



STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

VOLUME LXXX • NO 25
NOV 22 - DEC 5, 2008

BRIEFS

Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo 2009

The 2009 Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo and Becker Forum will be held at the Holiday Inn Liverpool and the Oncenter Convention Center in Syracuse, New York on February 10, 11 and 12, 2009. The Expo continues to offer growers the information and innovations that are needed in this time of economic and technological change. As always, commodity sessions will feature specialists from all over the country, who will speak on and teach about the latest research and innovations regarding growing and production techniques, harvesting and storage options, and more! This information is specifically planned and prepared in order to help growers continue to grow and improve their farm businesses. Large, small and every size in-between businesses can benefit from the content of the sessions at the Expo. The large trade show will feature a variety of businesses specifically devoted to the fruit and vegetable industry, with equipment for all sizes of growing operations. The trade show will also feature special sessions specifically geared to growers and their employees throughout the two days as well.

Proactive Approaches to Immigration and Work Force Issues is the title for the popular Becker Forum, which will be held on Tuesday, February 10. For the past two years, this intensive day-long session has been sold out, so mark your calendars now

(Continued on page 3)

Changes on the Horizon for the Way We Get Our News

Last Friday, at our town hall employee meeting, Linda McCandless, director of CALS Communications, announced some changes that will take place with respect to how program accomplishments and other Experiment Station news will be handled beginning in January. Station News will no longer be produced in hard-copy print form. Station-related news will instead be disseminated electronically and more widely via eCALSCoconnect, the online e-newsletter of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; via the “News” section of the www.nysaes.cornell.edu website; and via two listserves available by subscription to the media.

The final printed edition of Station News, to be distributed and mailed December 19, will take a nostalgic look at the newsletter since the publication of the very first issue, which appeared July 23, 1923. Among other things, the last issue will highlight some of the major events that were covered over the years.

eCALSCoconnect, which is changing from quarterly to monthly distribution with the December issue, is the college e-newsletter that is circulated to faculty, staff, stakeholders, and CALS alumni—an online audience of over 50,000 people. eCALSCoconnect publishes news about research, honors, awards, books, and transitions from around the entire college, including Geneva. All Station employees will be automatically added to the eCALSCoconnect listserv.

Any leads for NYSAES news, should be sent to cals.cornell.edu/pubs/ideas. Department chairs and unit leaders will be solicited for news monthly. Any news or events that involve Geneva faculty, students or staff will also be linked to the Station website at www.nysaes.cornell.edu.

Station News in its present form has enjoyed a long and successful history and has effectively provided information about our programs and events for 85 years. The move to an electronic format will build on that success by reaching a broader audience and offering readers a greater selection of articles and other news. This will include items from around the entire college in addition to news from and about the Station. In this format, readers will be able to quickly decide which stories interest them most and which they have time to read.

Electronic communications is changing the way many of us receive our news. Part of this change is driven by budget issues. Part of it is also driven by the University’s movement toward sustainability and reducing print. The production costs—writing, editing, design and printing—to produce 24 issues of Station News is approximately \$12,000 per year. The mailing costs are an additional \$1,200.

(Continued on page 2)



Station Director Tom Burr addresses employees at the Town Hall meeting.



(BRIEFS, continued)

to set aside the date. This workshop will continue its informative record by focusing on the ever-changing challenges that growers face with regards to agricultural labor, and will provide concrete and useful information for the attendees. This session is fast becoming a premier event focusing on agricultural labor. All individuals who are interested in this important issue are invited to register and attend. This forum is a great start to the Expo and does require pre-registration. Detailed information and pre-registration form for this workshop will be available at the beginning of December when the Expo programs become available.

Plan to spend two full days at the Oncenter as the educational commodity sessions take place on February 11 and 12, 2009. Session topics include the latest in research and grower experiences regarding production and marketing of a variety of fruit and vegetable crops, including potatoes, tree fruit, onions, tomatoes and peppers, cabbage, berries, cut flowers, sweet corn, beets and carrots, vine crops, and beans and peas. In addition, this year's Expo will have sessions focusing on fresh market organic crops, soils and tillage, greenhouses and high tunnels, GAPS for small-sized growing operations, and ecological weed management. Take advantage of the special two-day Expo rate in order to gain the maximum amount of information to take back to your business. Expo sessions provide the know-how needed to grow your farm through knowledge, innovation and research.

The Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo is sponsored by the New York State Vegetable Growers Association, Empire State Potato Growers, New York State Berry Growers Association, New York State Horticultural Society and Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Trade show and exhibitor information is currently available and the Expo program, which includes detailed educational session information and a pre-registration form, will be available in early December. Free shuttle bus service is available from the Holiday Inn Liverpool, right off exit 37 of the New York State

(CHANGE, continued)

The question always arises as to whether changes like this will somehow affect the Station's unique identity and value to the College, University and state? The answer to this question is that our goal is to enhance the breadth and quality of the presentation and the dissemination of the many outstanding accomplishments that are impacting our region, state and world. In my conversations with legislators, alumni and other stakeholders, two things have become quite apparent: 1. the word is out that work done at the Station is on the right trajectory and is having a major impact on the food and agricultural industries, and 2. people would like to hear more about our accomplishments in an easy to reach, searchable format. Having stories published in eCALScconnect and on the web will accomplish that goal by reaching our traditional audiences and beyond.

Change in all walks of life is happening all around us every day. Change by its very nature can be good or bad, but I firmly believe this to be a change for the good. 2009 will bring with it not only a change in the way we get our news but a new vitality for that news. Philosopher Henry Bergson wrote nearly a hundred years ago: *To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.*

It is my sincere hope that you all will embrace, and take advantage of this new, more informative, more sustainable, and more efficient way to get the news.

Tom Burr

Additional Information

For those stakeholders who want to remain close to Experiment Station news, in particular, they can subscribe to the NYSAES-ALLRELEASES-L or the NYSAES-WINEGRAPE-L listserves at http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hp/news_join.php which we will continue to maintain.

Events, like seminars, workshops, and field days will be publicized on the Station's Events section of the web page. www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hp/events/index.php

Those readers who are interested in receiving or listing Classifieds can join the Station's Classifieds listserve by contacting Patty Gibbs at peg1@cornell.edu

The best way to keep track of what's going on at the Station will be to refer to the Station's home page daily, or designate the Station's home page as the default page in your web browser.

(BRIEFS, continued)

thruway. Make plans now and mark your calendar to attend the best Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo yet!

For more information, visit <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/expo/> or contact Jeff and Lindy Kubecka, New York State Vegetable Growers Association, PO Box 70, Kirkville, NY 13082 or email nysvga@twcny.rr.com. For trade show information and exhibiting, please contact Dan Wren, Lee Trade Shows, PO Box 121, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428 or email dwren@leepub.com.

Health Insurance News

Human Resources has received several calls regarding Open Enrollment and Contract College Health Insurance Rates.

We have not yet received the Health Insurance Rates for Contract Colleges - as soon as this information becomes available, I will notify you by email.

Listed below is the link to the Office of Human Resources website with information on Open Enrollment. If you click on the Contract College Overview Booklet, you will

(Continued on page 3)



Duane Riegel Named Outstanding Employee for 2008

Duane Riegel, a technician in the Station's Department of Plant Pathology & Plant Microbe Biology, was named the Outstanding Employee for 2008 at this year's Annual Station Banquet, which was held on Friday, November 7. He is the 26th employee to be so honored.

"I'm constantly amazed at Duane's ability to coordinate multiple projects simultaneously; I truly don't know how he does it," said Wayne Wilcox who is Duane's supervisor and also introduced the honoree. "I often preface a discussion about a new potential project with the disclaimer, 'I know your plate is pretty full, so just tell me if you're not going to have time for this. He never has.'



Duane Riegel says a few words after being introduced as Geneva's 2008 Outstanding Employee, while Wayne Wilcox holds up the employee recognition parking sign for everyone to see.

"I consider Duane to be no less than the ideal employee. In fact, I consider him a colleague more than an employee," Wilcox added. "He is something of a Renaissance Man whose skills range from mechanical, to horticultural, to computer programming, to statistical analysis, and on to lab microscopy. He's one of those 'unsung heroes' whom this award helps, at least in some small but meaningful measure, to bestow some well-deserved and long-overdue appreciation for all to see."

Below are excerpts from some of the letters written in support of Riegel's nomination:

- I could not do my PhD without Duane; he has been the dominant figure in teaching me. Duane makes it happen.
- Behind this shy person of few words is a very honest individual with a big heart. I can't think of another person who is more qualified to receive the Outstanding Employee Award.
- Never one to blow his own horn, Duane is always ready to help anyone who seeks advice or needs a hand. These traits—his quiet demeanor and huge desire to help—probably stand out in my mind more than any others.
- It would make his life much easier if he were to simply smile and say he unfortunately does not have the time to help. In the 23 years I have known him, he has never said this to me.
- If Duane were not here, there would be this huge gap in my information system—one I doubt I would be able to fill.

