



## Cornell Cooperative Extension Lake Ontario Fruit Program Quarterly Report January - March 2021

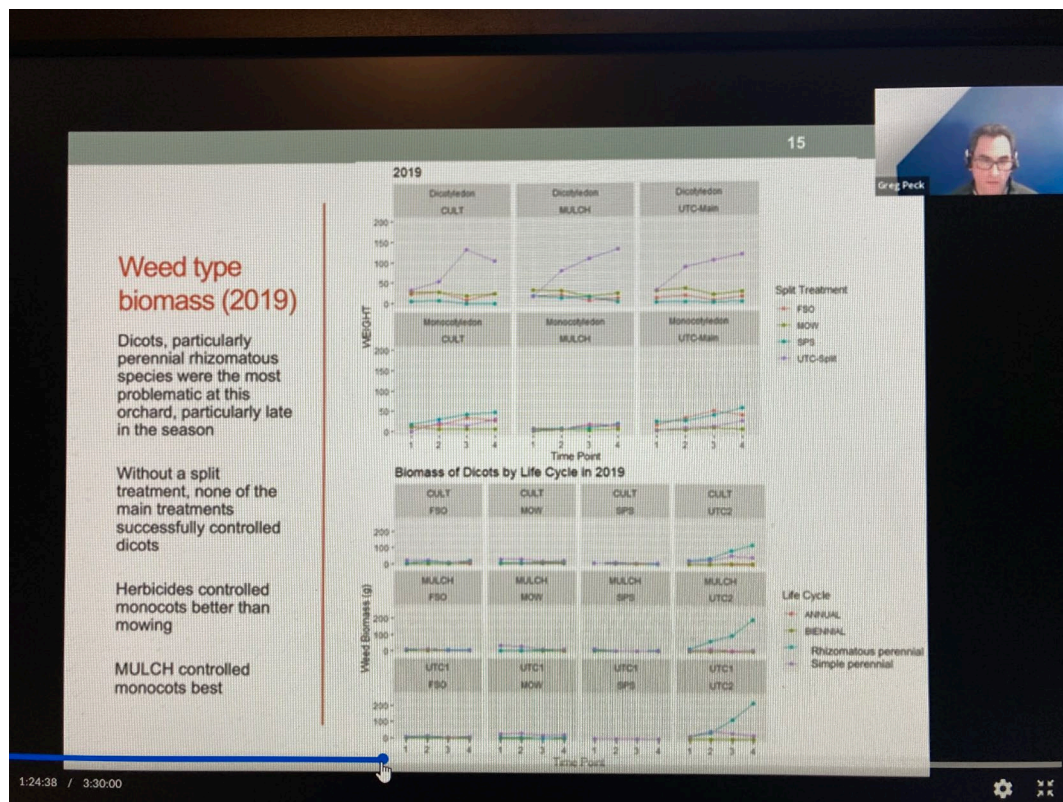
A partnership between  
Cornell University and the  
CCE Associations in these five  
counties:

Monroe, Niagara, Orleans,  
Oswego & Wayne

**Overview:** For the first time ever, we had to host our winter educational meetings virtually. Months of diligent planning by LOF and our counterparts in Eastern NY (CCE-ENYCHP) produced a comprehensive meeting, “CCE’s NY Tree Fruit Conference” on February 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. This event was in place of our usual (statewide) Empire Producer’s Expo and (regional) Winter Fruit Schools, and CCE-ENY’s (regional) winter conference. Post-conference evaluations indicated it was an excellent conference full of dynamic speakers from several states. Many stated if it was not virtual, they would be unable to attend all or part. The majority are in favor of a hybrid delivery model in the future. The conference covered 3 full days and 12 sessions. The largest sessions (DEC pesticide applicator credits) had over 350 attendees. Non-credit sessions had from 125-225 attendees.

All other educational programs this quarter continued to be held virtually, mainly via Zoom™. While many are suffering from “Zoom™-fatigue”, at least most of our stakeholders are comfortable in being able to successfully participate and interact in this format after nearly a year of practice.

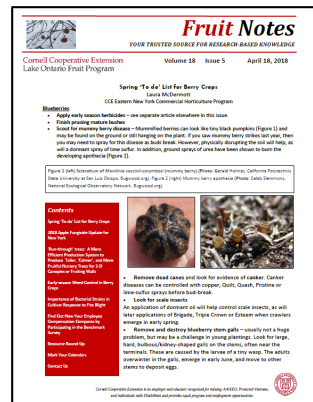
With a relatively mild December and January that brought limited snowfall and above average temperatures, February was cold and snowy. Most of March returned to unseasonably warmer temperatures, and tree fruit and small fruit started breaking bud in late March and early April, ~ 2 weeks earlier than normal. This brings increased anxiety to growers and industry, as the risk of crop-damaging frosts are increased.



