

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

STATION NEWS

GENEVA
NEW • YORKVOLUME LXXIX • NO. 45
NOVEMBER 13-20, 1998

BRIEFS

HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

The NYS Department of Civil Service has announced that the open enrollment period for health insurance will start on November 1, 1998. Since the insurance rates have not been released, the open enrollment period will extend for 30 days after the rates are released. You will be notified as soon as the rates have been released; at that time, the last day of the open enrollment period will be announced.

Insurance change applications can be accepted at this time if anyone wants to change health insurance options without knowing what the rates are. Applications can also be accepted for voluntary cancellations and changes of coverage from family to individual.

The effective date for option transfers and changes to individual coverage will be December 31, 1998. The last day of health insurance coverage for voluntary cancellations will be December 30, 1998.

Known Facts:

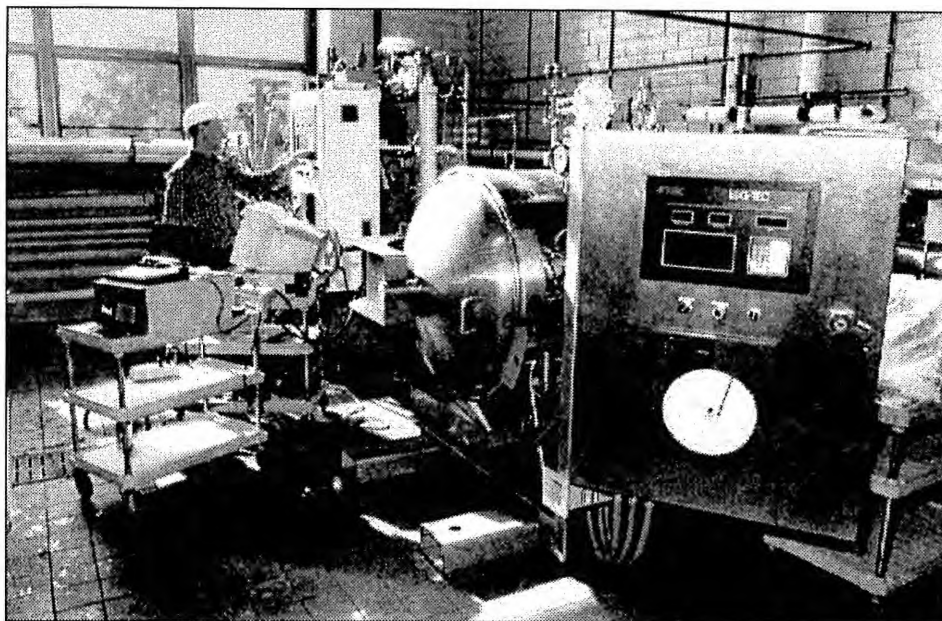
- The 1999 Empire Plan deductible will be \$241 and the 1999 coinsurance maximum will be \$1159.

- PHP co-payments are increasing from \$5 to \$10. The drug co-payment for a generic prescription will remain the same, at \$5; the drug co-payment for a brand name prescription will increase from \$10 to \$20. In addition, there will be a co-payment maximum of \$1159.

Empire Plan Participating Provider Update:

The Geneva Medical Associates will no longer participate in the Empire Plan effective January 1, 1999. The Family Medicine Associates of Ithaca will no longer participate with the Plan effective January 1, 1999. Surgical Associates of Ithaca, P.C. is no longer participating with the Empire Plan as of October 1, 1998. Butter-milk Falls Pediatrics is participating with the Empire Plan as of July 29, 1998. Other partici-

(Continued on page 3)

ADDITIONAL REVENUES HELP STATION
SERVE NEW YORK

Funding from NYS in 1997 provided the Fruit & Vegetable Pilot Plant at Geneva with new thermal processing technology that allows researchers and outside companies to conduct trials with food in cans, retortable pouches, plastic and glass containers.

Whatever do you do with \$1.2 million? If you're the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, the answer is "upgrade facilities to help New York's food and agricultural businesses." That's exactly how the \$600,000 appropriated by the New York State Legislature for Geneva in each of the last two years—1997 and 1998—is being used.