Riegel started working for Cornell as a field assistant in the Plant Pathology Department in Ithaca in 1976. He was officially transferred to Geneva in 1980 as a field assistant in the Department of Plant Pathology.

In addition to a framed plaque commemorating the event, Duane received a \$25 dollar gift card to Uncle Joe's Restaurant, a \$25 gift certificate for Experiment Station merchandise, free membership in Station Club—including free admission to Station Club sponsored events for a year—and the highly coveted employee recognition parking sign. His name has been added to a plaque with the names of previous honorees that is on display in Jordan Hall.

Joe Ogradnick

(BRIEFS, continued)

see the same booklet that you all should have received at home outlining Contract College Benefit Plans highlighting Open Enrollment (The period for Open Enrollment is November 10th through November 26th).

If you click on the eBenefits weblink, you will be taken to a website where you will be able to enroll online for Select Benefits such as Medical Reimbursement and Dependent Care Reimbursement.

<http://www.ohr.cornell.edu/whatsNew/whatsNewBenefits/whatsNewBenefitsOE.html>

If you have any questions, please let me know.

*Thank you!
Pat Mahoney*

2008 Station Club Drive to support the Geneva Center of Concern's Happy Holidays Project

Station Club is collecting the following much needed items:

Hats, mittens, gloves and socks for Boys and Girls; newborn to 18 years of age. Personal care items, new family games, books, coloring books and crayons, art supplies and school supplies.

We are also collecting frozen turkeys and monetary donations for the purchase of food for the holiday meal boxes.

Deadline for collecting items is Friday, December 5th.

Thank you for making the Holiday Season brighter for those in need.





CALENDAR of EVENTS
NOV 22 - DEC 5, 2008

SEMINARS

FOOD SCIENCE

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2008
Time: 11 AM
Place: FST Conference Room
Title: Mass Spectrometry Technologies and Applications in Proteomics and Metabolomics Research
Speaker: Sheng Zhang, Ithaca

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Title: Soil Health: Going Global
Speakers: George Abawi, Harold Van Es and David Wolfe: The Cornell Soil Health Team

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Title: Impact of Sunlight and Its Components on Grapevine Powdery Mildew
Speaker: Craig Austin, Geneva



YOGA FOR EVERYONE

Day: Monday Evenings
Time: 6 - 7:15 PM, 9/22/08 - 11/17/08
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium
Info: This class is suitable for beginners and long time participants. You may join at any time. Call Nancy Reissig at x2323 for more details.
Instructor: Margaret Newland, 719-7009

TAEKARDIO AND BOKKENKICK

Days: Monday, TaeKardio
 Wednesday, Bokkenkick
 Thursday, TaeKardio
Time: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Place: Saw Dust Cafe
Cost: \$25 for 2 classes/week or \$30 for 3 classes/week
Instructor: Tina Felice, Geneva Martial Arts

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: One bedroom, furnished Apartment available December 1, \$525.00 per month includes all utilities, trash removal, off-street parking for one (1) vehicle and internet service. Great location on Main Street Geneva. No smoking, no pets, references and lease required. Contact Kathy DeRosa, x2236, kad2.

WANTED: Large 3 ring binders. It doesn't matter if they have printing on them or what color they are. Old Greeting cards with birds or wildlife illustrations, fishing or wildlife books and magazines Contact Donna Boyce @ x2492 or dmb62

SAVE THE DATES!

Monday
December 1
Benefair
Jordan Hall
10 AM to Noon.

Remember to get your flu shot at the Benefair



Kid's Holiday Party

December 13 1-3 PM

WE HAVE CALLED AHEAD AND SANTA CLAUS IS AVAILABLE, SO THERE WILL BE FUN, FOOD, AND A VISIT FROM THE JOLLY, WEIGHT AND AGE CHALLENGED, RED SUIT WEARING MAN FROM THE NORTH POLE. CONTACT BETSY BIHN, EAB38 OR X2625.

RETIREE NEWS

ATTENTION: STATION RETIREES
 The Annual Holiday Lunch will be held at the Ramada Inn Ballroom on December 11, 2008, 12 Noon.

The cost is \$16.00 per person and deadline for reservations is December 5, 2008.

Please contact Sue Dwyer for reservations, 315-781-0360.

If you did not receive a card, please call Sue Dwyer to be included on the mailing list for the Retiree's events.