Dr. Gregory Peck of Cornell University speaks during the Weed Management Session of the Cornell NYS Tree Fruit Conference on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

## By the Numbers:

Team Publications:	Editions:	Articles:
Fruit Notes	4	33
Email Blasts	16	N/A
Fruit Facts	3	N/A



Selected Publications by LOF Team	Periodical	Author
<i>Winter Pruning to Manage Fire Blight (While Continuing to Grow the Trees)</i>	Fruit Notes, Vol. 21, Issue 2	van Zoeren, Miranda Sazo, et al.
<i>Spring Pesticide Applicators Training – Pre-Exam Coaching</i>	Fruit Notes, Vol. 21, Issue 2	van Zoeren
<i>2021 NYS Wage Rates: H-2A AEWR Wage Rates, Minimum Wage, and Farm Overtime/Day of Rest Rules</i>	Fruit Notes, Vol. 21, Issue 3	Wiltberger
<i>COVID-19 Vaccinations for You and Your Farmworkers</i>	Fruit Notes, Vol. 21, Issue 4	Wiltberger
<i>Intentional Delay of Dormant Pruning for Honeycrisp &amp; other Important Biennial Cultivars</i>	Fruit Notes, Vol. 21, Issue 1	Miranda Sazo & Robinson



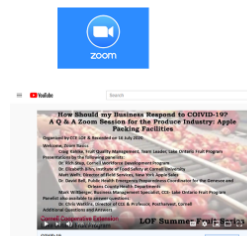
<b>Presentations by LOF Team</b>	<b>Periodical/Meeting:</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>
<i>Harvest Maturity for Evercrisp™</i>	2021 Cornell NYS Tree Fruit Conference, February 4	Kahlke
<i>Module 1: Introduction to Produce Safety Module 5.2: Agricultural Water-Postharvest</i>	Remote Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course, March 3	Kahlke
<i>Conversion of Programming to Zoom™/YouTube™ &amp; Hosting Annual Fruit Conference via Virtual Means &amp; How we worked with CCE-Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Team</i>	Celebrating Diverse, Innovative, Nimble, and Agile Extension Work – Ag programs, Mar 18	Kahlke
<i>Training to Take the Pesticide Certification Exam</i>	4-day course (Mar 22, 24, 29, 31)	Stanyard & van Zoeren
Guest lecture on “Tree Fruit Crops” for high school Intro to Horticulture class.	Bishop Kearney High School, Mar 23	van Zoeren
<i>Pruning, Training, and Transitioning from 3D to 2D Canopies</i>	2021 Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association Annual Convention, Halifax, Canada, Jan 27	Miranda Sazo
<i>Use of a Reflective Material &amp; other Technologies to Improve Fruit Color in High Value Apple Cultivars</i>	2021 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Hershey, Pennsylvania, Feb 10	Miranda Sazo
<i>Re-Engineering the Life Cycle of an Apple Tree and How to Transition to New Varieties Via Grafting</i>	Talks presented at the nurseries and grafting webinar series as a part of a workshop organized by Perennia AG-services team, Halifax, Canada, Mar 5	Miranda Sazo

### **Business Consultation**

<b>Specialist</b>	<b>Site Visit</b>	<b>Phone/Texts/Emails</b>
Kahlke	0	~40
Miranda Sazo	4	~75
Van Zoeren	5	111
Wiltberger	4	~82

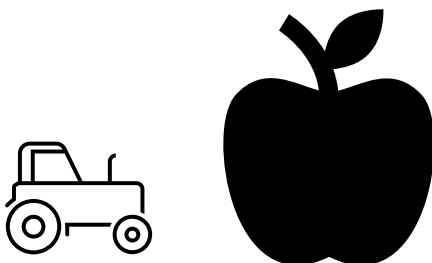
### **Education – Virtual Meetings & COVID-19**

- Virtual Spring Pink Meetings
- Virtual Thinning Mtgs
  - Petal Fall; 8-12 mm timing
- Virtual Summer Educational Series
  - Summer Insect Mgmt in Cherry
  - Honeycrisp Mgmt
  - Apple Irrigation
  - PGR's for Harvest Mgmt (CCE-ENYCHP)
- Q & A Sessions- Managing Farms during COVID-19



