



197 FIELD MEETINGS AND CLASSES FOR GROWERS



6644 ATTENDEES AT FIELD MEETINGS AND CLASSES



111 NEWSLETTERS SENT TO 1630 SUBSCRIBERS

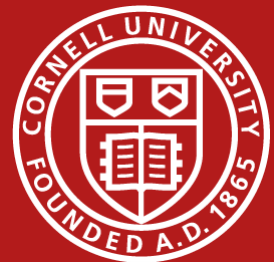


4120 DIRECT CONTACTS (PHONE, EMAIL & VISITS)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program 2024 ANNUAL REPORT¹

¹Fiscal Year October 2023 -September 2024

Serving the educational and research needs of the commercial small fruit, vegetable, grape and tree fruit industries in *Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Dutchess, Essex, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schoharie, Schenectady, Ulster, Warren, and Washington* counties.



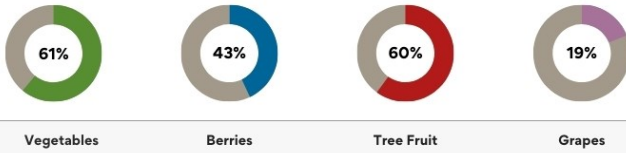
EASTERN NY COMMERCIAL HORT PROGRAM

2024

GROWER SURVEY

In winter 2023/2024 we surveyed growers from our list of farms in ENYCH and program participants to get feedback. We received feedback from 127 growers in all of our commodities. Every county in the 17-county region had at least 1 response (the mean response per county is 6.4 farms). We had an additional 25 responses from farms outside of the ENYCH counties, but who utilize our programs.

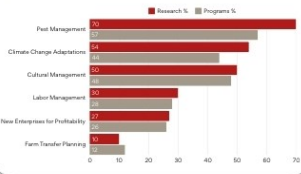
RESPONSE BY COMMODITY



We presented growers with 10 research and program focus areas and asked them to choose their top three for ENYCH to focus on.

VEGETABLES

Top 3 production + Top 3 business

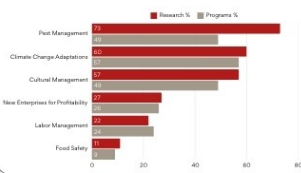


“OTHER” FOCUS AREAS

“All forms of protected culture agriculture. It can address many of the topics above such as climate mitigation, labor management, pest management, risk management, and food safety”
 “Assistance accessing grants and capital”

SMALL FRUIT

Top 3 production + Top 3 business

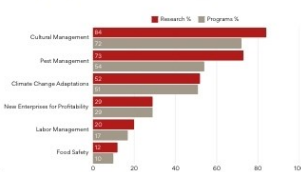


“OTHER” FOCUS AREAS

“Organic spray materials that are effective”
 “Assistance accessing grants and capital”
 “Market research”

TREE FRUIT

Top 3 production + Top 3 business

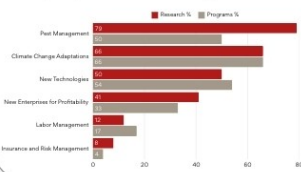


“OTHER” FOCUS AREAS

“Hard cider apple variety selection. How to be profitable in the hard cider apple production and juice market”
 “Evaluation of new tree fruit varieties.”
 “Marketing.”

GRAPES

Top 3 production + Top 3 business



“OTHER” FOCUS AREAS

“Enology training for smaller operations – smaller wineries are struggling to make quality products. Foster connections with Cornell Enology Team”
 “Mitigate spotted lantern fly”

Percent of farms who attended an ENYCH program in 2023



OUR RESPONSE

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS

The ENYCH team has been successful in writing grants for research and extension efforts. **New grants/projects in 2024 include:**

Tree Fruit: Perennial weeds in orchards, identifying rootstocks for improved yield and fruit quality, improved crop load management and thinning techniques, management of blister spot in SnapDragon (NY1). High density cold-hardy peach trial. Economics of treatment options for fire blight cankers in high density orchards.

Vegetables: Development of high quality tomato varieties that are more climate resilient. Mitigating abiotic disorder tip burn in high tunnel winter spinach. Research on insect, weed and disease control in onions. Developing enterprise budgets for onions in muck soils and processing cabbage. Improving high tunnel production techniques and improving seed production for organic and regionally adapted varieties. Evaluation of biochar on greenhouse gas flux rates.

Berries: Strawberry disease management research, Spotted Wing Drosophila monitoring and evaluating protection strategies in berry crops.

Grapes: Tracking grapevine cold-hardiness across NYS and evaluating osmotic protectants against cold damage. Monitoring for spotted lantern fly, a new pest of grapes

Food Safety: Working with Plain Communities on food safety and food safety education for beginning produce growers.

Business: Education programs for beginning agritourism farms. Leadership and management training for new farm managers.

Research Program Highlight

In January 2021, apple growers across New York were surveyed about which weeds they most struggled with. The resounding answer was perennial weed species.

