



Overview: Many of the activities the team were involved with in the third quarter were on farms either conducting research trials or business consultation. This summer the team did not hold a LOF “summer tour” as every third year the Geneva Experiment station holds a field day in which the team participates. This year the Geneva field day was combined with the International Fruit Tree Summer Tour and was held over three days in Western NY. The team was heavily involved with both organizations to put on first class education for over 250 attendees.

Crop Update: As reported last quarter, the growing season started off poorly with two freeze events that damaged tree fruit crops to various degrees. Unfortunately, the growing season was challenging throughout the summer with above average temperatures and below average rainfall. The entire region was in drought status for most of the summer and this had a big impact on fruit size, fruit quality and ultimately yields. Severe droughts are uncommon in our region and many farms do not have irrigation equipment. This year may change many grower’s view on irrigation, especially in high density orchards in which dwarf, shallow rooted rootstocks are grown.



16 young LOF growers along with Mario and Matt standing with Scott McDougal – U.S. Apple Grower of the Year, at his Legacy Ranch near Wenatchee WA

Education: In addition to the Geneva/IFTA field days, the team coordinated two DEC WPS (worker protection standards) on-farm work-shops, held the 2nd annual Spanish speaking worker summer tour and coordinated a “study” tour of Washington state’s apple growing region for 16 “young” fruit farmers.



Stress Induced Water Core in NY2 (Ruby Frost)

Applied Research and Projects:

Stress Induced Water Core: Mario is leading this project to determine how tree nutrition and crop load impact the incidence of this problem in the variety Ruby Frost.

Honeycrisp Quality Project: Craig is the lead field coordinator of this state-wide project that is investigating Honeycrisp fruit quality in 50 orchards to determine if there is a relationship between quality and tree nutrition.

Harvest Platforms: Matt started the second season of researching the efficiency of harvest platforms in high density apple orchards.

Black Stem Borer and Stress Related Problems in Apples: Tess picked up where Debbie left off with field research on Black Stem Borer and other stress related causes of apple tree mortality.

By The Numbers:



Education:

Educational Meetings:	Attendance	Notes:
Washington Young Growers Study Tour	16	5 day trip to WA, Wells and MMS
Spanish Speaking Summer Tour	110	Team
IFTA Summer Tour/Geneva Field Day (3 days)	275	Team assisted with developing stops and logistics
DEC WPS Training and Updates	150	TG coordinated meetings for DEC

Publications:	Editions:	Articles:
Fruit Notes	4	21
Fruit Fax	39	NA
Text Alerts		NA

Publications by LOF Team	Periodical	Author
MBR: Risk Management and Irrigation	Fruit Notes	Wells
MBR: Can NY Growers Compete with the 800 Pound Gorilla	Fruit Notes	Wells
Pick 'Em All, Let the Packers Sort Them Out	Fruit Notes	Wells
"Young" Growers Travel to Washington State	Fruit Notes	Wells
Economics of Apple Varieties and High Density Production – A Business Management Perspective	Compact Tree Fruit	Wells
Give Your Spanish-Speaking Employees the Opportunity to Excel	Fruit Notes	Miranda Sazo
Spanish Speaking Summer Tour Set for Wayne County	Core Report	Miranda Sazo
Degree Day Comparisons & Predicted CA Cutoff Model	Fruit Notes	Kahlke
Harvest Maturity Program Update	Fruit Notes	Kahlke
Harvest Maturity Report (multiple issues)	HMR	Kahlke
Non-traditional insecticides for internal Lepidopteran pests of tree fruit (Part II)	Fruit Notes	Grasswitz
Spotted Wing Drosophila (<i>Drosophila suzukii</i>): updates from global research	Fruit Notes	Grasswitz
Mites in apples: Pests, Predators and IPM	Fruit Notes	Grasswitz

Presentations by LOF Team	Periodical/Meeting:	Author/Presenter:
Apple 101	Junior League of Rochester	Wells
Benefits of Fruit Farm Business Summary	IFTA	Wells
Harvest Efficiency – Platforms, Bin Trailers	IFTA	Wells
Hedging and Pruning Tall Spindle	IFTA	Miranda Sazo
Hedging and String Thinning	IFTA	Miranda Sazo
Tall Spindle, Orchard Mechanization, Pruning	IFTA	Miranda Sazo
Presented table-top display of beneficial insects	Empire Farm Days	Grasswitz
Recognizing Fire Blight and Black Stem Borer	Spanish Speaking Summer Tour	Grasswitz
Weather Related Losses in NY Fruit Crops	FSA Training	Grasswitz
How to Conduct Harvest Maturity Testing	Spanish Speaking Summer Tour	Kahlke
On Farm Nursery Care	Spanish Speaking Summer Tour	Miranda Sazo

Research:

Activity/Proposal/Grant	Person	Funded (Y/N)
Submitted Mechanical Blossom Thinning	Miranda Sazo	Yes – ARDP
SIWC 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
Preliminary Investigation of the Value of Stem Clipping	Wells	No
Harvest Platform Efficiency	Wells	Yes-ARDP
Precision Chemical Thinning (VanDeWalle)	Miranda Sazo	
NC-140 Rootstock Trial – Honeycrisp	Miranda Sazo	
Comparing Seasonal Nutrient Requirements between Honeycrisp and Gala	Miranda Sazo	
Studying the Effect of AGA and Glucosamine on Bitterpit in Honeycrisp	Miranda Sazo	
Pilot project on risk assessment of ECB in apples	Grasswitz	
Insecticide Trials for Control of BSB	Grasswitz, Breth	
FB Resistance Sampling	Grasswitz	

Business Consultation:

Specialist	Site Visit	Phone/Email
Grasswitz		
Kahlke	180	300+
Miranda-Sazo	8	5
Wells	3	10

Professional Development and Training:

Activity	Team Member	Comments:
Produce Safety Alliance – FSMA Training	Kahlke	Webinars, con-calls
Returning to Family Farm – 10 Suggestions to Help by Dr. Bernie Erven	Wells	Webinar

2016 Fruit Team Enrollment by County:

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