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Celebrating 20th – Ag Programs © 2021 3



### **Research**

<b>Activity/Proposal/Grant</b>	<b>Person(s)</b>	<b>Funded (Y/N) or Unfunded/ Preliminary Research (UPR)</b>
Roots and Rapid Apple Decline	van Zoeren (Khan PI)	Yes-NIFA
Potassium Studies with Mature Honeycrisp	Miranda Sazo & Cheng	Yes-ARDP
Precision Orchard Management	Robinson, Miranda Sazo, Kahlke, Tee, et. al	Yes-SCRI
Labor Readiness: Pathways for Farmworkers to Start Up and Advanced Beginners to Scale Up New Farm Business	Rangarajan, Miranda Sazo	Yes- USDA-NIFA
Reducing Risk in Fruit and Veg Production Through Improved on-Boarding of New Farm Employees OSP 91913	Higgins, Wiltberger, Stup	Yes-USDA RME
New York Agricultural Labor in Transition	Stup, Wiltberger	Yes-USDA RME
Weed Management	van Zoeren, Basedow	Yes-ARDP
Ambrosia beetle Black Stem Borer)	Agnello, van Zoeren	Yes-ARDP
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Monitoring	Agnello, van Zoeren	Yes-ARDP

### **Selected Professional Development and Training**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Team Member(s)</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Participated in the Northeast Plant Growth Regulator Conference Mar 9.	Kahlke	Zoom™
Cornell Extension Webinar, <i>On-Farm Participatory Research with Native American and Minority Farmers</i> (Mar 25)	Wiltberger	Zoom™
Cornell Extension Webinar, <i>Celebrating Diverse, Innovative, Nimble, and Agile Extension Work - Ag Programs</i> (Mar 18)	Wiltberger	Zoom™
“Reconnecting with Purpose” retreat and reflection (Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 17-19).	van Zoeren	Zoom™
Attended Brown Marmorated Stink Bug SCRI working group meeting (Feb 17-18).	van Zoeren	Zoom™
Attended the (virtual) NE Crop Consultants meeting (Mar 3).	van Zoeren	Zoom™
Attended the 2021 IFTA Annual Conference	Miranda Sazo	Zoom™



## ***Fruit Quality Management – Craig J. Kahlke***

### **Educational Programs/Presentations**

- 2021 Empire Producer's Expo (Virtual, January 12-15)
  - Promoted our 2021 Cornell Tree Fruit Conference on Jan 12 as part of an evening program hosted by the New York Apple Association, promoting their activities over the past year
  - Put in for (and received) DEC pesticide applicator's credits for the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course held on Jan 14-15. Directed Gemma Osborne how to monitor attendees during the conference and how to send in paperwork following the conference.
- 2021 Cornell Tree Fruit Conference (Virtual, February 2-4)
  - Finished final preparation of our co-hosting of the statewide educational conference in place of LOF's regional winter fruit schools & tree fruit educational tracks at the Empire Producer's Expo.
  - Had multiple Zoom™ meetings with meeting organizers (LOF specialists, technician Liz Tee, ENY specialists Dan Donahue & Mike Basedow, technicians Andy Galiberti & Sarah Elone.
  - Was present during the entire 3-day conference. Welcomed attendees on the morning of the first day, introduced the other organizers.
  - Chaired 3 sessions – secured speaker presentations as backups, introduced speakers and read questions from audience following each presentation.
  - Presented on *"Evercrisp Harvest Maturity"* at New Varieties & State Updates Session on February 4.
  - Helped organize a post day one "retirement gathering" for CU Entomologist Dr. Art Agnello, who has worked with LOF for over 30 years. Janet was instrumental in making this happen.
  - Post-conference
    - Worked with other organizers to get our thank you emails in a timely fashion.
    - Send sponsors thank you emails.
    - Set up a Qualtrics survey (post conference evaluations) with everyone's input
      - Shared survey results with all organizers.
- Farm Food Safety Plan-Writing Workshop (Zoom™, Jan 28) – See Quarterly Highlight also
  - Shared all flash drive resources with attendees.
  - Started writing farm food safety plan with attendees.
  - Led a breakout room for medium-large wholesale growers- plan writing
- Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course & Farm Food Safety Plan-Writing Workshop (Zoom™, Mar 3-4) – See Quarterly Highlight also
  - Presented Module 1 (Introduction to Food Safety) and Module 5.2 (Agricultural Water-Postharvest) to attendees on March 3. Answered questions.
  - Shared all flash drive resources with attendees (March 4).
  - Started writing farm food safety plan with attendees (March 4).
  - Led a breakout room for medium-large wholesale growers- plan writing (March 4).
- Celebrating Diverse, Innovative, Nimble, and Agile Extension Work – Ag programs (March 18).
  - Presented on our team's adaption of remote educational delivery during the pandemic.
  - Answered audience questions.
- Niagara Ag Forum (Zoom™, March 23).
  - Presented on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.
    - Explained which farms needed to be in compliance, and which would be not covered or qualified exempt.
    - Answered audience questions.

