



## Cornell Cooperative Extension Lake Ontario Fruit Program Quarterly Report January - March 2019



**Overview:** Meeting season is in full swing by the time the New Year arrives. The lion's share of educational programs take place during this quarter. There was no shortage of meetings, conferences, workshops, and in-depth schools. Perhaps the highlight was CCE-LOF and local growers in Western NY hosting the annual IFTA Conference in Rochester from February 24-28. Please see Craig and Mario's combined quarterly highlight for more details.



Mario Miranda Sazo was recognized as Outstanding Extension Educator by IFTA during the annual conference. Terence Robinson of Cornell University presented the award to Miranda Sazo. (Photo: Christina Herrick)

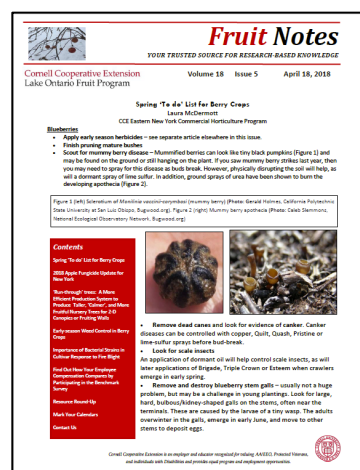
**Team News:** Tessa Grasswitz, our IPM Specialist for nearly 3 years, is resigning to take another position. She gave notice in mid-December, and Craig immediately notified CCE admin to begin the process of reviewing and editing the position description. It was posted in January, reposted in February, and closed in mid-March. A search committee was formed to review the 8 applicants and plans were made to interview 3 candidates via Zoom in early April.

**Education:** For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, the Empire Producers Expo was held at the SRC Arena & Events Center on the campus of Onondaga Community College in Syracuse (Jan. 15-17). We received good feedback that supported a strong educational program that was heavy on invited speakers from out of state. Attendance at the Tree Fruit and other LOF-chaired sessions was adequate, with largest session having over 130 attendees. However, compared to several years ago, we're seeing trends of declining attendance and vendor support. Therefore discussion is underway to explore alternatives. The LOF Winter Fruit Schools in Lockport and Newark on Feb. 4-5 were very successful. Over 285 attendees were counted over both days. Continuing our quest to bring in a strong contingent of cutting edge growers, we again brought in speakers from out of state. Evaluations were positive in support of new faces delivering new information.

**By The Numbers:**

<b>Educational Meetings/Training Programs:</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
2019 Empire Producers Expo and Becker Forum, Syracuse January 14-17	600+ *	* Includes attendees from all Tree Fruit, Hard Cider, Digital Agriculture, Pollinator, Employee Training, Becker Forum and PSA GTC, as organized by the 4 CCE-LOF specialists
Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course (PSA GTC) and optional 2 <sup>nd</sup> day Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop at CCE-Dutchess, Jan 23-24	13	Kahlke was the lead trainer and facilitator for both days
LOF Winter Fruit Schools	286 (2 locations)	See details elsewhere in report
Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course at CCE-Orleans, Feb 13	13	Kahlke and Hadad were lead trainers and Kahlke was the organizer/facilitator
International Fruit Tree Association Annual Conference, Rochester and WNY, Feb 24-28	350+	Kahlke and Sazo chaired educational sessions and gave presentations. All 4 specialists were bus guides on the field tours.
Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course (PSA GTC) and optional 2 <sup>nd</sup> day Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop in North Bangor, Mar 7-8	27	Kahlke was the lead trainer and instructor for both days
Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course (PSA GTC) and optional 2 <sup>nd</sup> day Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop at CCE-Broome, Mar 11-12	13	Kahlke and Acuna-Maldonado were the lead trainers for day 1 and Kahlke was the instructor for day 2
LOF Advisory Meeting at Ogden Town Hall, Mar 19	30	Annual program review and planning meeting for the team.
Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course at CCE-Wayne, Mar 21	40	Kahlke and Hadad were lead trainers and Kahlke was the organizer/facilitator

