buildings and Properties personnel along with excellent help from the Geneva Fire Department quickly responded, found the problem, made necessary repairs, and cleaned up the entire mess. It is this kind of dedication that we at the Geneva Experiment Station pride ourselves in and is another reason why support services are so essential to the total program and mission of the Station.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, December 19, 2:00 pm

Auditorium, Jordan Hall
Station Club Holiday Party

Monday, December 20, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe
Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

Wednesday, December 22, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe
Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

Wednesday, December 22, 3:30 pm

Director's Office
Research Department Chairs' meeting

Wednesday, December 22, 6:30 pm

Staff Room, Jordan Hall
English as a Second Language

Friday, December 24-

Friday, December 31

Winter Holiday
Station Closed

Monday, January 3, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe
Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

Wednesday, January 5, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe
Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

Friday, January 7, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe
Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

SEMINAR

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, December 20
Time: 10:30 am
Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Speaker: Robert "Bob" Andersen
Professor
Department of Horticultural
Sciences
Topic: More I-Bob'n for Cherries

SCIENTISTS TOUR PGRU

Despite the cold and blowing snow, a group of 80 scientists visited campus to tour the Plant Genetic Resources Unit last Saturday. The tour was part of the three-day National Onion Research Conference, hosted in Ithaca from December 9-11 by Dr. Roy Ellerbrock, Department of Fruit and Vegetable Sciences. Attendees included public and private sector researchers from all over the world. The group discussed management of the USDA-ARS Allium collection held here in Geneva. They viewed seed regeneration and preservation activities, as well as laboratory work on the use of molecular diagnostics for assessment and characterization of genetic diversity. At the end of the tour they were treated to samples of Jonagold and Empire apples grown in the PGRU orchard.

PGRU FEATURED IN ARTICLE

A superb article on genetic fingerprinting and the Plant Genetic Resources Unit appears in the December 1993 issue of *Agricultural Research* published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and its Agricultural Research Service. This article is written in a way that everyone can understand the importance of biotechnology techniques in modern-day science and what genetic fingerprinting is all about. If interested in reading this article, please contact our Library or Sue Dwyer in the Plant Genetic Resources Unit, x244.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FROM STATION CLUB

Don't forget you can get that last-minute holiday shopping taken care of right here at work. Station T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, coffee mugs, and aprons are available in the Bulletin Room, Jordan Hall.

Sweatshirts:

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

T-Shirts:

Adult	S,M,L,XL, XXL	\$7.00
Children	M(10-12), L(14-16)	\$6.00

Hat:

\$6.00

Apron: (great when holiday cooking): \$10.00

Coffee Mug: \$7.00



DEADLINES

Thursday, December 23: Beet progress reports and proposals due to Kathy DeRosa.

Thursday, January 6: Wine and Grape Foundation progress reports and proposals to Kathy DeRosa.

Monday, January 31: AD-421 CRIS Annual Progress Reports FY93 due to Judy Birkett.

NRICGP POSTMARK DEADLINES:

Wednesday, January 5	Entomology
	Nematology
Tuesday, January 11	Biological Control Research
Monday, January 17	Food Characterization/Process/Product Research
Monday, January 24	Assessing Pest Control Strategies
	Plant Growth and Development
Monday, January 31	Water Resources Assessment and Protection

BARD RECEIPT DEADLINE:

Saturday, January 15 Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
Research Fellowship Program

HEALTH INSURANCE DEADLINE: DATES AND COSTS

December 15 Deadline Extended to December 31, 1993: Deadline if you want to participate in Select Benefit accounts — Medical Reimbursement Account and/or Dependent Care Account. I will need the select benefit form in Personnel by December 22, 1993 to make sure that it reaches the appropriate office in time or employees may forward the form to Nancy Zinzola, State Finance and Business Office, B-22 Mann Library. (Keep a copy of the form if forwarded directly to Nancy Zinzola.)

December 24, 1993: Deadline if you want to change your health insurance option. The effective date of change will be January 6, 1994.

January 5, 1994: Deadline for changes from Family coverage to Individual coverage or voluntary cancellation of health insurance coverage. The effective date of change will be January 6, 1994.

New biweekly health insurance rates will be reflected in the December 21 and December 22 checks:

EMPIRE PLAN: Individual = \$8.38 per payperiod; Family = \$34.78 per payperiod. The deductible under Metropolitan for non-participating physicians will be \$200 for 1994.

BLUE CHOICE: Individual = \$6.50 per payperiod; Family = \$31.14 per payperiod.

PREFERRED CARE: Individual = \$6.54 per payperiod; Family = \$31.90 per payperiod.

If you want to keep the health insurance option you have now, no action is required. If you would like costs of other health insurance programs or have any other questions, contact Charie Hibbard in *Personnel* at x203.

CLASSIFIEDS

YMCA OFFERS AEROBICS CLASSES:

Once again, the Geneva Family YMCA will allow non-members to participate in their aerobics classes. For an eight-week period ONLY (January 3-February 27), non-members will once again be allowed to revisit the YMCA aerobics classes for a drop-in fee of \$4.00. This is a special promotion to benefit the fund raising campaign to purchase new benches for the aerobics department. Class times are as follows: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:15-10:30 AM—Total Fitness with Doreen Hagen, Fridays 9:15-10:30 AM—Hi/Lo Interval Training with Ellen DiDuro, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:15-10:30 AM—Power Step with Ellen DiDuro, Saturdays 8:30-9:45 AM—Beginning Step with Donna Roelofs, Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30-6:45 PM—Step Combo with Janet Madia, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-7:45 PM—Power Step with Donna Roelofs. All instructors are certified through either ACE or AFAA.

RECEIVED WITH NO NAME: A two-day Federal Express package with no receiver name was delivered to the mail room from J. C. Penney's. No information was available from Penney's when called. If you are waiting for what looks like a "wonderful" Christmas gift for someone, claim by identifying in the Personnel Office.