- New York Cider Association's Needs Assessment (Zoom™, March 26).
  - Co-chaired a session with Mike Basedow, CCE-ENYCHP.
    - Gathered grower input on high priority needs for all subjects related to cider apple production.
      - Listed them and shared with the group to help rank priorities for later meetings.
- Cleaning & Sanitizing Workshop Zoom™, March 31).
  - Organized, advertised and hosted this statewide workshop to stakeholders primarily in Western NY
    - Advertised meeting in newsletters and on website.
    - Send registrants Zoom™ links and homework assignments.
    - The educational portions were given by faculty/staff from the Department of Food Science at Cornell (Dr. Betsy Bihn & Dr. Beth Demmings) along with the Ag Engineer from the University of Vermont, Dr. Chris Callahan.
    - Kept group on time.

## Publications

### Fruit Notes

- Articles Written:
  - *Registration is Open for CCE's 2021 Tree Fruit Conference February 2-4, Volume 21, Issue 1*
  - *Congrats to 2020 Good Fruit Grower of the Year Rod farrow of Lamont Fruit Farm! Volume 21, Issue 1*
  - *2021 CCE's Winter Tree Fruit Conference Evaluations on Qualtrics and Materials Available on Teachable, Volume 20, Issue 2*
  - *You're Invited- NYFVI Needs Assessment March 26 (Zoom™) of NY Cider Sector, Volume 20, Issue 3*
- Edited 3 newsletters in the quarter.
- Sorted through numerous announcements about workshops/conferences/meetings/surveys and along with the pertinent on-line registration links, put them in the newsletter.

### Email Blasts

- Sorted through numerous announcements about workshops/conferences/meetings/surveys and along with the pertinent on-line registration links, put them in the email blasts.
- Worked with Mark Wiltberger in deciding who would send out email blasts
  - Craig sent out 11 email blasts in the quarter, and Mark sent out - (see Mark's section of Qtly Report)
    - 1/22 - "2021 NYS Tree Fruit Conference Feb 2-4 – Early Bird Registration Ends January 26!"
    - 1/26 - "2021 NYS Tree Fruit Conference Feb 2-4 – Early Bird Registration Ends Midnight Tonight!"
    - 1/29 – "Important Meeting Announcements & Reminder about 2021 NYS Tree Fruit Conference Next Week!"
    - 2/1 - "Practice Session Today"
    - 2/11 – "Remote (FSMA!) Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course & Optional 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop March 3-4"
    - 2/24 – "LOF Announcements"
    - 2/26 – "LOF Announcements"
    - 3/9 – "LOF – Reminder About March 11 Q & A COVID Vaccines in English & Spanish"
    - 3/12 – "LOF Meeting announcement – Cleaning & Sanitizing on Produce Farms and in Packing Facilities Virtual Workshop, March 31<sup>st</sup>, from 8:30 AM – 12 PM"

- 3/17 – “LOF Announcements”
- 3/25 – “LOF Announcement – Northeast Winter Fruit Seminar Series NEWA Project Upgrades for 2021 Webinar, March 30, 2021 12-1:30 PM”

## Applied Research

- SCRI Project “Apple Precision Orchard Management” (Robinson PI)
  - Participated in planning meetings (Zoom™) January 21 & March 30 to discuss our project roles in 2021.

## Team and Other Duties

- Team Leader Administrative Duties
  - Approved invoices and vouchers as needed.
  - Attended WNY AMG Meeting Jan 15 (Zoom™).
  - Reviewed budget and monthly financials.
  - Approved timesheets/vacation/sick leave hours for team members as needed.
  - Disseminated pertinent info to rest of team as needed from:
    - Monthly Team Leader Zoom™ calls
    - Group and other email lists
- Organized weekly team (Zoom™) meetings.
- Set up (Zoom™) Performance Dialogue meetings with all specialists and technician.
- Met with my supervisor (Zoom™) for my Performance Dialogue.
- Submitted all Performance Evaluation Materials through Workday.
- Began the process of pricing out and gathering support for a new gas chromatograph for harvest maturity testing in Wayne County.
- Submitted Oct.-Dec. 2020 quarterly report

## Professional Development

- Participated in National Apple Outreach Produce Safety Coordination Meeting (Zoom™) January 8
- Participated in the Northeast Plant Growth Regulator Conference (Zoom™) March 9.
- Monitored the “Stone Fruit Webinar” March 16, hosted by CCE-ENYCHP.
- Participated in the New York Cider Association Annual Membership meeting (Zoom™) on March 25.

