

CORNELL
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APRIL 5 - 12, 1996

BRIEFS

1996 MARCH OF DIMES
WALKAMERICA

Once again, the Station will be participating in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica and we would like to encourage new participation in this event. This year's 5-mile walk will take place on Saturday, April 27, at the Seneca Lake State Park. It entails walkers obtaining contributions for their walking efforts that will be donated to the March of Dimes Campaign for Healthier Babies. The Station had a team that consisted of 10 very dedicated walkers last fall and we would like more to join us in the effort this year. The work is minimal and the walk is thoroughly enjoyable with goodies to eat afterwards. All employees and their relatives are eligible and welcome to join us. If you cannot walk but are interested in making a monetary contribution to our efforts, please contact Donna Roelofs or another walker. Walkers to date consist of Jeni Cooley (Ent), Kathy DeRosa (Admin.), Holly King (Ent), Donna Roelofs (Ent), Joanne Schessl (Ent), and Nancy Station (Ent), Callie Musto (Ent).

PREFERRED VENDOR FOR
OVERNIGHT EXPRESS MAIL
SELECTED

Cornell Mail Services and the Purchasing Department, after an extensive bidding process and evaluation involving input from major users at the university, have selected Airborne Express as the preferred supplier of express mail services for the Cornell community. The competitive bidding process weighed both costs and service levels. A two-year contract now locks in low rates for all services provided by Airborne Express.

In addition to low prices, Airborne Express has a successful record serving both industry and universities. When compared to other bidders, Airborne's highly competitive rates, customer satisfaction statistics, and depth of overnight mail services made them stand out.

While it is strongly urged that your department use Airborne, the mail room here on the Geneva campus, upon your request, will still provide services with other vendors.

An information session to learn more about Airborne will be held Tuesday, April 9, 10:00-11:30 am, in the Staff Room, Jordan Hall.

NYS FRUIT CROP

According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, the value of New York state's 1995 tree fruit and grape crop declined one percent from the previous year. The 1995 crop

(Continued on page 2)

GUIDELINES FOR SPRING
MAMMAL CONTROL

A new responsibility of the Field Research Unit is Mammal Control on Station farms. One of the biggest problems is caused by woodchucks that damage or destroy research plots as well as cause nuisance problems burrowing around buildings, roads, etc.

FRU is working with the Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell's Department of Natural Resources to utilize a variety of methods to control these pests. Four individuals in FRU are in the process of receiving training to remove woodchucks and other problem mammals without the use of firearms **during working hours** by use of techniques that maximize safety to employees.

In addition, starting this spring, FRU will be allowing six trained individuals to hunt woodchucks **before and after normal working hours**. These hunters can be identified easily because they will be wearing an orange vest with NYSAES printed on it. They will also be wearing an orange hat. Project leaders and technicians are encouraged to wear light colored clothing in the field during this time. Hunters will not hunt in

low visibility areas such as vineyards or high density orchards. To check whether a hunter is on a farm after normal working hours, you can call Security (x215) since hunters are required to sign in and out for specific farms. **Please remember that if you are going to work late (beyond 5 PM) or prior to 8 AM, you are required to report daily to Security with your location and expected length of time you will be there.** Hunters are in radio contact with Security and will be informed any time an employee enters a work area. Hunters are instructed to stay out of areas where people are working; however, if you still feel a hunter is too close to your work area, you may request them to move elsewhere.

For more information concerning this program, to voice concerns, or to sign up to participate in the after-hours hunting program, call Mark L. Scott, X296, Field Research Unit. And remember, if you are having problems with animals in your research plots, please report these problems to Mark Scott X296.

SAFETY FIRST:
Please remember that if you are going to work late (beyond 5 p.m.) or prior to 8 a.m., you are required to report daily to Security with your location and expected length of time you will be there.



For the first time in recorded history, CALS Department Extension Leaders met at Geneva on April Fool's Day. Agenda items were Modernization of CENET for Field Staff, CCE Strategic Plan critique, and a one-hour tour of academic departments and PGRU.

The Staff at Communications Services would like to wish everyone at the Station a Happy Easter!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

APRIL 5 - 12, 1996

EVENTS • MEETINGS

Monday, April 8, 6:30 pmStaff Room, Jordan Hall
*English as a Second Language***Tuesday, April 9, 10:30 am**348 Morrison Hall, Ithaca
*CALS' Chairs Meeting***Tuesday, April 9, 10:00 am**Staff Room, Jordan Hall
*Airborne Express Information Session***Wednesday, April 10, 3:00 pm**Staff Room, Jordan Hall
*Chairs' and Unit Leaders' Meeting***Thursday, April 11, 6:30 pm**Staff Room, Jordan Hall
English as a Second Language

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, April 8**Time:** 11:00 am**Place:** Staff Room, Jordan Hall**Speaker:** Stan Hokanson
Plant Genetic Resources Unit,
Geneva**Topic:** Containing the spread of pollen
from transgenic crop plants

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, April 10**Time:** 3:00 pm**Place:** Room A133, Barton Laboratory**Speaker:** Carol Hamilton
NYS Center for Advanced
Technology in Biotechnology,
Cornell University, Ithaca**Topic:** A binary-BAC system for
transfer of high molecular
weight DNA to plants

SAGES

Date: Friday, April 12**Time:** 10:30 am**Place:** Staff Room, Jordan Hall**Speaker:** Minie Empson**Topic:** Thesis Requirements

**Don't forget
to turn your
clock AHEAD
an hour on Saturday night.**

CLASSIFIED

EARN: \$50 for keeping lovable, matronly & well-behaved black lab week of April 13-21. Norm, x245.