<b>Team Publications:</b>	<b>Editions:</b>	<b>Articles:</b>
Fruit Notes	4	26



<b>Selected Publications by LOF Team</b>	<b>Periodical</b>	<b>Author</b>
<i>Important Steps to Consider at this Time of Year for Spring Grafting</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Miranda Sazo
<i>Most Updated Lists of Geneva Rootstock Licensees in the United States</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Miranda Sazo
<i>Biology &amp; Management Considerations for Scale Pests on Tree Fruits</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Grasswitz
<i>Cold Tolerance of Some Common Fruit Pests</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Grasswitz
<i>Sexual Harassment Webinar Posted Online</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Stup, submitted by Wiltberger
<i>USDA Seeks Stakeholder Input on Implementation of 2018 Farm Bill Program</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Wood, submitted by Wiltberger
<i>Attention Processing Growers – If You Sell Even a Small Portion of Your Crop for Fresh You May Fall under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Kahlke
<i>LOF Winter Fruit Schools February 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup>- We Have a Great Program Planned!</i>	<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Kahlke

<b>Presentations by LOF Team</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Author/Presenter:</b>
<i>Hail Netting and Reflective Fabrics</i>	2019 LOF Winter Fruit Schools	Kahlke, Grasswitz, Miranda Sazo, Wiltberger
<i>Are Combinations of Retain™ &amp; Harvista™ Better than Either Alone?</i>	2019 In-Depth School- Precision Crop Load Management & Plant Growth Regulator Use, March 27, Syracuse	Kahlke
<i>Precision Hand-Thinning</i>	2019 In-Depth School- Precision Crop Load Management & Plant Growth Regulator Use, March 26, Syracuse	Miranda Sazo
<i>Module 1: An Introduction to Produce Safety &amp; the Food Safety Modernization Act</i>	Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course - Jan 23, Millbrook; Feb 13, Albion; Mar 7, North Bangor; Mar 11, Binghamton; Mar 21, Newark	Kahlke
<i>The Best Tools for the Job: Measuring Maturity in High Value Apple Varieties</i>	2019 International Fruit Tree Association Winter Conference, Rochester NY Feb 27	Kahlke
<i>Identifying a Canopy System that Works for You</i>	2019 International Fruit Tree Association Winter Conference, Rochester NY Feb 25	Miranda Sazo
<i>Module 5.1: Production Water</i>	Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course –Millbrook; Jan 23; Binghamton, Mar 11	Kahlke
Coordination/Instruction of Majority of Program	Farm Food Safety Plan-Writing Workshop- Jan 24, Millbrook; Mar 8, North Bangor; Mar 12, Binghamton	Kahlke
Costs of Using of Hail Netting and Reflective Fabrics in Orchards	Field talk: International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) 2019. Thursday, February 24. Cherry Lawn Orchards, Wayne County, NY.	Wiltberger

**Research:**

<b>Activity/Proposal/Grant</b>	<b>Person(s)</b>	<b>Funded (Y/N) or Unfunded/ Preliminary Research (UPR)</b>
Crop Load and Harvest Management for Hard Cider Orchards	Peck, Kahlke, Tee, Miranda Sazo	Y – ARDP
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in US Specialty Crops	Agnello, Grasswitz, et al.	Yes-SCRI
Biological Control of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in New York State	Jentsch, Grasswitz, et al.	Yes
Effect of Hail Netting on Fruit Quality and Pest and Disease Management in High Value Apple Cultivars in Western New York	Kahlke, Grasswitz, Wiltberger, Tee	Yes-ARDP
Evaluating a Practical, Simple, and Cost Effective Hail Netting System for High Value Apple Cultivars in Western NY	Miranda Sazo, Tee	Yes-ARDP
Cornell University Crop Insurance and Risk Management and Education Program	Ifft, Wiltberger	Yes-USDA-RMA
Survey of Apple Tree Decline in NY	Grasswitz & Donahue	Yes-ARDP
Prediction and Prevention of Ambrosia Beetle Infestations in NY Apple Orchards	Agnello & Grasswitz	Yes- Cornell Federal Capacity Fund - Pending
Labor Readiness: Pathways for Farmworkers to Start Up and Advanced Beginners to Scale Up New Farm Business	Rangarajan & Miranda Sazo	Yes- USDA-NIFA
Testing the Role of Latent Viruses in the Decline of Apple Trees on G.935 in a Commercial Apple Nursery	Fuchs & Miranda Sazo	Yes-ARDP
Managing Nutrient Balance for Effective Mitigation of Bitter Pit	Cheng & Miranda Sazo	Yes- ARDP
Implementing the Pollen Tube Growth Model on NEWA and Validating the Model in NY Orchards	Peck, Miranda Sazo, Kahlke, et. al.	Yes- ARDP