## Stakeholder Contacts

- Assisted stakeholders via texts, phone, and email (~40).

## ***Cultural Practices – Mario Miranda Sazo***

### **Educational Programs/Presentations**

#### ***Presentations Given – Conference Presenter/Organizer:***

- “How to transition from 3D to 2D canopies or fruiting walls”. 2021 CCE Fruit Conference. February 3<sup>rd</sup>, New York, 2021.
- “Re-engineering the life cycle of an apple tree to produce a calmer, narrower, and more fruitful apple tree for a 2D canopy”. 2021 CCE Fruit Conference. February 3<sup>rd</sup>, New York, 2021.
- “Introduction to Cornell peel sap test: Fruit collection, peeling, sample submission, and sap extraction”. 2021 CCE Fruit Conference. February 4<sup>th</sup>, New York, 2021.
- “Use of a Reflective Material & Other Technologies to Improve Fruit Color in High Value Apple Cultivars”. 2021 CCE Fruit Conference. February 4<sup>th</sup>, New York, 2021.

#### ***Other Presentations Given – Invited Presentation:***

- “Pruning, Training, and Transitioning from 3D to 2D canopies”. 2021 Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association Annual Convention, Halifax, Canada, January 27, 2021.
- “Use of a Reflective Material & other Technologies to Improve Fruit Color in High Value Apple Cultivars”. 2021 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Hershey, Pennsylvania, February 10, 2021.
- “How to Plant, Establish, and Train a Modern Apple Orchard the First Years”. Special session in the Spanish language presented at the 2021 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Hershey, Pennsylvania, February 10, 2021.
- “Re-engineering the Life Cycle of an Apple Tree and How to Transition to New Varieties via Grafting”. Talks presented at the nurseries and grafting webinar series as a part of a workshop organized by Perennia AG-services team, Halifax, Canada, March 5, 2021.

#### ***CCE LOF YouTube™™ Videos – Other social media efforts and collaborations***

- The IFTA NY Honeycrisp video was finalized and presented at the annual IFTA conference this quarter. This was a great effort led by L. Tee from start to finish
- ‘[Precision Pruning Honeycrisp](#)’ by LOF (new release this quarter)
- ‘[Precision Pruning for Early Crop Load Management](#)’ by ENYCH
- ‘[Pruning Honeycrisp for Annual Production Video](#)’ by LOF (currently over 2,400 views in the 13+ months since posting)

### **Publications**

#### **Fruit Notes:**

Wrote/modified/summarized/requested articles including:

- “Intentional delay of dormant pruning for Honeycrisp & other important biennial cultivars” ([M. Miranda Sazo](#) and T. Robinson), pages 8-9, Vol. 21, Issue 1.
- “Winter pruning to manage fire blight (while continuing to grow the trees)” (J. van Zoeren, K. Cox, A. Wallis, and M. Miranda Sazo), pages 2-4, Vol. 21, Issue 2.
- “Make sure you are signed up for the Fruit Facts supplemental” (J. van Zoeren and M. Miranda Sazo), page 1, Vol. 21, Issue 3.



**Fruit Facts:** Pruning recommendations, first publication sent on March 23

## Applied Research Projects/Collaborations

### On-farm Rootstock/Training Systems

- Kast (Red Delicious), VanAcker (Honeycrisp), and Peters (Idared) trials were pruned during the winter.

### On-farm Nursery Project (ARDP/Robinson and Miranda Sazo)

- Hired Sergio Rosario and bench grafted 200 trees of Fuji on G.41 on March 30
- Trees were stored at KM Davis for planting at the Furber site in April
- Secured bed maker with Burnap Farms

### Honeycrisp project with Lake Ontario Fruit Inc., (Cheng/Orleans fruit growers)

- Final ARDP report was submitted in February
- Results were presented at the 2021 NY Fruit Conference

### Testing the use of Apogee and Manganese for bitter pit control on Honeycrisp (ARDP/Cheng and Miranda Sazo - in collaboration with Robinson in 2020)

- Final ARDP report was submitted in February
- A bitter pit trial with Apogee and NAA will be conducted early spring 2021

