



**Overview:** The second quarter was a period in which the team transitioned from indoor educational activities to outdoor crop related activities. Mario, Tess and Craig began their applied research projects while keeping growers informed about growing season activities via the Fruit Notes and Fruit Fax. Matt spent much of April completing the Fruit Farm Business Summary and then moved outside to assist the team with their activities.

**Crop Update:** Each crop year is unique and presents challenges but the 2016 season will likely be remembered for the poor stone fruit crops and the severe drought. The critical dormancy period for this year’s tree fruit season was slow to occur due to a and a generally warmer than normal January, February mild winter weather created problems for our crops, fruit. On February 14<sup>th</sup> temperatures dropped to degrees Fahrenheit in many orchards. At that time it what damage occurred but by late April the industry determine the extent of damage. Most of the peach, nectarine acreage has no crop with the exception of a few orchard very close to the lake. With respect to apples, the buds opened earlier than normal in late March and this was followed by temperatures



“Burned” appearance

mild December and March. This especially stone minus 12-20 was not known was able to plum and crop disaster but where apple buds Fortunately, only a

in the teens on April 5th. Many were concerned there was a the industry had little experience with this type of scenario literally just come out of dormancy followed by extreme cold. small portion of the apple acreage lost production. Generally speaking the area had the potential for a good apple crop but the summer drought will decrease that potential as fruit size will be below average.



**Team Update:** Tess Grasswitz joined the LOF team on April 18 as Debbie Breth’s replacement. Tess is based out of the Orleans County Extension office. Tess is a native of the United Kingdom with undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of London and a PhD in entomology from the University of California (Riverside). She worked at both Washington State and New Mexico State Universities as an Entomologist/IPM Specialist serving the fruit and vegetable industries, establishing a solid record of applied research and extension.

**Education - Fruit Set Meeting:** 80 apple growers attended apple “fruit-set” meetings held in Sodus and Lyndonville. The team along with Cornell researchers discussed the appropriate approach to thinning the season’s crop along with pest and disease management control options.

**Applied Research and Projects:** The team set-up this season’s applied research trials and funded projects. They include research on SWIC (stress-induced water core), mechanical blossom thinning, Honeycrisp nutrition/fruit quality, crop load management of hard cider varieties, black stem borer control, and invasive pest monitoring.

**By The Numbers:**

**Education:**



Educational Meetings:	Attendance	Notes:
Fruit Set Meeting	80	Held in Sodus and Lyndonville

<b>Publications:</b>	<b>Editions:</b>	<b>Articles:</b>
Fruit Notes	10	42
Fruit Fax	36	NA
Text Alerts	3	NA

<b>Publications by LOF Team</b>	<b>Periodical</b>	<b>Author</b>
MBR: Maintaining Your Cool	Fruit Notes	Wells
Micronutrients Can Play a Role in Survival	Fruit Notes	Miranda-Sazo
Apple Tree Nutrition	Fruit Notes	Miranda-Sazo (co-author)
NY Weather Conditions Can Affect Apple Crop Size	Fruit Notes	Miranda-Sazo (co-author)
Managing Winter/Spring Injured Peaches	Fruit Notes	Miranda-Sazo
MBR: Change Before You Have To	Fruit Notes	Wells
Thinning Windows for Apples and Pears	Fruit Notes	Mario Miranda Sazo
Planning Ahead with Midsummer Grasses	Fruit Notes	Mario Miranda Sazo
Fertilization and Irrigation for the On-Farm Nursery	Fruit Notes	Miranda-Sazo (co-author)
Nutrition Management for Apple Orchards	Fruit Notes	Mario Miranda Sazo
MBR: Can't Complain	Fruit Notes	Wells
Managing Honeycrisp Crop Load this Season	Fruit Notes	Mario Miranda Sazo
NAA and Ethrel Summer Sprays for Return Bloom	Fruit Notes	Mario Miranda Sazo
MBR:		
Listeria: Why is it Not Going Away?	Fruit Notes	Kahlke
2016/17 ARDP Funding	Fruit Notes	Wells
Non-Traditional Insecticides for Control of Internal Leps	Fruit Notes	Grasswitz
Roller Coaster Ride	Fruit Notes	Wells
Benefits and Procedures for Precision Hand Thinning	Fruit Notes	Miranda-Sazo (co-author)
Washington Study Tour	Core Report	Wells

<b>Presentations by LOF Team</b>	<b>Periodical/Meeting:</b>	<b>Author/Presenter:</b>
NY Apple Industry Overview	Finger Lakes Craft Bev Conf.	Wells
Local Farms Local Foods – Attracting the Next Generation	Cornell CALs Office Albany	Miranda-Sazo
An Introduction to Cornell and the LOF	NYSAES, Italian and Chilean Visitors	Miranda-Sazo

### **Research:**

<b>Activity/Proposal/Grant</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Funded (Y/N)</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Submitted Mechanical Blossom Thinning (ARDP)	Miranda-Sazo	Yes – ARDP	
Precision Chemical Thinning	Miranda-Sazo	No	
Honeycrisp Nutrition and Bitterpit	Miranda-Sazo	No	
SWIC and NY2	Miranda-Sazo, Kahlke, Wells, Tee	Yes- ARDP	
Rootstock Trials	Miranda-Sazo	Yes-ARDP	
Crop Load Management – Hard Cider Varieties	Kahlke, Miranda-Sazo	Yes-ARDP	
Measuring and Extending Benefits of More Accurate HC Harvest Predictions	Kahlke, Miranda-Sazo, Wells, Tee	Yes-USDA SCB	

Modified Atmosphere Packaging	Kahlke	No	
-------------------------------	--------	----	--

**Business Consultation:**

Specialist	Site Visit	Phone/Email
Grasswitz	7	10
Kahlke	11	4
Miranda-Sazo		
Wells	1	14

**Professional Development and Training:**

Activity	Team Member	Comments:
Premier Cooperative Marketing Meeting	Wells, Kahlke, Miranda-Sazo	2 days
Produce Safety Training	Kahlke	Webinars
How to Avoid Accounting Pitfalls	Wells	Webinar

**2016 Fruit Team Enrollment by County:**

County	Enrolled
Wayne	119
Orleans	51
Niagara	47
Monroe	23
Oswego	4
Satellite	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>