"The monies are a critical step in funding the Geneva Plan," said Director Jim Hunter. "They strengthen GENEVA's capacity to improve the state's economy by meeting the needs of 21st century agriculture and food businesses in New York.

"Our goals are to improve the competitiveness and profitability of growers and processors of fruit and vegetable crops while safeguarding the environment, increase market share for New York producers, and ensure consumers access to wholesome, high quality, and reasonably priced foods produced in New York," said Hunter. Added benefits of investing in GENEVA include attracting and retaining agricultural and food companies to the state, and promoting the establishment of start-up companies in New York based on biotechnology and other knowledge developed at GENEVA.

Senators Randy Kuhl (R-52nd District) and Mike Nozzolio (R-53rd District), spearheaded the initiative to get the appropriations added to the budget the first year. Governor Pataki included it in his Executive Budget the second year. Assemblyman Craig Doran (R-129th District) and Dean Daryl Lund actively supported funding the Geneva Plan. Members of the agricultural community, including fruit and vegetable growers, winery owners, food processors, the New York Farm Bureau, and the Council of Agri-

(Continued on page 2)

(REVENUES, cont.)

cultural Organizations supported the allocations.

What did \$600,000 Buy in 1997?

The 1997 appropriation was used to upgrade equipment for research in laboratories, the food processing pilot plant, and field research.

The newly hired director of the Food Venture Center at GENEVA, Olga Padilla-Zakour, received \$33,500 to expand operations to help new food companies bring new products to market. Under federal and state regulations, measurements are required to classify food by type and assess level of risk. "We can now accurately and quickly determine critical control points such as pH, water activity, moisture, soluble solids and oxygen concentration," Padilla-Zakour said.

The Fruit & Vegetable Processing Pilot Plant received \$341,500 to buy equipment needed to help industry and university researchers test and develop new processing procedures and food products. New thermal processing equipment was purchased, and food processing units upgraded.

New equipment costing \$88,000 was purchased to outfit labs for Randy Worobo, the food microbiologist recently hired to direct the Station's program addressing food safety and spoilage problems caused by microorganisms.

"Some of the funds have been used to look at alternative technologies for the treatment of apple cider to ensure its safety for consumers against *E. coli* 0157:H7, a pathogen responsible for several outbreaks of foodborne illness," said Worobo. The majority of funds were used by Worobo to purchase molecular biology research equipment and create a biohazard 2+3 lab used to study dangerous foodborne pathogens.

The Station's Field Research Unit (FRU), which provides support for researchers conducting field experiments and maintains 850 acres of Station farms and roads, received \$137,000 to upgrade farm machinery. The new equipment has allowed the FRU to do a better or more timely job while saving money in maintenance and down time. "Because there are fewer breakdowns, more work gets done," said Mark Scott, FRU leader.

What did \$600,000 Buy in 1998?

Because the state's fiscal year ends March 31, 1999, GENEVA is still spending



With recent state appropriations, the Field Research Unit was able to upgrade field research equipment, including the replacement of several 1950 vintage tractors, and the purchase of a 'Deep Till' plow (shown here) which allows them to break up compacted soil early in the season when it is still wet.

the money appropriated in 1998.

FRU received an additional \$100,000 as part of the continued long-term effort to replace worn-out farm equipment used for field research. The Station's equipment had deteriorated to the point where it was difficult to keep it repaired and/or functioning. This is the fourth year GENEVA has used special state appropriations to re-equip FRU. Senator Nozzolio obtained funds totaling \$500,000 for the first two years before funding began for the Geneva Plan.

The Food Science & Technology (FS&T) Department received \$150,000 toward the renovation of space for the new Cornell Vinification and Brewing Technology Laboratory (V&BTL) that is being constructed in partnership with the wine and brewing industries of New York. The appropriation augments more than \$60,000 in industry funds that were contributed by area wine-trail associations, breweries, wineries, and manufacturers in support of the new V&BTL in 1997-98. "The state monies are being used to install a pitched floor with central drain system, cover floor and wall with industrial type epoxy, and install new utilities. The west wall of the lab will be removed and a new loading

dock and grape pressing platform constructed," said Mark McLellan.

