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**2017 BECKER FORUM: GAPS/PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE (PSA) TRAINING****Monday, January 16, 2017 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM****Holiday Inn Syracuse-Liverpool ,441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, New York 13088****Pre-registration requested as space is limited to 50 on first-come basis**

The New York State Vegetable Growers Association in conjunction with the Produce Safety Alliance (a collaboration between Cornell University, FDA and USDA) are pleased to announce that one of the first producer trainings to meet the requirements of Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) will be offered during the Becker Forum on January 16, 2017 in Liverpool, NY. This 7-hour training will provide the required training for farms to meet the Produce Safety Rule.

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**NYS BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP – UNCOVERING THE SECRETS OF GROWING BERRIES UNDER COVER****Tuesday, January 17, 2017 | 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM****Pre-registration is required to receive workshop materials – Free to NYS Berry Growers Association members and \$20 for non-members.****Session organized by Laura McDermott, Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program and Cara Fraver, New York State Berry Growers Association**

As dramatic weather events increase, pest pressure intensifies, and local markets vitalize, New York berry growers are looking for ways to protect their crops and lengthen their season. Growers and educators are evaluating techniques for growing berries under cover. This day-long workshop will feature multiple short presentations, hands-on or interactive activities, words from growers, and a NYS Berry Grower Association Annual meeting discussing the newest research in tunnels and exclusion netting.

Courtney Weber from Cornell University will present on cultivars of strawberries and raspberries that thrive in tunnels. We'll also look at innovative types of plastics, how they work differently, and how to dispose of them thoughtfully and affordably with experts Kathy Demchak and Lois Levitan. Greg Loeb and Kerik Cox from Cornell University will discuss pests and diseases that are common in tunnel environments and how to manage them. Greg Loeb and Stephen Hessler will present on the use of lures within exclusion netting systems, while Juliet Carroll, NYS IPM, and Jonathan Lambert, Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions, will discuss apps and other tools that farmers can employ to manage the effects of climate change. Miguel Gomez will address the ways in which SWD has impacted farmers' profits. Join us to learn how you can push your strawberries into November, grow blueberries without sprays in the post SWD era, use apps to best predict the weather you're trying to protect against, and more!

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**GAPS DAY 2 – WRITING YOUR OWN FOOD SAFETY PLAN WORKSHOP****Tuesday, January 17 | 8:30 am – 4:30 pm****Pre-registration is required to reserve seat and receive materials as space is limited.****Session organized by Elizabeth Bihn, Food Science, Cornell University, Craig Kahlke, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Team, and Robert Hadad, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program**

Growers looking for help in writing a GAPs/farm safety plan should join this workshop. It will be offered as a continuation of the 7-hour FSMA training. It is requested that you have attended day 1 of a previous GAPs training or the program offered during the Becker Forum. The goals of the workshop are to: understand how GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices) impact produce safety, learn what is needed for a USDA GAP/GHP audit, the two types of audit (harmonized and basic), and to begin writing a farm food safety plan that complies with a USDA GAP/GHP audit.

Growers participating in this training will receive a flash drive pre-loaded with templates to use in writing a farm food safety plan (including templates of record keeping forms), together with a Farm Worker Training CD, A grower self-assessment for food safety risks, posters and various other items.

Participants are asked to bring a laptop computer, a list of crops that you want to be USDA GAP/GHP certified (if planning to participate in an audit), farm maps indicating fields containing crops to be certified, a packinghouse floor plan that shows product flow from entry to exit (if applicable to your operation), a list of contracted services at your operation (e.g. pest control, portable toilet rental, trucking, etc.) and any associated recordkeeping documents that the contractors

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**PEST MANAGEMENT****Wednesday, January 18, 2017 | 8:30 am-9:45 am****Session organized by Tess Grasswitz, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Team**

The 2016 growing season was a challenging one for New York tree fruit producers, with drought stress increasing tree susceptibility to various pest, disease and physiological problems. With this in mind, this session will feature 3 speakers from Cornell University who will focus on several topical problems. Dr. Kerik Cox will provide the latest recommendations and research on season-long fire blight management in apples, while presentations by Drs. David Rosenberger and Lailiang Cheng will help growers diagnose and manage various trunk-related problems in apples and nutrient-related problems in fruit trees.

