

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

STATION NEWS

GENEVA
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BRIEFS

WALKAMERICA FINAL REPORT

I am happy to report that the sun DID shine for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica!! It was a great day to enjoy the walk along Seneca Lake. The Station Team consisted of: Donna Roelofs (Entomology), Pim Larsson-Kovach (Food Science and Technology), Morna Hilderbrand (Horticultural Sciences), John Zakour and Cathy Weeden (Communications Services), Liz Spittler (IPM), Kathy DeRosa (Administration), and Tricia Long (Kathy's sister). The Station Team raised \$602 through pledges and candy sales. Special thanks go to Pat Mahoney, Ann Griner, and Donna Roelofs for selling candy bars to raise money for the March of Dimes (and to all those who bought the candy!). *Kathy DeRosa*



ARBOR DAY

GENEVA ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION

It has become tradition at the Station to plant a tree for Arbor Day, which this year happens on Friday, April 30 at 3:30 p.m. The theme of renovation and replanting will be exemplified at this year's celebration, which is the replanting of the IPM Building foundation plantings at the renovated front porch. Plants are being replanted there during next week, with the final ceremonial planting taking place on Arbor Day. In addition to brief comments, there will be a selection of tree seedlings to be given away (one per person, courtesy of Jim Engel of IPM). Short tours of campus plantings will be led by members of the Arboretum Association if attendees are willing and weather permits. Everyone is invited, so please come out and "root" for Arbor Day.

Martin Goffinet

Q & A on THE PROPOSED NEW YORK STATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR CABBAGE



By Stephen Reiners

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has announced that two hearings will take place to consider the petition to enact a Research and Development (R&D) Fund for cabbage growers in the state. The first hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 12, from 2-4 p.m., at the Best Western Batavia Inn. The second hearing will occur on Thursday, May 13, from 10-noon at the Ramada Inn on Routes 5 and 20, Geneva. At these meetings, growers may only present their concerns and questions. The vote will be conducted through the mail some time following the hearings.

The following are some commonly asked questions and answers regarding this proposed fund.

Q: Don't we already have a research fund for cabbage?

A: Growers in Western New York who grew cabbage for local sauerkraut processors established the NYS Cabbage Research Association in the mid-1960s. Their purpose was to raise funds to support research that addressed problems facing the kraut industry. The research projects funded generally involved variety development, plant nutrition, pest control (insects, diseases, weeds), and crop management practices. Sauerkraut processors support this Association and match the contribution of the growers toward research. The processors also play a key role in collection of the funds. In 1998, the amount available for research was only \$10,000, *all contributed by kraut growers and processors*. This amount of money can only fund a fraction of the research that is needed.

Q: Why is a Research and Development Fund needed for cabbage?

A: The United States Department of Agriculture has stated that it is their role to fund only basic or fundamental research. It is their view that this type of research is highly speculative and is designed to solve long-range problems of the industry and not the applied, field-oriented work. Cornell University and other Land Grant universities will receive a decreasing amount of funding for applied research. If applied research is to continue, the New York cabbage industry needs to support it.

Q: What is a Research and Development (R&D) Fund?

A: A Research and Development Fund is an official regulation created by the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. The initiative for proposing the fund must come from the producers who will be affected. In this case, it was the NYS Cabbage Research Association that drafted the petition. At public hearings, growers and other interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal. Following the hearings, the Commissioner submits the proposal to the growers for approval by mail.

Q: What percentage of growers need to support the proposal for it to pass?

A: The proposal can only be approved if 51% of the producers who participate in the vote say 'yes', and this 51% must represent at least 65% of the cabbage marketed in NYS in the preceding season.

Q: If approved, how much will this cost the grower?

A: The assessment is \$4.00 per acre. The estimated cost of production for fresh-market cabbage in the Northeast is more than \$3,000 per acre. An investment in a R&D Fund for cabbage represents less than 0.2% of the cost of production. If the R&D Fund was in place in 1998, more than \$60,000 would have been made available by such a fund.

(Continued on page 2)

(KOVACHS, cont.)

Q: How much money does Ag and Markets take to administer the fund?

A: Their administrative costs cannot exceed 5% of all the monies collected.

Q: How is it determined which projects will be funded?