A \$75,000 expansion of a molecular biology laboratory in the department of plant pathology is also underway. Herb Aldwinckle outlined the project: "Laboratory facilities to carry out biotechnology research to genetically engineer fruits and vegetables have become extremely overcrowded because pressure from New York growers and funding agencies to do this type of research has significantly increased. The present project involves utility and structural changes, and installation of lab benches and scientific equipment. When the lab is completed, we will be better able to address problems important to New York agriculture," said Aldwinckle.

In addition, \$275,000 has been earmarked to replace or upgrade laboratory equipment for five new faculty. These new professors are being recruited to lead programs in food engineering, vegetable breeding, small fruit breeding, fruit pathology, and pomology.

Next week, Station News will run the conclusion of this story, which tells why more funds are needed in 1999, where the funds will be spent, and who the beneficiaries are.

(BRIEFS, continued)

pating provider information can be found via the web: <http://www.cs.state.ny.us>

Concerns and questions may be directed to Nancy Zinzola, State Finance & Business Services, at 8-5-4455 or to Charie Hibbard, Geneva Human Resources, at x210.

SELECT BENEFITS

Cornell's annual benefits enrollment period provides faculty and staff the primary opportunity for enrolling in the Select Benefits Plan for 1999. The enrollment period is between November 1, 1998 and December 4, 1998, and any changes will be effective January 1, 1999.

The Select Benefits program allows you to pay your share of the cost of health coverage, certain eligible medical expenses, and eligible dependent care expenses. You must enroll annually to participate. Select Benefit contributions will be deducted from 24 paychecks in the year for both exempt and non-exempt employees. Thus, nonexempt employee will have two paychecks—one in April and one in September—in which no contributions are deducted.

If you are considering enrolling in Select Benefits for the first time and have questions about these accounts, you should call Aon Consulting at 1-800-726-3221, because federal regulations on Select Benefits accounts make it important for you to carefully consider a number of factors before enrolling.

Select Benefits includes the:

- Medical Care Reimbursement Account
- Dependent Care Reimbursement Account

Orthodontia Expenses

Internal Revenue Service rules regarding orthodontia claims are somewhat complicated. If you expect to have orthodontia reimbursement in 1999, please call Aon Consulting at 1-800-726-3221 during the enrollment period to help clarify how much you can expect to be reimbursed during 1999.

Reimbursement through Direct Deposit

Aon Consulting provides for the voluntary direct deposit of Select Benefit Dependent and/or Medical Care reimbursements into designated bank accounts. If you would like to enroll in direct deposit, complete a direct deposit enrollment consent form. Print all in-

(Continued at right)

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Every minute, 38 units of blood or blood products are transfused in the United States. All of the blood donated each year is given by only about 5% of the eligible donors. That's a very low average when you consider the fact that 95% of the population will require a blood transfusion at some point in their lifetime.

A typical, average-weight adult has approximately 10-12 pints of blood. However, donating only requires giving up a little less than a pint. The body replaces the fluid within 24 hours, and the red cells are replenished within six weeks.

Giving blood is giving someone the gift of life, and anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing at least 110 pounds, who is in relatively good health, can donate.

Donating requires only about an hour of your time—a very small price to pay when you consider that your single donation may help as many as four different patients, each of whom may receive a separate component of your donation.

The AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held here on our campus on Monday, Nov. 23 from 8:00 am–1:00 pm in the Sawdust Café. You can reserve a specific time that is most convenient for you by contacting your Station Club representative or Colleen VanAllan (x 318). Walk-ins are also welcome! You don't have to be a Station employee to participate—the public is welcome, too.

