



## Cornell Cooperative Extension Lake Ontario Fruit Program Quarterly Report July - September 2019



**Overview:** The very wet spring that brought too many rainy days and flooded orchards from April through June dried out when summer approached. There were droughty periods but very few days with extremely high temperatures or intense sunlight. Growers who had irrigation benefited from the drier summer days while some suffered and fruit size was smaller. Poor fruit set on Empire (and to a lesser extent McIntosh) possibly due to “winter injury” in late fall had a small crop of this variety along with much smaller fruit size. In addition, several hailstorms damaged a large number of apple orchard blocks across nearly every county in WNY in July and August. Damage varied greatly. The good news is that overall there is/was a good apple crop in WNY for most varieties/growers. As harvest began, we thankfully received “classic” fall weather that produce excellent fruit color. Mild days with plenty of sun and cooler, clear nights dominated most of late August and September. The continuation of performing tasks/collecting data on applied research projects were the main focus for most of the team. Starting in late August, the Harvest Maturity Program began for Craig. Liz helped after Labor Day. Harvest for various projects began in earnest in September for the entire team. One of Mario’s many projects focused on sample collection and processing of Honeycrisp plant material to compare nutritional status and incidence of bitter pit, a calcium-related disorder that can cost growers thousands of dollars per acre in unharvested fruit. A main focus of Mark’s was to observe many different harvest operations in action to get a better understanding of orchard efficiencies and where improvements could be made to gather ideas of applied research projects and industry collaborations.

**Education:** The annual LOF Summer Fruit Tour was held on three progressive farms in Niagara County on July 18. Over 125 growers and other industry folks attended. Feedback indicated that the tour was very well-regarded. The weather cooperated and we had a beautiful day to enjoy learning, sharing, and networking in cutting-edge orchards, and enjoyed an excellent lunch and visit with sponsors lakeside. Nearly 115 were in attendance for Mario’s Hispanic Summer Tour in Orleans County on July 13. More details are in Mario’s Cultural Practices Section.

**Team News:** *The team is full again!* In August we interviewed several candidates and offered the IPM Specialist position to Janet Van Zoeren. Janet starts October 16 and we are excited to have her join us! She comes to us with an excellent combination of education and experience. More info on Janet can be [found here](#). Janet will be housed in the Orleans CCE office. Her cell is 585-797-8368 and her email is [jev67@cornell.edu](mailto:jev67@cornell.edu).





**Selected Presentations:**

<b>Presentations by LOF Team</b>	<b>Periodical/Meeting:</b>	<b>Author/Presenter:</b>
Stop Host at David Tower Farms	LOF Summer Tour July 18	Kahlke
<i>Pollen Tube Growth Model</i>	LOF Summer Tour July 18	Kahlke, Robinson, Tower
<i>Multi-Leader Plantings</i>	LOF Summer Tour July 18	Miranda Sazo, Tower
<i>Stop Host at 2 of Clubs Orchards</i>	LOF Summer Tour July 18	Miranda Sazo
<i>Precision Crop Load Management &amp; Use of Carbohydrate &amp; Fruit Growth Models</i>	LOF Summer Tour July 18	Miranda Sazo, Kahlke, Robinson
<i>Stop Host at Russell Farms</i>	LOF Summer Tour July 18	Wiltberger
<i>Family Business/Multi-Generation</i>	LOF Summer Tour July 18	Wiltberger, Russell
<i>Planned, Organized, Introduced Topics/Speakers, and Translated into Spanish</i>	Hispanic Summer Tour July 13	Miranda Sazo
<i>Types of Crop Insurance Available for Apple Growers</i>	Online Webinar August 22	Wiltberger
<i>Record-keeping &amp; Preparing Your Farm for Apple Crop Insurance</i>	Online Webinar September 5	Wiltberger

**Selected Publications:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Publication</b>	<b>Author</b>
<i>"Availability of Reflective Ground Covers for 2019 Harvest"</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Wiltberger
<i>"Now is the Time to Plan Your Next Orchard"</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Miranda Sazo & Robinson
<i>"Lake Ontario's Next Generation of Hispanic Employees, Future Leaders, and Innovators"</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Miranda Sazo & Waters
<i>"A Comprehensive Acreage &amp; Variety Survey for Commercial Apple Growers in NY"</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Kahlke
<i>"Harvest Maturity Predictions in WNY for 2019"</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Kahlke & Donahue



**Selected Research Activities This Quarter (Detailed in Specialists Reporting Sections):**

<b>Activity/Proposal/Grant</b>	<b>LOF Person(s)</b>	<b>Funded (Y/N) or Unfunded/ Preliminary Research (UPR)</b>
<i>Precision Crop Load Management</i>	Miranda Sazo	Y – ARDP, Robinson
<i>Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in US Specialty Crops</i>	Tee	Yes-SCRI Agnello et al.
<i>Precision Orchard Management</i>	Wiltberger	Y – ARDP, Robinson
<i>ReTain™ &amp; Harvista™ Rate &amp; Timing Trials in Gala &amp; Honeycrisp</i>	Kahlke	Y- Valent BioSciences, Kahlke
<i>Orchard Netting Project in a Wayne County orchard</i>	Miranda Sazo, Fines	Y – ARDP Miranda Sazo
<i>Prediction and prevention of ambrosia beetle infestations in NY apple orchards</i>	Tee	Y- Cornell Federal Capacity Fund Agnello et al.
<i>Effect of Ground Cover on Coloring of Apples</i>	Wiltberger	N
<i>A Comprehensive Acreage &amp; Variety Survey for NY</i>	Kahlke, Tee, Wiltberger	Y – ARDP, Kahlke



**Stakeholder Contacts/Business Consultation:**

Specialist	Site Visit	Phone/Texts/Emails
Kahlke	11	100+
Miranda Sazo	20	80
Wiltberger	10	25

**Selected Professional Development and Training:**

Activity	Team Member(s)	Comments:
Business Management Specialist Retreat, Cornell Campus, July 31 & August 1	Wiltberger	
Cornell Storage Workshop, Campus, August 8th	Kahlke	



## ***Quarterly Highlight for Cultural Practices – Mario Miranda Sazo***

### **Extension Out Loud: Specialist Spotlight “Mario on his path to CCE and digitizing orchards”**

At the annual Empire Farm Days event in Seneca Falls, NY, "Extension Out Loud" hosts sat down with Mario Miranda Sazo, a fruit extension specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Lake Ontario Fruit Program. Mario shared how his career led him from Chile to NYS and how digital agriculture may shape the future of the apple industry.

Episode transcript (PDF): <https://cornell.box.com/s/umo9vfvbk3a32z9epr66p7f6voptlaqo>

Podcast available online at: [https://soundcloud.com/extension\\_out\\_loud/mario](https://soundcloud.com/extension_out_loud/mario)

