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250 Attend Cornell Fruit Field Day and Equipment Show

By Joe Ogradnick

Geneva, NY: Cornell University hosted the 2007 Fruit Field Day and Equipment Show last month at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station (NYSAES) in Geneva, N.Y. The event, which drew 250 people, was one of several to be held this year to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Experiment Station, which opened its doors on March 1, 1882.

Fruit growers, consultants, and industry personnel toured field plots and laboratories and learned about the latest research and extension efforts being carried out by researchers on Cornell's Geneva, Highland, and Ithaca campuses. The focus was on commodities that are key to New York's \$300 million fruit industry: apples, grapes, raspberries, strawberries, peaches, pears, and cherries.

"Fruit research is one of our strengths here at Cornell, and we appreciate the strong support we have received from all segments of the fruit industry for many years," said NYSAES director Tom Burr, who welcomed attendees during lunch. "Support for research from New York apple growers, the New York Farm Viability Institute, the New York Wine and Grape Foundation, and other sources is essential for our scientists to do the research that you are seeing here today."

Also during the lunch break, equipment dealers showcased the latest techniques for improving sprayer deposition and reducing drift, and representatives from various companies advised growers on the latest technologies.

The event was held on the Experiment Station's Fruit and Vegetable Research Farm South. Attendees were able to select from tours of apples, stone fruits, small fruits, and grapes as well as a tour the Station's laboratories and greenhouses. Admission was free and lunch was provided courtesy of industry sponsors.

"I think this was one of those rare field days when we had not only a full program of interesting presentations, but also a good combination of audience interest, cooperative weather, and generous sponsor support, said Art Agnello, who, along with Terence Robinson, coordinated the event. "It was rewarding to hear that so many people got so much out of the talks and demonstrations. This is exactly what we're hoping for when we hold these events." Both Agnello and Robinson are NYSAES researchers.

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