



## Cornell University Cooperative Extension

### Lake Ontario Fruit Program Quarterly Highlights Jan-March, 2017

**Overview:** The first quarter of the New Year is always the peak of the meeting season for the team. Educational programs that had the entire team's participation included the Empire Producer's Expo in Syracuse from Jan 16-19 and the Regional LOF Winter Fruit Schools Feb 6-7. We had nearly 600 attendees at the seven EXPO sessions that the team coordinated. At our Winter Fruit Schools, we had 286 attendees split almost evenly between the Lockport and Newark locations. Evaluations revealed the vast majority of attendees were very satisfied with the speakers and topics presented. Many good suggestions were given for future topics to be addressed at next year's schools.

**Team News:** Effective February 28, Matt Wells resigned from his position with the team. He will be missed for his many contributions and immediate impacts to the industry in the two short years he was with LOFT. Fortunately, he will remain in a working relationship with the team, as he has taken a position with the industry. In addition, effective March 31, Debbie Breth officially ended her tenure with the team. She had remained on part-time for the past year to finish several grant projects and deliverables.

**Education:** In addition to the programs listed above, Mario held pruning demonstrations at several farms across our territory this winter. The meetings were well attended, despite the unpredictable weather.



Tess presenting her "Regional Pest Update" at the LOF Winter Fruit Schools in Newark.

**Applied Research and Projects:** Data analysis, project summaries and reporting took place over the winter months for the various LOFT projects outlined in the previous two quarterly reports. Several proposals were submitted as well.

Honeycrisp Sensory Analysis as part of evaluations of the first season of the 2 yr USDA SCB "Measuring and Extending Benefits of More Accurate HC Harvest Predictions"





## By the Numbers:

### Education:

Educational Meetings:	Attendance	Notes:
Empire State Producer's Expo	594	See overview, page 1 of this report
LOF Winter Fruit Schools	286	See overview, page 1 of this report
Prune Harder Not Smarter Work-	150	4 total workshops, Mario
LOF Spanish Winter Fruit Schools –	119	Mario's program highlight at the end of this re-
Nursery Production		port
Weed Management Workshop	44	Joint program with the Cornell Vegetable Team
Effective Orchard Spraying	18	Andrew Landers, program in Albion & Newark
Pesticide Applicator Core Training	26	Tess with Mike Stanyard at CCE Wayne

Publications:	Editions:	Articles:
Fruit Notes	3	16
Fruit Facts	1	NA



Presentations by LOF Team	Periodical/Meeting:	Author/ Presenter:
Program update: Integrated pest management	CCE Niagara Ag Program Comm.	Grasswitz
Regional pest update	LOF Winter Fruit Schools	Grasswitz
Integrated pest management (IPM) for fruit growers	Cornell on-line Beginning Tree Fruit Course	Grasswitz
Pesticide Applicator Training	Core Training	Grasswitz
Plant Growth Regulators for Harvest Manage- ment	LOF Winter Fruit Schools	Kahlke
Postharvest Handling and Sanitation- FSMA Module 6	FSMA Grower Training Course, Becker Forum	Kahlke
Cornell Hard Cider Program Work Team Update	NY Hard Cider Assoc.	Kahlke
	Annual Member Mtg	
Expanding Food Safety Outreach and Education to Small and Mid-sized Farms in New York & Vermont	USDA-NIFA Food Safety Out- reach Program Project Direc- tor's Meeting	Kahlke, Hadad, Fellenz
Agricultural Water – FSMA Module 5.2, and How to Write a Farm Food Safety Plan – Mod- ule 7	FSMA Grower Training Course, Riverhead	Kahlke
From Bush to Wall	LOF Winter Fruit Schools	Miranda Sazo
Introduction to On-Farm Nursery Production and Main Tree Types	LOF Spanish-speaking Winter Fruit Schools	Miranda Sazo



## **Education: (continued)**

Presentations by LOF Team	Periodical/Meeting:	Author/ Presenter:
Why, When, and How You Should Transition from a 3-D to a 2-D Canopy?	Michigan Great Lakes EXPO	Miranda Sazo
Continually Fine Tune Your Fruit Production Strategy and Execution	Michigan Great Lakes EXPO	Miranda Sazo
LOF Hispanic Tree Fruit Educational Program	Campus County Connection Webinar	Miranda Sazo