In 2023 and 2024, Mike Basedow and Janet van Zoeren have been working on an ARDP funded project to better time systemic herbicide materials to help growers better manage bindweed, Canada Thistle, and Quackgrass. Over the two year research period, we have set up replicated, on-farm field trials in Eastern and Western NY, and are now beginning to develop recommendations for growers across the state.



“Excellent field people. The agents are young and very knowledgeable. Always willing to find the answers to problems”
 “Quick response times to questions.”

-Feedback from grower on ENYCH survey

"I have noticed an increase in educational offerings during the last year. This is helpful. The diversity of events has gotten better."

- feedback from 2023/24 grower survey

HUDSON VALLEY PROGRAMS

Steering Committee for the [Ulster County](#) Farmland Protection Plan Update.

Northeast Seed Course In-Person Meeting, Hudson Valley

Presentations at Armed to Farm NYS training in [Orange County](#)

Crop Insurance for Onion Growers [Orange County](#)

[Orange County](#) Onion School

2 Grape Pruning Workshops, [Ulster County](#) and Hudson Valley Lab

Southern Hudson Valley Thinning Meeting, [Ulster County](#)

Weed management in perennial fruit crops, [Dutchess County](#)

My Efficient Vineyard Demonstration, Hudson Valley Lab

Wine Sensory Evaluation Workshop, [Dutchess County](#)

Agritourism Networking, [Ulster County](#)

Spanish Language IPM Twilight Meeting, [Orange County](#)

Intro to Pest and Disease Management, [Putnam County](#)

CAPITAL DISTRICT PROGRAMS

NY Labor Road Show, [Washington County](#)

Grape Pruning Workshop, [Washington County](#)

Master Gardener Training, Capital District

Grape Pruning Workshop, [Columbia County](#)

Eastern NY Fruit and Vegetable Winter Conference, [Albany County](#)

My Efficient Vineyard Demonstration, [Washington County](#)

Northern Hudson Valley Thinning Meeting, [Columbia County](#)

What is my Vine Trying to Tell Me, [Washington County](#)

Capitol Region Fruit set Thinning meeting, [Saratoga County](#)

Airblast Sprayer Calibration Workshop, [Columbia County](#)

MOHAWK VALLEY PROGRAMS

Northeast Seed Course In-Person Meeting, Mohawk Valley

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course, [Montgomery County](#)

Aspiring Beginning Farmers Meeting, [Fulton Montgomery Counties](#)

Cider Apple Pruning for Beginners, [Schoharie County](#)

[CCE Schoharie Otsego](#) Grape Pruning Workshop

June Produce Field Meeting, [Fulton County](#)

Late Summer Orchard Meeting, [Montgomery County](#)

Korona Produce Field Meeting, [Montgomery County](#)

NORTH REGION PROGRAMS

Soil Health for Vegetable Growers, [Essex County](#)

Special Permit Training, [Clinton County](#)

My Efficient Vineyard Demonstration, [Clinton County](#)

What is my Vine Trying to Tell Me? [Clinton County](#)

Champlain Valley Orchard Weed Management Field Trial Review, [Clinton County](#)

Willsboro Farm Open House, [Essex County](#)

Orchard Soil Health and Beneficial Fungi Meeting, [Clinton County](#)

Northpoint Community Farm Twilight Meeting, [Clinton County](#)

Drinkwine Produce Twilight Meeting, [Essex County](#)

St Lawrence Valley Produce Auction Field Walk

ONLINE EDUCATION

ASL 105 Organizing Work for High-Quality Results (6-week course)

Writing Grants for Farm Businesses (webinar)

2024 Agritourism Webinar Series (1 hour monthly webinars)

Is Whole Farm Revenue Micro-Farm Insurance Right for My Farm? (webinar)

ASL 106 Ethics and Employment Regulations (6-week course)

Pesticide Applicator Certification Exam Prep Course (2 day course)

Implementing Mating Disruption in NY Orchards (webinar)

Fusarium Diseases of Garlic, Research Updates (webinar)

Hot topics in Food Safety for Fruit (webinar)

Soil Health for NY Orchards (webinar)

Writing a Business Plan for Your Farm (6-week course)

How Profitable will my New Orchard Investment Be? (2-week course)

Weed Management in Berries in NY (webinar)

Northeast Extension Fruit Consortium Winter Webinar Series (3 1.5 hr webinars)

Insect and Disease Pest Management for Berries (webinar)

Stone Fruit: Rootstocks and Disease Management (webinar)

Cornell Statewide Frost Protection Webinar (webinar)

Virtual Orchard IPM Scout training (webinar)

ASL 105 Employee Development and Training (6-week course)

Virtual Orchard IPM Scout training (webinar)

Extension Program Highlight

As the number of Spanish-dominant owner-operators continues to grow in the Hudson Valley, there is an urgent need to provide the same type of science-based technical support in the preferred language of our stakeholders.