When you arrive you will undergo a health history screening to make sure that you are eligible to donate without harmful effects to you or the recipient of your donation. If eligible, you will be assigned a bed, and the actual donation will only take about 5-15 minutes. Afterward, an escort will take you to a refreshment area where cookies and juice will be provided to help you start replenishing the fluid you have lost.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility, medical facts, concerns about what to expect before, during, or after the donation, etc., please contact Colleen, and she can provide you with fact sheets from the American Red Cross.

If you are interested in donating time, volunteers are needed to assist in registering donors. The more "helping hands" we have, the quicker the process will go. Any time that you might be available to help out between 7:45 am and 12:45 pm would be greatly appreciated. Contact Colleen if you would like to help.

(BRIEFS, continued)

formation; your social security number, bank name, bank account number and designate if the account is a checking or savings. The complete consent form and a voided check or deposit slip must be return to Aon Consulting, Flex Administration #00559-80, P.O. Box 2845, Winston-Salem, NC 27102, for direct deposit to begin.

If you are currently enrolled in direct deposit for Select Benefit reimbursement accounts, you do not need to complete a direct deposit enrollment form unless you would like to designate a different bank account.

Charie Hibbard

UPDATE HOME ADDRESS—ANOTHER "YOU NEED TO DO"

All employees are asked to update their home address as soon as possible through Employee Essentials on the Bear Access menu. W-2 forms will be sent to the address listed in Employee Essentials. If you are not able to use Employee Essentials to update your address, please notify your Department/Unit HR representative or call Human Resources, Jordan Hall, at x203.

For Your Information: Employee Essentials, on the Bear Access menu, will no longer exist as of December 18, 1998. Employee Essentials currently provides us with personal information regarding insurances, retirement, addresses, emergency contacts, etc. You may make a hard copy of each Employee Essentials' screen for your personal use. Please keep in mind that the information currently presented on each screen is dependent upon your appointment, salary, age, etc., or displays information which you may have entered.

Charie Hibbard

CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER 13-20, 1998

EVENTS/MEETINGS

Saturday, November 14, 1998

Jordan Hall Auditorium
Station Book Sale and Craft Fair

Wednesday, November 18, noon

Conference Room (G19), Hedrick Hall
Geneva Arboretum Association
Topic: *Prioritizing a List of Potential New Trees/Shrubs*

SEMINARS

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 1998
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Room A133, Barton Laboratory
Speaker: Wolfram D. Koeller
Department of Plant Pathology
Cornell University, Geneva
Title: Resistance to the Strobilurin
Fungicides

DEADLINES

- **Monday, November 16:** Cabbage proposals, progress reports due to Director's Office.
- **Thursday, November 19:** ARDP/ARA progress reports due to Director's Office.

LTC

Class: Advanced HTML
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 1998
Time: 9:30-11:30 am
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall

Class: ADW User's Group
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 1998
Time: 9:30-11:00 am
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall

Class: Beginning Excel
Date: Thursday, November 19, 1998
Time: 8:30-11:00 am or 1:30-4:00 pm
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall

Class: Advanced HTML
Date: Friday, November 20, 1998
Time: 9:30-11:30 am
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall

**CHILDCARE CENTER
CITRUS SALE**

Once again Geneva Lakefront Childcare Center will be sponsoring its 8th Annual Citrus Sale through Nov. 17th. We will be offering a larger selection of fruit than in previous years. New this year are tangelos, juice oranges and a Trio Pack. Also available are larger quantities of fruit. Below are the fruits available this year.

You can place your order with me by responding to this email, or you can order by calling the Childcare Center at 781-0014. Payment is due **before November 17th**. Please make checks payable to Geneva Lakefront Childcare Center. Payment can be sent to me through campus mail (510 Barton Lab) or, if you prefer, you can drop it off at my office - 5th floor Barton, rm. 510 or 515.

