



Winter Statistics

171 Farm Visits

524 Client E-mails

348 Phone Consults

28 Newsletters/E-alerts received by 16,737 total producers

63 Field Meetings, Trainings & Workshops

2234 Producers in Attendance

28 Webinars with 97 Producer Participants

ENYCHP Assists with Identifying Invasive Species of Agriculture List

Laura McDermot, ENYCHP

For nearly two years the Capital District/ Mohawk Valley Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (CapMo PRISM), has been meeting and sharing information about invasive species. The members include representatives from the NYS Dept of Ag and Markets; NYS DEC; Local, State and Federal Parks and Recreation areas; Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension; NYS IPM; NYS Tree Nursery; USDA Soil and Water Conservation; SUNY ESF; NYS Nursery/Landscape Assoc. and concerned individuals.

In the field of invasive species research and management, the first step is identifying and prioritizing problems. The CapMo PRISM has been a leader in the state in the area of identifying invasive species especially detrimental to agricultural crops. They have developed a comprehensive list of pests that are most problematic for farms within the CapMo PRISM region. Fact sheets detailing these pests can be found at the CapMo PRISM website: http://nyis.info/index.php?action=bugs_and_blights.

Additionally the group has created fact sheets about the



Alfalfa snout beetle, *Otiorhynchus ligustici*.
Commodity: Alfalfa, clover. First county: Oswego (1896); Currently in 8 NY counties.
Photo: Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org



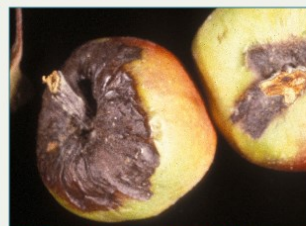
Brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys*. Commodity: Varied fruits & vegetables. First county: Ulster (2008); Currently in 29 NY counties.
Photo: David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



Pyralid moth, *Duponchelia fovealis*.
Commodity: Peppers. First county: Westchester (2011); Currently in 8 NY counties.
Photo: Mark Dreiling, Retired, Bugwood.org



False codling moth, *Thaumotobia leucotreta*. Commodity: Grapes, stone fruits, various field crops. First county: Not yet in NY, on watch list.
Photo: Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org



Streptomycin-resistant fire blight, *Erwinia amylovora*. Commodity: Pears and apples. First county: Wayne (2012); Currently in 2 NY counties.
Photo: University of Georgia Plant Pathology Archive, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



Golden nematode, *Globodera rostochiensis*. Commodity: Potatoes, tomatoes, eggplant. First county: Nassau (1941); Currently in 8 NY counties.
Photo: Central Science Laboratory, Harpenden Archive, British Crown, Bugwood.org

most important weed, insect and disease invasive pests in our region. An example of the Weed fact sheet can be found at: http://www.nyis.info/user_uploads/files/FarmWeeds-general.pdf. Copies of a full size poster of 'Bugs and Blights' of agricultural concern were given to dozens of farmers at 2016 winter meetings in Eastern NY.

HV Fruit Growers' School

Sara Rohwer, ENYCHP

The 2016 Hudson Valley Commercial Fruit Growers' School was held on February 16-18, 2016 in Kingston, NY. There were 218 attendees on the first day of the Tree Fruit session and 178 people attended on the second day. 30 people attended the Grape session and 34 people attended the Berry session. The Northeastern NY Commercial Tree Fruit School was held in Lake George on February 15, 2016. 82 people attended the event. The Tree Fruit Sessions at both Fruit Schools had a wide range of topics from pest management to horticulture to economics to name a few.

A general overview of Pest Management was covered, along with a few in depth talks about the Black Stem Borer and Native Entomopathogenic Nematodes for Biological Control of Plum Curculio. There was a presentation about Apple Diseases, another covering Pome and Stone Fruit Viruses, and an update on Plum Pox Virus in the Hudson Valley.

Plant Grown Regulators were discussed with the goal of improving production as well as increasing branching. Irrigation as a form of precision management was presented which involved using NEWA for irrigation models. In addition, there was a workshop about NEWA and how to best use their models for apple production. Also during the Tree Fruit session was a talk about the different apple varieties and the characteristics that make them attractive to buyers. Cider production in the Northeast was presented as a quickly growing market with many opportunities for apple growers. A Travelog was presented of a recent IFTA tour of The Washington State Apple Industry. New research that shows the threat of certain pesticides to the pollinators in NY state was discussed. There was also an update of the Tree Fruit Horticultural Research at the Hudson Valley Lab in Highland, NY.