## **Research:**

Activity/Proposal/Grant	Person	Funded (Y/N) or Unfunded
Statewide Survey of Apple Tree Decline	Grasswitz, Donahue	Yes-ARDP
Prediction and Prevention of Ambrosia Beetle Infestations in NY apple orchards	Agnello, Grasswitz, et al.	Pending-Cornell Federal Capacity Fund
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in US Specialty Crops	Agnello, Grasswitz, et al.	Yes-USDA-SCRI
Biological Control of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in New York State	Jentsch, Grasswitz, et al.	Yes-ARDP
Precision Orchard Management for Apples	Meyers, Miranda Sazo	Yes- USDA SCRI-CAP
Understanding the Uptake and Partitioning of Calcium and its Balance with Other Nutrients for Effective Mitigation of Bitterpit	Cheng, Miranda Sazo	Yes-ARDP
Crop Load and Harvest Management for Hard Cider Orchards	Peck, Kahlke, Tee	Yes-ARDP
Measuring and Extending Benefits of More Accurate HC Harvest Predictions	Kahlke, Miranda Sazo, Wells, Tee	Yes-USDA SCB
Viruses in Apples	Fuchs, Donahue, Kahlke, Miranda Sazo, Tee, Wallis	Yes-ARDP
Evaluating the Use of Crop Sensing Technologies for Accurate Apple Yield estimates)	Miranda Sazo, Meyers	Yes-ARDP
Assessing and Minimizing Threat of Fire Blight Following Mechanical Thinning and Mechanical Hedging	Miranda Sazo, Cox	Yes-ARDP
A Harvest Maturity App for the Western	Kahlke, Fischer	No-ARDP







**Research: (continued)**

Activity/Proposal/Grant	Person	Funded (Y/N) or Unfunded Preliminary Research (UPR)
Studying the effect of AGA and glucosamine on bitterpit in Honeycrisp	Miranda Sazo	UPR
Precision Chemical Thinning (VanDeWalle)	Miranda Sazo	UPR
Precision Chemical Thinning (site TBD)	Kahlke	UPR
Pilot project on management of Leopard	Grasswitz	UPR
Pilot project on use of biostimulants for stress reduction in apples/sudden apple	Grasswitz	UPR
Tracking phenology of hard cider varie-	Kahlke	UPR

**Business Consultation:**

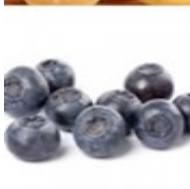
Specialist	Site Visit	Phone/Email
Grasswitz	2	2
Kahlke	2	15
Miranda-Sazo	20	50



Activity	Team Member
IPM Focus Meeting	Grasswitz, Kahlke, Miranda Sazo, Wells
Communications Focus Group	Grasswitz, Kahlke, Miranda Sazo, Wells



Mario conducting the first of four Winter Pruning Workshops—this is in Niagara County in January.



### **Professional Development and Training:**

Activity	Team Member	Comments:
Harold Craft Leadership	Miranda Sazo	1 full week intensive
Began PhD Program (Employee Degree Program)	Miranda Sazo	Classes on campus Friday
Cider apple mechanical harvesting in Washington State (webinar)	Grasswitz, Kahlke, Miranda Sazo, Tee	
Produce Safety Alliance Steering Committee Conference Call	Kahlke	
Produce Safety Educator's Conference Calls	Kahlke	
Zoom Training (webinar)	Grasswitz	
Syngenta Regional Pest Management meeting	Grasswitz	
Annual Tree Fruit Growers meeting hosted by "Agrassistance"	Grasswitz	
Spanish for Agricultural Professions	Grasswitz, Tee	

### **Program Highlight - Cultural Practices – Mario Miranda Sazo**

More than 110 Spanish-speaking employees attended **the first** Nursery Tree Production Schools on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

This year the CCE LOF team decided to instruct Hispanics who help Western NY growers to grow on-farm nursery trees. More than 110 Hispanics attended the nursery schools hosted by two growers in Orleans and Wayne Counties. The schools covered many aspects of tree nursery production and emphasized the importance of tree quality for orchard uniformity.



Mario talking to participants who attended the Nursery Tree Production Schools at Nesbitt Fruit Farm in March.