### Cornell AgriTech experimental orchard (ARDP/Fuchs, Miranda Sazo, Van zoeren)

- Tree were pruned and fertilized by Janet and I this quarter

### USDA-NIFA project titled “Labor readiness: Pathways for farmworkers to start up and advanced beginners to scale up new farm business”

- Plan/prepared/delivered a Spanish workshop in collaboration with the Cornell Small Farm program, two NY Master Class graduates and the PSU Extension program on February 10 (MAFVC Spanish session)

## Grant Submissions, Re-Submissions, Letters of Support, Proposal Meetings

- Collaborated with Cheng, Fuchs, Robinson, Kahlke, and van Zoeren for the submission of seven ARDP proposals (2021-2022), titled:
  - “Further development of peel sap analysis for managing bitter pit risk in ‘Honeycrisp’” (PI: L. Cheng)
  - “Determine the nutrient requirements of Honeycrisp on 4 rootstocks” (PI: L. Cheng)
  - “A Statewide effort to manage crop load, nutrient status, and bitter pit of Honeycrisp” (PI: T. Robinson)
  - “Testing the role of latent viruses in the decline of apple trees on G.935” (PI: M. Fuchs)
  - “Improved On-Farm Nursery Management” (PI: T. Robinson)
  - “Precision Orchard Management” (PI: T. Robinson)
  - “Orchard Management Systems and Rootstocks for Improved Yield and Fruit Quality” (PI: T. Robinson)
- Collaborated with Rangarajan, Waters, and several other CCE Extension colleagues for the submission of one CALS Innovation proposal titled:
  - “A Sus Órdenes: Developing and strengthening CCE capacity for innovative and transformational engagement with Spanish-speaking stakeholders.

- Collaborated with Rangarajan, Waters, and several other Cornell colleagues for the submission of one USDA BFRDP proposal titled:
  - “Futuro Financiero: Building Farm Financial Expertise among Hispanic and Advanced Beginner Farmers through Peer Learning and Consultancy”
- Collaborated with PI Kalcsits (WSU), several other faculties from WSU, MSU, U. of Minnesota, U. of Maine, and four extension colleagues for the submission of one SCRI USDA-NIFA proposal titled:
  - “Enhancing resilience of U.S. pome fruit production to extreme temperatures in a changing climate”

#### **Ph.D. Related Course/Research Work in Ithaca (Cheng)**

- Fruit quality and color of Honeycrisp fruit were evaluated at AgriTech in Jan.
- Moved potted trees from greenhouse to experimental orchard from March 12 to March 18 (got help from Cornell Orchards and CUAES’s crews)
- Conducted tree destruction evaluation with Kaspar and Christine and more helpers at the purple greenhouse in Ithaca on March 23-26
- Took A-exam on March 24

#### **Team and Other Duties**

- Attended LOF team meetings and conference calls as needed
- Attended Zoom™ meetings as needed for the planning of 2021 Cornell Fruit Conference
- Secured Liz’s free registration for IFTA annual conference
- Met with M. Basedow via Zoom™ for the planning of a trellis grower panel
- Worked last minute details with invited speakers Karen Lewis and Lee Kalcsits for NY Conf.
- Plan/coordinated/delivered one Hort session and two HC sessions with several Cornell faculty/extension team
- Reported fleet mileage as needed during this quarter, changed oil, etc.
- Authored and submitted one article to LOF newsletter editor
- Submitted Sept-Dec. 2020 quarterly report
- Submitted 2020 success story and reviewed data for annual federal reporting
- Liaised with TLR, LC, and LK for the submission of a new SCRI grant proposal
- Worked closely with two growers, M. Basedow, and Janet for the development of an SH initiative
- Communicated and strategically worked with Cornell Small Farm Program (mainly with Nicole)
- Developed idea/ assembled project team/led a CALS innovation proposal

#### **Professional Development**

- Attended 2021 IFTA Annual Conference – Feb. 10

#### **Stakeholder Contacts**

- Minimized farm visits and exposure with growers and orchard workers this Q1 (COVID-19)
- Most of the field activities were carried out to conduct field research in WNY orchards and Ithaca campus.
- Assisted 10 growers via 15-20 emails, 20 phone communications, 30-40 texts (pics, videos, voice messages, etc.).
- Conducted 4 pruning trainings in the Spanish language via Zoom™ (review highlight)