**Business Consultation:**

<b>Specialist</b>	<b>Site Visit</b>	<b>Phone/Texts/Emails</b>
Kahlke	0	97
Miranda Sazo	25	250
Wiltberger	0	23

**Selected Professional Development and Training:**

Activity	Team Member(s)	Comments:
<i>2019 International Fruit Tree Association Annual Conference, Feb 24-28, Rochester, NY</i>	All Specialists	Team helped developed educational sessions, presented, and served as guides on bus tours
<i>2019 Northeast Plant Growth Regulator Meeting, Mar 13-14, Wilkes-Barre, PA</i>	Kahlke	Networking with researchers/extension educators working in PGR's
<i>2019 AgroFresh WNY Technical Seminar, Mar 15, Rochester, NY</i>	Kahlke	
<i>2019 In-Depth School- Precision Crop Load Management &amp; Plant Growth Regulator Use, March 26-27, Syracuse, NY</i>	Kahlke, Miranda Sazo, Wiltberger	Mario and Craig helped organize, and both gave presentations
<i>2019 Crunch Time Apple Growers Annual Meeting, March 28, Syracuse, NY</i>	Kahlke, Wiltberger	
Attended one two lectures and a lab. (M, W, and F) for a Ph.D. program during 2019 Spring semester in Ithaca	Miranda Sazo	
Annual Performance Review	Wiltberger	



**2019 Lake Ontario Winter Fruit School  
Niagara County Site**



## Quarterly Highlight for Cultural Practices & Fruit Quality Management

### International Fruit Tree Association Annual Conference

**Background & LOF Response:** The International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) is an organization comprised of professionals working with commercial tree fruit (mainly pome and stone fruit) industries, with members from dozens of countries worldwide. These growers, researchers, extension educators, and other industry personnel have gathered and shared knowledge for over 50 years, first as the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association. Since nearly all commercial apples and other pome/stone fruit grown today are on dwarfing rootstocks, the name has changed, but the mission remains the same: *IFTA pursues world-class research, teaching and travel to advance knowledge, inspire innovation and build a global community of tree fruit professionals.* IFTA has two meetings a year, one a Summer Tour which features cutting-edge farms in rotating areas of the world. WNY successfully hosted the tour in 2016. The second is the annual conference, which includes both educational sessions centered on a two-day format in a hotel and 1-2 days of orchard tours. Local IFTA Board of Directors Rod Farrow and Tom DeMarree, along with LOF Specialists



The Young Professional Panel Discussion featuring moderator Jen Baugher (Adams County Nursery), and panelists Mark Evans (Evans Brothers Fruit Co.), Sarah Lott Zost (Bonnie Brae Fruit Farms), and Ian Parker (Wilmot Orchards).  
Photo courtesy of IFTA.



Day two of farm tours at the IFTA conference. Here at Fowler Farms, Terrence Robinson of Cornell talks about soil sampling and variable rate fertilizing. Photo courtesy of IFTA.

Mario Miranda Sazo and Craig Kahlke (and several others on the conference

committee) had been organizing the conference nearly 2 years prior which ended with choosing a downtown Rochester hotel as the educational venue, and orchard tours to six farms in Orleans County, and four farms in Wayne County. There were over 350 attendees from 23 states and 7 countries in WNY from February 24-28. Evaluations and comments from attendees indicated it was an excellent meeting.

Along with Rod and Karen Lewis (IFTA Educational Director, WSU extension), Mario and Craig organized two full days of educational sessions in which each introduced speakers and gave presentations of their own. Craig, Mark, and Tess were bus guides for the Orleans County tour while Mario had speaking obligations in both counties. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase great work being done in a vibrant WNY commercial tree fruit industry.