A: An advisory board consisting of 9 members (7 growers, 1 processor representative, and 1 member chosen to represent handlers) decides on the projects to be funded. A call for proposals would be sent out to all appropriate university, extension, and agricultural business personnel. The proposals would not be limited to New York. If the Advisory Board felt that appropriate work could be conducted in other states, those proposals could be funded. *Cabbage growers will be the ones who decide how to spend their money.*

Q: Are any cabbage growers exempt?

A: This is not a voluntary program. Only growers who plant and market less than 5 acres in any year are exempt.

Q: How do growers pay?

A: All growers must pay their assessment no later than December 15 to the Commissioner of Ag & Mkts.

Q: Will the state match funds that growers contribute?

A: In the past, the state has not matched funds raised by commodity associations. There is the possibility, however, that legislation will be passed in Albany to match funds raised by producers. In 1998 and 1999, New York State appropriated \$100,000 of state funds for onion research, which more than doubled what growers had raised. An R&D fund demonstrates that the industry is serious about finding solutions to their concerns.

Q: What types of projects will this money be used for?

A: There are many research projects that would benefit from increased funding from the cabbage industry. Some of these projects are already occurring to a limited degree, but a new source of funding would jump-start many of the projects listed below and move the New York State industry forward.

Breeding. Dr. Phillip Griffiths has just been hired as a cabbage breeder in the Department of Horticultural Sciences, Geneva.

Many production problems could be addressed by breeding a better cabbage for New York—one that stores well, tastes good, and resists pests, insects, disease and even weeds through the use of varieties bred for resistance to Round-up.

Weed management. One of researcher Dr. Robin Bellinder's major efforts is to identify new herbicides that are safe on the crop. New York was the first state to develop the Third Party Label for the use of Dual on cabbage. Registrations for Goal and Lentagran came about because of research conducted in this program. Upcoming registrations will include use of Dual on direct-seeded cabbage, Stinger, Prowl, and, in a couple of years, Authority. Data needs to be developed to support herbicide registrations, use rates and patterns.

Insect control strategies. Cabbage is susceptible to many insect pests. Research conducted by Drs. Tony Shelton and John Curtis promises new and more effective ways to control thrips. In addition, resistance of insects to pesticides and biological controls (BT) continues to be a problem that threatens our industry. Research into new biological control insecticides, natural predators and genetically resistant varieties is a high priority.

Disease control strategies. Cabbage is susceptible to numerous plant pathogens best prevented by genetic resistance. Funds will facilitate cooperation between the cabbage breeder and plant pathologists (Drs. Tom Zitter and Helene Dillard) to discover untapped disease resistance. In addition, research is needed to insure that growers will have effective chemical control options in the immediate future.

Variety selection. Trials need to be conducted to determine which varieties have the horticultural characteristics needed by the industry. Funding would allow for trials around the state and not just in one or two locations. Researchers in Food Science could identify varieties that make better slaw or producers could work with the Food Venture Center in Geneva to find new "value added" products for cabbage.

Storage. There is need for engineering research to design better refrigerated/ controlled atmosphere storage for cabbage. Control of temperature, humidity and airflow is mandatory if the quality of the stored cab-

bage is to be maintained. In addition, the use of ozone in storage needs to be demonstrated and researched.

Storage disorders. Each year, storage operators are faced with disorders that occur while the product is stored. A multi-disciplinary project involving a plant breeder, food scientist, postharvest physiologist, and cultural practice researcher is needed to focus on the problem that results in large monetary losses annually.

Soil Fertility. Researchers need to establish guidelines for use of the pre-sidedress nitrate test (PSNT) that will save growers money on their fertilizer bill and reduce the chance of over-fertilization. Research will also focus on whole farm nutrient planning to prepare for the day when fertilizer amendments may be regulated.

Nutritional quality. A plant breeder could select for cabbage high in sulforaphane, the anti-cancer component in crops of the Cruciferae family. The medical evidence in support of the health promotion and nutritional value of cole crops is building.

Eating quality. Per capita consumption of cabbage is modest, but it could increase more easily if cabbage tasted better. It is possible to improve the texture and flavor of cabbage through conventional plant breeding due to the genetic variability in cabbage.

Food safety. Microbial organisms found in irrigation or manure could threaten the safety of our food. This coupled with the fact that cabbage is eaten uncooked in coleslaw or salads, creates a potential health risk for cabbage producers. Research is needed to develop production methods and handling procedures that ensure that all cabbage products are safe.

Promotion and marketing. Although most of this money would be used for applied research, a percentage could be used to fund promotional projects. Communication designed to maximize coverage of cabbage such as press releases, web sites, and promotional field days could be funded.