FOR SALE: 1994 Cavalier RS "LOADED". Automatic Transmission, 4-door, ABS Brakes, AM/FM Cassette Stereo, Passive restraints, gets 30 miles per gallon, power locks and windows, cruise control, A/C and tilt steering wheel. Has 49,000 miles. NADA book value \$10,000—I am asking the same. Call Ann at X301 or 536-3546.

LAB EQUIPMENT: PGRU has the following excess lab equipment. If anyone has a need for these, please call Dave at 455. First come first serve!

- 1) 250 ml Flasks
- 2) Large Box of Test tubes
- 3) 50 ml Beakers
- 4) 25 ml Beakers
- 5) Plastic Petri Dishes (4 cases)

(BRIEFS, cont.)

value totaled \$190 million, which is \$3 million less than 1994. The value is applied only to utilized production. The value of apples, peaches, sweet cherries and pears rose, while values declined for tart cherries, grapes, blueberries and strawberries.

Apple production was up one percent to 1,110 million pounds. McIntosh was the leading variety produced in the state. Following McIntosh in order of yield were Rome, Red Delicious, Rhode Island Greening, Empire, Cortland and Ida Red.

Total grape production decreased 13% from 1994 to 165,000 tons. Tart cherry production totaled 32 million pounds, up 23% from the 1994 crop. Pear production was down 9% to 14,500 tons while peach production increased 64% to 11.5 million.

Nationally, in 1995, New York ranked second in tart cherry production, third in apple and grape production, and fourth in pears.

-The Great Lakes Fruit Growers News

CIBA-GEIGY AND SANDOZ MERGE

Pending final approval by its board of directors in April, two Swiss giants in the agribusiness and pharmaceutical industry, Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz, have merged to form a new company called Novartis. The new company will serve its customers as the largest worldwide marketer of crop protection chemicals and will become the second-largest company in seeds and animal health. Total consolidated agribusiness sales of the two companies in 1995 was nearly \$6 billion.

Novartis will have a leadership position in four key areas, including: disease control in vegetables, vineyards, orchards and cereals; insect control in a variety of crops; and seed treatment. In seeds, Novartis will product varieties for growers of corn, oilseeds, sugarbeets, vegetables and flowers.

Novartis will be a giant in research and development. The company will have one of the largest biotechnology research program in the industry, focusing on enhancing disease and insect resistance while improving yields. It will also have the world's largest research and development investments in the crop protection business.

-The Great Lakes Fruit Growers News

HONEYBEE HIVE LOSSES HIGH

According to an article in *Country Folks West*, New York State beekeepers doing their spring rounds are finding a lot of empty bee hives. President of the Empire Honey Producers, Jim Doan, of Hamlin, NY, who anticipates 20% winterkill in most years, experienced an 80% loss this year, as did other major honey producers.

Apparently, the problem began with an early winter that did not quit. Bees need warm days in late January and February to fly, find pollen and keep the hive clean. Unable to fly because the weather was so cold, they fouled their own hives thereby creating an environment for a yet unnamed virus. Hives that were alive a month ago, have since died.

State-wide, an estimated 20,000 hives are needed to promote pollination, said Doan. "I don't know what will happen when the apples go into bloom. I don't know if there will be enough migrant bees left," he said.

Doan, who met with Senator Randy Kuhl about the problem, said other circumstances exacerbated the loss, particularly a cut in honeybee research, and the recent retirement of Cornell insect specialist Dr. Morris, whose replacement is not due to begin work until June.

The New York Agricultural Statistics Service reported 70,000 producing colonies in 1995.

**Retirement Party for
DR. DON SPLITTSTOESSER & DR. GIL STOEWESAND
April 27, 1996 • Geneva Country Club
6:00 pm~Cocktails • 7:30 pm~Dinner**



See March 25's News for sign-up form or call Debby Ditzell, Food Science, x255.

Deadline for reservations is April 17.



STATION SOFTBALL SEASON FAST APPROACHING!

With the warmer weather soon on the way, it's time to start thinking of softball again. With the start of the '96 season, a new approach to selecting teams will be implemented. Instead of teams being represented by departments with a chosen team captain, individuals will sign up to play softball and those names will be pulled out of a hat by the captains to make up teams. Sign-ups will be in three categories: Male, Female, and Family (Family are those people from the same household who want to play on the same team). See the sign-up form below.

Everyone at the Station, as well as direct family members, is welcome to participate, and everyone who joins a team and shows up for the games will get a chance to play. Games are played every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday beginning at 6:30 pm with each team playing once a week. The season will begin May 28 and run through the end of August.

Contact Matt Lewis, Softball Commissioner, at x251 if you would like to be a team captain (6 are needed).

1996 Station Softball Sign-up

Send to Matt Lewis, Communications Services by Friday, April 26.

Name(s): _____

Circle One: Male Female Family* * Number of Males _____ Number of Females _____