## Integrated Pest Management – Janet van Zoeren

### Publications

#### Fruit Notes Articles Written:

- van Zoeren, J, Cox, K, Wallis, A and M Miranda Sazo. *Winter Pruning to Manage Fire Blight (while continuing to grow the trees)*. Fruit Notes, Volume 21, Issue 2. Pp 2-4.
- van Zoeren, J. *Spring Pesticide Applicators Training – Pre-Exam Coaching*. Fruit Notes, Volume 21, Issue 2. P 5.
- van Zoeren, J and M Miranda Sazo. *Make Sure You're Signed Up for the Fruit Facts Supplemental!* Fruit Notes, Volume 21, Issue 3. P 1.
- van Zoeren, J and D Donahue. *Update on the Approaching Chlorpyrifos Ban: Be Very Careful, it is More Complicated than We Originally Thought*. Fruit Notes, Volume 21, Issue 3. P 1-2.

#### Fruit Facts Articles Written:

- 4 issues

### Applied Research Projects/Collaborations

#### Weed Management (ARDP; PI-Mike Basedow):

- Summarize results, submit summary and proposal for repeat funding
- Weed assessment (March 10)
- Apply herbicide (Mar 23)

#### Ambrosia Beetle (Black Stem Borer) Management (ARDP; PI-Agnello):

- Coordination with Cornell and USDA scientists and ISCA Tech developers, to develop an ARDP and SCRI grant process to continue research in coming years

#### Virus (ARDP; PI-Fuchs):

- Summarize results, submit summary and proposal for repeat funding

#### Roots and Rapid Apple Decline (USDA NIFA; PI-Khan):

- Meeting with PI to coordinate summer research efforts and priorities

### Grant Submissions, Re-Submissions, Letters of Support, Proposal Meetings

- Participant and provided grower connections/letter of support for a USDA-SCRI grant to look at the biology and management of Ambrosia beetles, including black stem borer
- Preparation and re-submission for ARDP funding for year 2 of project to determine optimal timing for pre-emergent herbicide application in the orchard
- Preparation and submission of a grant to ARDP to help fund black stem borer monitoring, and to research control methods
- Preparation and re-submission for ARDP funding for grant to fund continued virus/rootstock interaction funding in the Research North block

## **Team and Other Duties**

- Worked together with team to coordinate and facilitate the winter Tree Fruit Conference (organized speakers and facilitated the Insect Management session, coordinated materials to ensure DEC credits available).
- Attended fruit Program Working Team meeting (Mar 15)

## **Committee & Board Meetings**

- Served on planning committee for the 2021 Ag Extension Retreat

## **Other Area-Wide Education and Advocating**

- “Training to take the pesticide certification exam” 4-day course given with Mike Stanyard (Mar 22, 24, 29, 31)
- Communicated closely with Juliet Carroll, the USDA-APHIS, and the NY DAM groups, to keep cherry growers up to date with recommendations about European cherry fruit fly management and restrictions, including advocating for NY growers in a national meeting to re-assess quarantine restrictions.
- Working with extension team to implement virtual Special Permit Training for 2021
- Co-taught a “Tree Fruit Production” course in the “Cornell Small Farms” platform, including weekly lectures from January-February 2021, and facilitating discussions through the online forum
- Guest lecture on “Tree fruit crops” for high school Intro to Horticulture class at Bishop Kearney high school (Monroe Co, Mar 23).
- Communication with Vitidore company to discuss in-row cover cropping options for NY tree fruit production.

## **Professional Development:**

- “Reconnecting with Purpose” retreat and reflection (Jan 22, Feb 19, 2021, Mar 17-19).
- Attended the (virtual) Washington State Tree Fruit Days (Jan 18-22, 2021).
- Attended Brown Marmorated Stink Bug SCRI working group meeting (Feb 17-18, 2021).
- Attended the (virtual) NE Crop Consultants meeting (Mar 3, 2021).

## **Stakeholder Contacts:**

- On farm visits – 5 total (Niagara Co., 1 Orleans Co, 4 Monroe Co, Wayne Co)
- Conversations via text, phone calls or email – 111