SAFETY CORNER



**AFTER HOURS SIGN-IN
—PROTECT YOURSELF**

For your safety, when working after standard work hours (or during holiday periods), please **sign in** at your building location after-hours logbook. This process alerts Security personnel to building occupants in the event of fire, building evacuation needs, or other emergencies. Please check with your building or department main office to determine the location of the log for your area. When working after hours in Station Fields and Farms, please **sign in** at the Heating Plant before beginning work. Everyone's cooperation will help contribute toward a safe working environment.

Soon Kong

**BARTON
CONSTRUCTION
UPDATE**



During the past week, the contractor did some welding in the ceilings of rooms 416, 213, and 620. This included some asbestos abatement *only in those rooms*, and air monitoring is being conducted. These offices will be contained and negative air pressure machines are being used. The occupants of these offices were notified in advance and they moved some things out of their offices.

The plumbing contractor will be starting to run pipes in the hallway pipe chases. The new HVAC ductwork contractor will be doing layout and installation in the basement. If you have any questions or concerns please call or e-mail me (x303, rjd15). If you have safety or health questions Soon Kong (x466, ssk19) will be glad to answer what I can't. Thank you for your help and patience.

Ralph D'Amato

**ANNUAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION ORIENTATION
FOR NEW USERS OF PESTICIDES**

The CALS Pesticide Use Policy requires that all new pesticide users attend an orientation concerning the policies, procedures, and guidelines for safe and effective use of pesticides. Use of pesticides is defined as:

- application of pesticides including general maintenance applications for pest control on plants and animals, efficacy testing, impact on biological control agents, leaching, residue analyses, environmental fate, etc.;
- direct supervision over one applying pesticides as described above;
- teaching/demonstration of pesticide applications and/or use; and/or
- recommendation of pesticide application or use.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: 1) Anyone newly involved in, or who is expected to be involved in, pesticide use, as defined above. 2) Anyone involved in pesticide use, as defined above, who has not previously attended the Core Training.

WHEN: May 11, 1999; 8:15 am - 4:45 pm; 1.5 hr lunch

WHERE: On the Ithaca campus; exact space to be announced when number of attendees is more clearly defined.

REGISTRATION: All parties should contact Mary-Lynn Cummings, 8-5-2557 or mc101@cornell.edu. Mary-Lynn will discuss the categories of certification that you require, your eligibility, and other details as necessary. **REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY.**

ELIGIBILITY: Full Certification is earned if you have applied pesticides during 3 out of the past 5 years, supervised by a certified applicator. Provisional Certification is earned if you do not have the above work experience, but you do have a 2 or 4 year degree, or you have taken a 30 hr accredited course. Provisional certification does not allow you to purchase the pesticides yourself, or allow you to open your own pesticide application business with you as the only applicator. Your provisional status will be removed after 2 years of experience has been acquired.

Combinations of experience and education can reduce provisional status time:

- 30 hr course = 2 yrs Provisional
- 30 hr course + 1 yr experience = 1 yr Provisional
- 30 hr course + 2 yr experience = Full Certification
- Associate Degree = 2 yrs Provisional
- Associate Degree + 1 yr experience = 1 yr Provisional
- Associate Degree + 2 yr experience = Full Certification
- Bachelors Degree = 1 yr Provisional
- Bachelors Degree + 1 yr experience = Full Certification

Proof of Experience: must be provided on letterhead from the certified applicator under whom you gained your experience and must be within the last 5 years.

UNITED WAY

This year's United Way campaign began on April 19 and will end April 30.

The theme this year is

**"Thanks for
Making Good Things Happen;
Pride Happens,
Sharing Happens,
and Peace Happens."**

Please give generously.

It will leave you with a warm feeling
all over!

Dave Lasher



CALENDAR of EVENTS
APRIL 23-30, 1999

EVENTS/MEETINGS

Friday, April 30, 3:30 pm
Arbor Day Ceremony and Plantings Tour
IPM Lawn

SAVE the DATE

SIGMA XI

Wednesday, May 5, 8:00 pm
Coxe Hall Room 8,
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Sigma Xi Lecture:
"How Smart People Go
Wrong," by Dr. Ray Hyman



PICNIC

Friday, July 16,
3:00 pm
Pavilion
Station Club picnic

SEMINARS

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 1999
Time: 10:30 am
Place: FST Conference Room
Speaker: Karl J. Siebert
Food Science & Technology
Cornell University, Geneva
Title: Quantitative Structure Activity
Relationship (QSAR) Modeling of
the Flavor Thresholds of Organic
Acids in Beer

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 1999
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Room A133, Barton Laboratory
Speaker: Alice Churchill
Boyce Thompson Institute
Cornell University, Ithaca
Title: A Role for Methionine in Singlet
Oxygen Resistance in the Chestnut
Blight Fungus *Cryphonectria*
parasitica
There will be a reception for the speaker
at 4:00 pm.