Vegetable specialist Ethan Grundberg partnered with CCE Orange County's Raul Lemus Garza and the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and

Farming to host Dr. Alejandro Calixto, director of the NYS Integrated Pest Management Program, Leonardo Salgado, PhD student in entomology, and Kensy Rodriguez, PhD student in plant pathology for a Spanish language vegetable pest and disease management twilight meeting on June 13, 2024. The program was hosted by Mimomex Farm on the black dirt in Orange County and attracted over 20 participants.



Extension Collaboration Highlight

To gain wider recognition for the Hudson Valley wine industry, industry stakeholders identified Cabernet Franc as the region's signature grape variety and formed the Hudson Valley Cabernet Franc Coalition in 2016. However, limited information on different Cabernet Franc clones' growth characteristics and winemaking potential were available.

To support the wine industry in the Hudson Valley, a Cabernet Franc clonal and rootstock trial was planted in 2018 at the Hudson Valley Research Lab. The harvest in 2024 was the first growing season with data collected for the whole growing season.

300 pounds were sent to the teaching winery in Geneva, NY, to be made into unfinished wines that members of the Cabernet Franc Coalition will taste in a blind tasting. The data gathered from this trial can assist growers in selecting combinations of clones and rootstocks that are best suited for their vineyard site and winemaking style, in addition to adding to the literature on Cabernet franc.



2024 Collaborators

Cornell AgriTech
Cornell Ag Workforce Development Program
Cornell Cooperative Extension, County & Regional Programs
Cornell Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management
Cornell Institute on Climate Smart Solutions
Cornell Small Farms Program
Garlic Seed Foundation
Glynwood
Grow NYC
Hudson Valley Farm Hub
Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corp.
Hudson Valley Research Laboratory
Intertribal Ag Council
Louisiana State University
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assoc.
Michigan State University
Mid-Hudson Small Business Development Center
New World Foundation
New York Apple Association
New York Farm Viability Institute
Northeast Organic Farmers Association-NY
Northeast Risk Management Education/University of Delaware
Northest Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
Northern NY Ag Development Program
NY Apple Research and Development Program
NY Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health
NY and Northeast Integrated Pest Management
NY Farm Bureau
NY Onion Research and Development Program
NYS Berry Growers Association
NYS Dept of Agriculture and Markets
NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation
NYS Dept of Health
NYS Dept of Labor
NYS Vegetable Growers Association
North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association
Onondaga Nation
Orange County Vegetable Growers Association
Organic Seed Alliance
Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture
Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania Sustainable Agriculture Association
Produce Safety Alliance
Rutgers University
Sistah Seeds
Ulster County Planning Department
United States Dept of Agriculture
University of Connecticut
University of Maine
University of Massachusetts
University of New Hampshire
University of Rhode Island
University of Vermont
Virginia Tech University

STAFF UPDATES

Thank You to Laura McDermott, outgoing Small Fruit Specialist and co-Team Lead. Welcome Heather Kase!

After many great years in local Extension and on the ENYCH team, Small Fruit Specialist and ENYCH co-Team Lead, Laura McDermott retired on July 27, 2024.

Heather Kase joined the ENYCH team as Extension Associate Berry Specialist on July 1. Heather is a well-rounded agriculturalist with specialties in pesticide science, soil fertility, plant physiology, experimental design, plant disease management, and documenting change through evaluation/accountability. Heather has a master's in plant health management from Ohio State University and bachelor's degree in environmental biology from SUNY ESF.



ENYCHP STAFF 2024

Specialists

Charles Bornt, Vegetables

Ethan Grundberg, Vegetables

Elisabeth Hodgdon, Vegetables

Teresa Rusinek, Vegetables

Crystal Stewart-Courtens, Vegetables

Maire Ullrich, Vegetables/Hemp

Laura McDermott, Small Fruit (retired)

Heather Kase, Small Fruit

Michael Basedow, Tree Fruit

Daniel Donahue, Tree Fruit

Jeremy Schuster, Grapes

Liz Higgins, Business Management

Administrative Staff

Marcie Vohnoutka

Program Aides

Alexander Castillo

Natasha Field

Sarah Elone

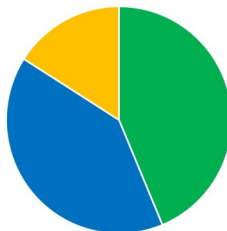
Jennifer Stanton

Nathan Pollack

"Affordable and accessible resources and events"

-Feedback from grower on ENYCH survey

2024 OPERATING BUDGET: \$1,228,298



Supporting County Association Shares: **\$560,598**

ENYCHP Grants & Funds¹: **\$516,833**

Cornell University Funds²: **\$204,867**

¹ Includes funds from reserve accounts, grants, donations, program revenue, Ag & Markets and money market investment interest.

² USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Smith Lever Funds and other funds.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

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