## **Consultant Contacts:**

- Conversations – 11

## **Faculty/Industry Collaborations:**

- Conversations – 16

## Production Economics & Business Management – Mark Wiltberger

### Educational Programs/Presentations:

- 2021 Cornell Tree Fruit Conference (Virtual, February 2-4)
  - Programmed the conference website and the online registration form. Worked with Mike Basedow and Janet Van Zoeren to link registration with the Teachable conference site and Zoom platform, and with Robert Batt to link to PayPal payment.
  - We ultimately registered 420 people for the three-day online conference.
  - Organized and moderate two business sessions
    - Business Management I: Economics of Apple Production
    - Business Management II: Impact of COVID-19 on the Produce Industry
- 2021 Empire Producer's Expo (Virtual, January 13)
  - Organized and moderated the session "Apple Grower Roundtable: Dealing with COVID-19."
    - In conjunction with the NY Apple Association and the NY Vegetable Growers Association, invited NY growers to a panel to discuss lessons learned operating a fruit business during COVID-19 in 2020, with a focus on Pick-Your-Own operations. See Quarterly Highlight for Business Management that was sent earlier.
- Onboarding Seasonal Farm Employees, online series, Jan 23-Mar 31)
  - Is a guide for farm owners. The program trained participants how to plan onboarding for their seasonal workers.
  - It also provided an online platform for farm owners to organize onboarding materials and train their employees, using Google Classroom.
  - The project director and lead for this program is Elizabeth Higgins, under a USDA Risk Management Grant, "Reducing Risk in Fruit and Veg Production Through Improved on-Boarding of New Farm Employees OSP 91913"
- Follow-up Consultations for 2019 Fruit Farm Business Summary
  - I continued to do 2-hour Zoom follow-up consultations with individual farms.
    - The benchmark summary report and the farm's individual report were reviewed.
    - The custom report compares individual farm performance with the 2019 Fruit Farm Business Summary benchmark, with graphs and analysis comparing costs to benchmark, other key financial indicators, and crop profitability analysis
- Data Collection for the 2020 Fruit Farm Business Summary
  - The second part of the quarter my major effort was to begin data collection for farms for the 2020 Fruit Farm Business Summary. During the quarter I had 17 meetings with farms to follow-up on the 2019 Fruit Farm Business Summary and collect data for the 2020 Fruit Farm Business Summary. Three new farms will be taking part in this year's Fruit Farm Business Summary.



## **Publications:**

### **Fruit Notes, Author:**

- “2021 NYS Wage Rates: H-2A AEWR Wage Rates, Minimum Wage, and Farm Overtime/Day of Rest Rules,” Mark Wiltberger. Volume 21, Issue 3, March 10, 2021.
- “COVID-19 Vaccinations for You and Your Farmworkers,” Mark Wiltberger. Volume 21, Issue 4, March 24, 2021.

### **Fruit Notes, Edited:**

- “Farm Wage News for New York January 2021,” Richard Stup. Volume 21, Issue 1, January 13, 2021.
- “Get Ready for Sick Leave,” Libby Eiholzer. Volume 21, Issue 1, January 13, 2021.
- “Someone at the Farm Tested Positive for COVID-19 — Now What?” Joan Sinclair Petzen and Libby Eiholzer. Volume 21, Issue 1, January 13, 2021.
- “Agricultural Supervisory Leadership Online Course: Register Now!” Richard Stup, Volume 21, Issue 3, March 10, 2021.
- “Online Farm Financial Management Tuesdays: Farm Business Education in April 2021,” Volume 21, Issue 4, March 24, 2021.

## **Applied Research/Funded Projects:**

- “Reducing Risk in Fruit and Veg Production Through Improved on-Boarding of New Farm Employees OSP 91913,” Elizabeth Higgins PD, Mark Wiltberger co-PD, Richard Stup.
- “New York Agricultural Labor in Transition,” Richard Stup, PI.

## **Professional Development:**

- Completed Performance Dialogue and had Performance Review with Craig Kahlke.
- Attended Cornell Extension Webinar, “Celebrating Diverse, Innovative, Nimble, and Agile Extension Work - Ag Programs,” March 18, 2021.
- Attended Cornell Extension Webinar, “On-Farm Participatory Research with Native American and Minority Farmers,” March 25, 2021.

## **Team and Other Duties**

- Participated in weekly and monthly team meetings.
- Wrote 2021 1<sup>st</sup> LOF Quarter Report for Business Management and Production Economics.
- Reported mileage on personal vehicle.

## Cornell & Other Industry Meetings

- Attended regular meetings to plan **2021 NYS Tree Fruit Conference** with ENYCHP – Dan Donahue and Mike Basedow.
- Attended Bi-weekly Farm Business Management Specialist Calls.
- Attended Weekly Premier Apple Coop Marketing Calls.
- Attended **Cornell Fruit PWT** meeting, March 15, 2021.

## Stakeholder Contacts:

- Telephone calls: Approximately 25.
- Zoom meetings: 17 Zoom meetings with farms for Fruit Farm Business Summary and other consults.
- Emails: Approximately 40.
- Farm visits: 4.