CLASSIFIED

ZITI DINNER: Geneva Middle School Cafeteria, 63
Pulteney Street, Geneva, Saturday, May 1st, 4:00-7:00
pm. Prices: \$5.00 per dinner, children under 5 free.
Take outs available. All proceeds to benefit Geneva
Middle School Band's trip to perform at Busch Gar-
dens, Williamsburg, Virginia, in May. Tickets may be
purchased from Janice Valerio, Plant Pathology (x331),
or at the door.

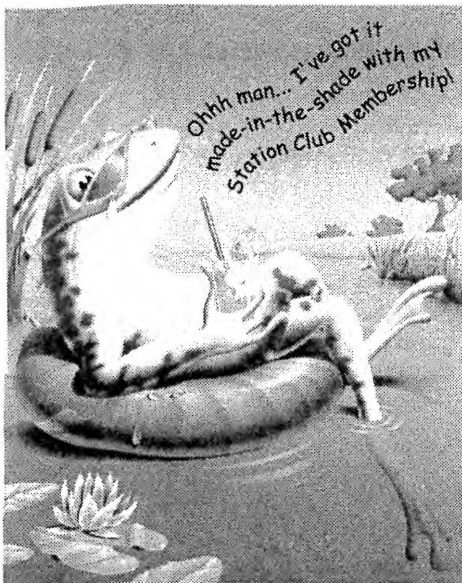
FOR SALE: 1988 red Toyota Celica GT, 167,000
miles, loaded, with power roof. \$2,400. Call 789-4273.

SHRUBS AND TREES AVAILABLE: Over 80 vari-
eties of shade trees, flowering trees, native plants, flow-
ering shrubs and foundation plants. Contact Jim Engel
(jpe6@nysaes.cornell.edu or x378).

MOVING SALE: Saturday, April 24, 10 am-2 pm,
47 Genesee St. Waterbed mattress (king size, excellent
condition), two snow tires (P175/70R13) like new, used
two winters, table and much more. Long Xi, x221 or
781-2095.

"It's not only children who grow.
Parents do too. As much as we watch
to see what our children do with their
lives, they are watching us to see what we
do with ours. I can't tell my children to
reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for
it myself."
—JOYCE MAYNARD—

**STATION CLUB
MEMBERSHIP
DRIVE**



The Station Club membership drive is now underway and will continue until April 30. The cost for joining the Station Club is \$8 for a family membership and \$5 for a single membership. Retirees receive a one-dollar discount.

Why should you join?

- To receive a discount on the price of Station Club events, such as the banquet, golf tournament, summer picnic, bowling party, holiday party. In fact, the discount is usually worth the price of joining, so, the more events you attend the more you save!

- To receive a discount on Station Club souvenirs such as T-shirts, sweat shirts, book bags, etc.—always great for gift-giving.

- To support Station Club sponsorship of such events as the Bike/Walk to Work Week, the Corporate Cup team, and the Outstanding Employee-of-the-Year Award.

- To support the Station Club's assistance with such projects as the Sawdust Cafe renovations and Bring Your Child to Work Day.

Contact your Station Club representative to join up.

- Administration
- B&P, Security, Fleet & Heating Plant
- Communications
- Entomology
- Field Research Unit
- Food Science & Technology
- Horticultural Sciences
- Hedrick Hall
- Sturtevant Hall
- Integrated Pest Management
- Plant Genetic Resources Unit
- Plant Pathology

- Pat Krauss
- Ralph D'Amato
- Sandy Antinelli
- Donna Roelofs
- Lee Hibbard
- Nancy Long
- Gemma Osborne
- Kristin Ondik
- Cheryl TenEyck
- Tiffany Fisk
- Colleen VanAllan

!DISCOUNTS - banquet, golf tournament, summer picnic, bowling party, holiday party - DISCOUNTS!