Please note that the 2/5 bushel size is the size that we sold last year. The larger, 4/5 bushel is new this year.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Navel oranges | 2. Red Grapefruit |
| 2/5 bu.—\$12.00 | 2/5 bu.—\$13.00 |
| 4/5 bu.—\$21.00 | 4/5 bu.—\$19.00 |
| 3. Tangelos | 4. Juice Oranges— |
| NEW!! | NEW!! |
| 2/5 bu.—\$13.00 | 2/5 bu.—\$12.00 |
| 4/5 bu.—\$21.00 | 4/5 bu.—\$19.00 |
| 5. Gift Box (packaged for holiday giving) | |
| 2/5bu.—\$15.00 | |
| 6. Mixed Box (half oranges and grapefruit) | |
| 2/5 bu.—\$14.00 | |
| 7. Trio Pack (Oranges, grapefruit & apples)—NEW!! | |
| 2/5bu.—\$16.50 | |

Delivery is anticipated the second week of December. I will inform you of the delivery date several days before. Thank you in advance for your support. *Pat Marsella-Herrick*

SPORTS

PING PONG: Thursday nights at 7:30 pm in the Sawdust Café. Contact Roger Magarey (x366, rdm5) for more information.

SOFTBALL: Wednesday nights at 5:30 in the field behind Jordan Hall. Contact Nestor Ortiz (x303, nho1).

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: The Library has sturdy Princeton journal boxes for 10 cents each.

GARAGE SALE: Sunday, November 15, all day. Winter coats, clothing, square dancing clothes, shells and ornaments, Christmas decorations, toys, swing set (brand new), furniture. 1000 County Rd. 4.

FOR SALE: 1984 Toyota Camry, 4 door, automatic, 86,000 mi. new exhaust, new brakes, air works ok, good tires, will pass inspection. Asking \$1000.00. 1988 Nissan Pathfinder, 2 door, V6, 5 speed manual transmission, 4 wheel drive, good tires, runs well, 103K miles. \$5000. Contact Pat Marsella-Herrick at x363, or 585-9515 after 6 pm or e-mail pm12.

MOVING SALE: 1988 Toyota Corolla, 4 dr, auto, air, cass, 108k; new tires, gas tank and brakes; good condition. \$3,600 or best offer. Baby crib with mattress and bedding, bought new and used for only one child, \$65. Queen size mattress and box springs, \$60. Sofa and chair set, \$40. VCR, \$30. Hard wood executive desk, \$40. Office desk, \$20. Dining table with 2 chairs, \$20. Exercise walking machine, folding table, easy cabinet, snow sled, twin size mattress, full size box springs: \$5 each. Some free items. Everything must go. Please call Kai-Shu Ling at 781-7078 or e-mail to kl12.

FOR RENT: One bedroom apartment, one mile from Station. Clean, bright, \$325/mo. includes heat. Leave message at 789-2471.

FUNDRAISER: Boy Scout Troop 58 is selling Dine-A-Mate books for \$20. You get 2-for-1 or 50% savings on fine, casual and informal dining, movies, museums, sports events, merchandise, local services, vacations, air fares and more, from now through 12/1/1999. Local establishments are Mario's, Pier House, Wine Garden, Lakeview, Pizza Hut, Denny's, Wing Tai, Alice's Kitchen, Geneva Cinema, Smith Opera House, Hobart Statesman, Seneca Lake Country Club, PK Putters, etc. Use it twice and you have recouped your investment plus supported a good cause. It also makes a great Christmas gift. For purchase or info. contact Jim at jpe6 (x378 or jpe6). Make checks payable to Troop 58.

COME TO THE ANNUAL YMCA DINNER DANCE

Enjoy the company of Geneva community members, a great dinner and dance, and, while you are having fun, support the Geneva Family YMCA's community programs!

This year's dinner and dance will be at the Belhurst Castle on 20 November 1998, cocktails & hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7:30. Thereafter, dancing with the Agonal Rhythm band and gambling. Dinner will feature a steamship round buffet accompanied by seafood fettuccini, chicken Francis, roasted potatoes, maple glacéed carrots, a variety of salads, and a tantalizing dessert table. Tickets are \$55 single and \$90 per couple and can be purchased from Thomas Henick-Kling (x 277, th12) or directly from the Geneva YMCA (789-1616) by **November 16**. More information can be obtained from the YMCA.