At the fruit schools there were updates from the DEC, the New York Apple Association, and the NYS Horticultural Society. Other topics covered were Food safety and FSMA changes, The Economics of GAP Certification, and Crop Insurance.

The Berry Session covered topics such as Strawberry production in Low tunnels, Using Native Nematodes to Control Strawberry Root weevil, invasive insects such as Spotted Wing Drosophila and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug and their effect on berry crops, growing Figs, White Pine Blister Rust and its impact on Ribes, and increasing revenue in a berry business.

During the Grape session some of the topics covered were weed management, Grapevine Leafroll and Grape Mealybugs, farm labor, Spotted Wing Drosophila management, Frost blankets, an update on the Hudson valley research lab's vineyard, Using NEWA for grape production, and the HVW&G Association Business Meeting.

ENYCHP Winter Vegetable School

Annie Mills, ENYCHP

Regional vegetable schools have come and gone with a total of 195 attendees from Hudson Valley, the Capital Region, and Champlain Valley. Team members presented a wide variety of topics that included, "Pumpkin Variety Trial Results" by Chuck Bornt, "Root Crop Trial Results" by Crystal Stewart, and a Resistance Management session by Laura McDermott. Additional topics presented by team members included, "Worker Protection Standards" by Maire Ullrich, "Food Safety Modernization

Attendees Said:

"Thanks for the time and trials. It is difficult to meet the needs of such a variety of farms."

Act Update" by Erik Shellenberg, "Fertility Research in High Tunnels" by Amy Ivy and "Edamame: Is it right for you?" by Teresa Rusinek, Bob Weybright and Jesse Strzok.

Growers that attended had the chance to see 31 carrot varieties along with 15 varieties of beets from the root crop trial first hand and hear about how they measured up against one another. We also provided an edamame taste test for growers to try out a few home grown samples of an Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program edamame trial that took place during 2015. Growers offered great feedback about the meeting this year. In the future we aim to continue to diversify meeting topics in order to provide for the wide range of grower interests in our region.



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Food From the Farm Event Continues to Grow

Any Ivy, ENYCHP

Our 6th Annual *Food from the Farm* event on March 5, 2016 in Plattsburgh was bigger than ever. Twenty-four farms set up displays and some sold products and CSA memberships, three chefs prepared samples featuring local foods and 683 people attended (250 more than the previous year). The goal of this event is to connect consumers to growers to build relationships, enthusiasm and

support for locally grown food through personal interactions at each table. We hold this event in late winter in order to build excitement for the coming season and to show consumers how much product truly is available this time of year, along with the message that there could be even more. Growers hand out tickets for door prize drawings to everyone they talk to which encourages even more interactions.



ENYCHP Role at the 2016 Empire State Producers Expo

Chuck Bornt, ENYCHP

Every January fruit and vegetable growers convene in Syracuse, NY for the Empire State Producers Expo, the statewide production and marketing educational event for these commodities. This meeting is organized cooperatively by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Empire State Potato Growers, NYS Berry Growers Association, NYS Flower Industries, Inc., NYS Horticultural Society, NYS Farmers' Direct Marketing Committee, NYS Vegetable Growers Association and Cornell University. This year, the Expo was held January 19 – 21, 2016 and drew on average 700 people each day. Members of the ENYCHP play a significant role in organizing sessions and recruiting speakers as well as speaking themselves on an array of different topics. This year 11 team members were responsible for organizing and chairing 9 different sessions and 18 hours of educational sessions ranging from "Apples of the world – Varieties and preferences" to "Beginning Farmers", Berry Crops, Root crops and High Tunnels for a few.

Update: ENYCHP Edamame Project

Jesse Strzok, ENYCHP

Teresa Rusinek, Jesse Strzok, and Bob Weybright continued work of the Edamame Project this quarter. Consumer preference data was gathered, and much of the of the production data was presented at both the Capital District and Hudson Valley Commercial Vegetable Growers' Schools. The consumer data was gathered from across our Eastern NY region and in NYC.

The seven varieties of edamame proved to be a learning experience for our growers, our team, chefs and restaurateurs. With preliminary results released to farms in our region we have plantings of varieties best suited for our climate and markets.