*The Expo program and online registration is available from the NYS Vegetable Growers Association at <https://nysvga.org/expo>*

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## HORTICULTURE

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 | 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Session organized by Craig Kahlke, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Team

Best Cultural Practices for Honeycrisp and *Listeria* Prevention (Ines Hanrahan ); Soil Health (Greg Peck )

The New York Apple Association is proud to sponsor Dr. Ines Hanrahan, Project Manager of the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission. We are honored to have such a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker to share her insights on two extremely timely topics. Dr. Hanrahan will open the session by sharing the latest research from WA on how to increase the pack-out, storage length, and fruit quality of Honeycrisp and Dr. Gregory Peck (Cornell) will follow with a presentation on soil health for tree fruit growers. Dr. Hanrahan will close the session with a presentation on how growers can use orchard management to restrict foodborne pathogen contamination and proliferation.

Note: Dr. Hanrahan will be addressing *Listeria* from the critical storage and pack-house side in a session on farm food safety plan writing on Tuesday. The latter is a GAPs workshop for both fruit and vegetable growers that requires a separate registration.

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## 2017 WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS) UPDATE

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 | 3:15 - 4:30 PM

Session organized by Maire Ullrich, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

EPA's Worker Protection Standards have been changed for 2017. Changes to the WPS regulations include: new no-entry application-exclusion zones, new training requirements, new posting requirements and others. Come to this session to learn more how to stay in compliance in the upcoming season. NYS DEC PCSII, Donald Nelson, will address the group on the new regulations and how to comply with them.

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## TREE FRUIT – TECHNOLOGY IN THE ORCHARD

Thursday January 19, 2017 | 8:30 am -9:45 am

Session organized by Matt Wells, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Team

Technology in orchards continues to evolve and “high-tech” tools are becoming more common. There is a lot of excitement in agriculture about the potential use of drones, which offer a new way to move and work in orchard settings. However, it is sensory technology and data analysis that are moving agriculture into “high-tech” mode. Jim Meyers, Senior Vice President of Technology and Operations of Noukatech, Inc., will be giving a two-part presentation on the present and future states of high-technology in orchards using advanced sensors, robotics and data processing. Matt Wells from Cornell Cooperative Extension will be sharing his research and knowledge on the present and future states of harvest mechanization. Harvest labor is the single largest cost to farms today and sourcing highly skilled seasonal labor is difficult. Today there are labor-saving options for tree fruit growers and the future may be brighter as robotic pickers are no longer far-fetched.

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## TREE FRUIT - CHALLENGING WEATHER AND RISK MITIGATION

Thursday January 19, 2017 | 10:30 am –11:45 am

Session organized by Mario Miranda Sazo, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Team

In the light of record cold temperatures last winter and the drought this summer, this timely session will address various weather-related production challenges and how to mitigate their effects. Hugh Fraser (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), retired) will be speaking on “Airflow machines for protection against cold injury”, and on “Trellis support systems for high density apples”, while Jaime Lordan from Cornell will complement these topics with a presentation on “The importance of irrigation”.

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## HARD CIDER

Thursday January 19, 2017 | 1:45 pm – 4:30 pm

Session organized by Matt Wells, Lake Ontario Fruit Team

The NY Hard Cider Industry continues to grow due to strong consumer demand. There are many hard cider start-ups and many more folks considering giving it a go. Micah Martin from Cornell University will discuss his research on using NY desert varieties to make an excellent hard cider. Greg Peck—also from Cornell—will be sharing his knowledge of cider apples and giving an introduction to tannins, an important component for traditional-tasting ciders. For those attendees considering growing their own cider apples or growing for the cider industry, Alan Cummins from Cummins Nursery will discuss the growth aspects (both good and bad) of the more popular hard cider varieties. Following these talks there will be a tasting of NY's best hard ciders.

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