Photo: This is a new “roller crimper” that can be added to any planter to plant into “green cover crops” or any other kind of crop residue. The disks in the front peel away the cover crop or residue and the crimper “crimps” the cover crop to stop it from growing any more.

Chuck Bornt was invited to participate in a northeast regional SARE workshop based on expanding the use of cover crops and improving soil health March 29 – 31, 2016 in Baltimore, Washington. Attendees included extension educators, growers, university and USDA researchers and industry folks such as equipment and seed dealers from Maine all the way down to West Virginia. The three day intensive workshop included research updates, grower panels and experiences and a half-day field trip to the

Growers Gather for Blueberry Pruning Workshop

Jim O’Connell, ENYCHP

Jim O’Connell, Grape and Berry Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Eastern NY, held a blueberry pruning workshop on March 18, 2016, at Rose Hill Farm in Red Hook NY. This workshop demonstrated the technique of rejuvenation pruning, in which older and unproductive canes are removed to make way for new growth. This style of pruning, while more aggressive, will help to restore productivity to the blueberry bushes. There were about fifteen people in attendance, including the farm owners and manager. Jim explained the proper techniques for this style of pruning, demonstrated it to the group, and then had the attendees practice what they learned.



USDA Beltsville Research Station (7,000 acres research farm in the middle of Maryland) to explore ongoing research on soil health and cover crop research trials. We were also treated to several equipment demonstrations there including a no-till inner-seeder, composted chicken manure side dresser and several no-till/reduce till planter modifications by several equipment dealers. The information that was shared was excellent and made me eager to share with teammates and growers. The meeting ended with each state organizing and planning statewide cover crop meetings this season. We are planning ours for late September at the farm of Tim and Colleen Stanton in Feura Bush. I will be not only seeding a variety of cover crops, but a number of different specie mixes which seems to be the next trend with cover crops. At focus will be on what we can plant after early sweet corn is harvested. I am also trying to have the no-till inner-seeder here early in the season to plant a cover crop into pumpkins and possibly other crops.

2016 NENY & VT Winter Grape School

Anna Wallis, ENYCHP

In March 2016, CCE ENYCHP in collaboration with the UVM grape program offered a first ever NENY & VT Winter Grape School in Lake George, a 1-day program geared toward Cold Climate Grape growers in the region. The program included 2 tracks with presentations from Cornell faculty and industry specialists and was attended by 60 people.

Cold-hardy grape and wine production is an emerging industry in cold climate areas such as the Northeast and northern Mid-West facilitated by the introduction of cold climate varieties from breeding programs such as University of Minnesota in the 1990s. The NENY industry has rapidly grown to include 2 distinct wine regions, 21 bonded wineries, 19 commercial vineyards, and approximately 40 acres. In addition, a significant amount of research has been done through projects such as the Northern Grapes Project, to understand the viticulture, enology, and business of this young industry. Despite this success, many people in the industry are new to farming and wine/grape production, and are faced with the many challenges of successfully producing and marketing grapes and wines.

2016 NENY & VT Winter Grape School

Anna Wallis, ENYCHP

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To connect industry members with the educational information being generated by projects such as the NGP, with research and education specialists, and with each other, Anna Wallis, CCE ENYCHP fruit specialist for northeastern NY worked with Dr. Terence Bradshaw, UVM Grape Program, to organize the first ever NENY & VT Winter Grape

60 industry members, presenters, and sponsors, attended the meeting from VT, the Champlain Valley of NY, and the Capital Region. Many operations brought 2 people so that one person could attend each track. Participants rated the value



Panel discussion on 'Fostering success in an emerging industry' at NENY & VT Grape School, March 17th, 2016 in Lake George. Panel from left to right: Gerry Barnhart (Victory View Vineyard), Jay White (Boquet Valley Vineyard), Richard Lamoy (Hid-In-Pines Vineyard), Ethan Josef (Shelburne Vineyards), Jim Trezise (NY Grape and Wine Foundation). Photo: Anna Wallis

School. The school, modeled after the very successful winter Tree Fruit and Vegetable schools held throughout the state, took place in Lake George on March, 17. The one-day program consisted of 2 tracks (Viticulture and Enology), a mini tradeshow, and a panel discussion following lunch.

and quality of all presentations very highly and reported that they learned a significant amount. Changes that growers planned to implement in their vineyard or winery included: better disease ID and management, fungicide rotation, use of undervine cover crops, tapping into resources available to the industry, improved tasting room practices, and improved tannin and acid management in wines.

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