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Fruit Notes

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Ontario Fruit Program

Volume 22 Issue 2 February 9, 2022

Thanks to Those Who Attended & Supported our 2022 CCE NYS Tree Fruit Conference on January 27 & 28th!

Another virtual conference is behind us! By most accounts, it was a successful one. For some of the larger sessions, we had over 300 attendees. As a reminder, when all author permissions are granted, a link will be sent to attendees to a video of the conference.

A Big Thank You to Our Full Conference Sponsors! (\$1,000 & above)



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<https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/0/9493/files/2022/01/Directory-of-Sponsors-2022-Cornell-NYS-TF-Conf-2022-01-26.pdf>

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Spring Pesticide Applicators Training – Pre-Exam Coaching

Janet van Zoeren

Growers are strongly encouraged to pursue private applicator certification for all sprayer operators. As per usual, we will be offering a “Pre-Exam Coaching” in March to help sprayer operators prepare for the exam.

This training is only for those with experience and does not qualify for the 30-hour official DEC training – you are eligible for this coaching session if you have experience working with pesticides, either through working on your own farm or through employment on another farm.

The pre-exam coaching class will take place this year in Orleans County CCE office (12690 NY 31, Albion NY) on March 8th and 15th, from 8:30am-12:30pm each day. The cost will be \$50 for both days.

Registration forms will be available on our website soon. You will need to **print the registration document**, fill it in, and mail it in to the Orleans County CCE office.

There will also be a corresponding exam, also at the Orleans County CCE office, on March 22 at 8:30am. The exam is separate from the training, and you must register through the DEC, and bring a check for the \$100 exam fee, to take the exam. To register for the exam or if you have questions regarding the Certification Process, please contact Justin Schoff at the Avon DEC office @ 607-622-8290.

If you have any questions about either the training or certification in general, you can call or email Janet van Zoeren: 585 797 8368 / jev67@cornell.edu.

Spring 2022 CleanSweepNY Event – Free or low-cost collection of pesticides and other targeted agricultural materials

A CleanSweepNY event will be held on May 10-13, 2022 and will target the counties along I-90 in central and western New York, at the following locations:

Lockport (May 10)
Spencerport (May 11)
Waterloo (May 12)
Camillus (May 13)

Have Questions or Want to Register? Contact CleanSweepNY Staff at: Telephone: 518-225-8146, E-Mail: info@cleansweepny.org, Website: www.cleansweepny.org.

How to Participate:

1. **Pre-registration is required** to participate in CleanSweepNY. Obtain a registration packet from NYSDEC by telephone at 518-225-8146 or by e-mail at: info@cleansweepny.org.

2. **Return completed registration forms to NYS DEC by the deadline of April 29, 2022.** Participants will be sent CleanSweepNY information which will include your drop-off date, drop-off time and location.
3. **Safely transport your items to the assigned collection site.** Once there, please stay in your vehicle and present our staff with your CleanSweepNY paperwork.

CleanSweepNY is administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and provides for the safe economic collection and disposal of unwanted or unusable pesticides, laboratory and other school chemicals, elemental mercury and mercury-containing devices. CleanSweepNY also collects triple rinsed high density polyethylene (HDPE, #2) plastic pesticide containers for recycling.

Accepted materials:

- Unwanted or unusable pesticides
- Elemental mercury and mercury containing devices such as thermometers
- Triple-rinsed HDPE #2 plastic containers
- Compressed gas cylinders

Who can participate?

- Farmers and owners of former farms
- All categories of NY certified pesticide applicators
- Cemeteries, golf courses, marinas, municipalities and schools
- Retailers of agricultural, commercial or home/garden pesticide products

Red sticky card traps for SWD monitoring?

Spotted-wing drosophila monitoring helps to determine when populations begin to build up, and can help avoid early spray applications in a late infestation year. In 2021, we tested red sticky card traps, baited with SWD lures, to detect first arrival of SWD in berry plantings and cherry orchards. The baited, red sticky traps provided good results for the SWD monitoring network. **We found that the red sticky traps have potential for use by growers and consultants to monitor SWD pressure in at-**

risk fruit plantings. The exciting news is that Laura McDermott, ENYCHP, obtained grant funding to further test the red sticky traps and to lead a statewide effort to educate growers and consultants on their use.

If you'd like to learn more, please read the full article at

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/swd1/2022/02/08/red-sticky-card-traps-for-swd-monitoring/>.

USDA to Gather Cash Rents Data

Stephen Maples, 800-498-1518, stephen.maples@usda.gov

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is conducting the Cash Rents and Leases survey starting on February 7. The survey provides the basis for estimates of the current year's cash rents paid for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and permanent pasture. Over 15,000 survey recipients across the northeastern U.S. have been selected to complete the survey, which can be completed online by March 1, 2022 at agcounts.usda.gov, by mail or phone.

"Survey responses from as many farm operations as possible ensure cash rental rates accurately represent your locality," said King Whetstone, regional director of the Northeastern Regional Field Office. "Results from the Cash Rents and Leases survey will also give landowners a useful

tool in negotiating rental agreements for financial planning for their agricultural operations."

Information from this survey is also used in the Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program as an alternative soil rental rate prior to finalizing new rates each year.

In accordance with federal law, NASS keeps survey responses confidential. Survey results will be available in aggregate form only to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified. NASS will publish the survey results on August 26, 2022 at quickstats.nass.usda.gov.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (717) 787-3904 or visit <https://www.nass.usda.gov>.

RMA Extends Comment Period for Proposed Changes to Apple Crop Insurance Policy

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 2022 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the comment period deadline contained in the proposed rule for the Apple Crop Provisions through April 15, 2022.

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) originally announced the publication of a proposed rule in the Federal Register to amend the Apple Crop Provisions in December 2021. The [proposed changes](https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2022-01566/common-crop-insurance-regulations-apple-crop-insurance-provisions) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2022-01566/common-crop-insurance-regulations-apple-crop-insurance-provisions>) are based on stakeholder feedback and recommended changes from a contracted study on the apple crop insurance program. Following feedback from the proposed rule, RMA will publish a final rule that is expected to be effective for the 2024 crop year.

"Hearing straight from our customers, the producers, is the best way for us to know how to improve the products and programs we offer them," said Marcia Bunker, RMA Administrator. "By extending the comment period for the Apple Crop Provisions, we are allowing more time for this important feedback process."

RMA is proposing to make changes to the apple crop insurance program that:

- Enable producers to elect different coverage levels and percent of price elections by type, which allows producers to manage individual coverage and price risk more effectively.
- Allow producers' premiums to be reduced in response to orchard management practices, such as removing or grafting trees, that typically occur after the acreage reporting date and decrease an orchard's productivity.
- Allow producers to insure at a higher price for apples sold predominantly to direct markets or premium processing markets.
- Exclude apples sold for the slicer market from being considered "fresh apple production."
- Introduce a fresh fruit factor to account for the reduced market value of production insured under the Quality Option sold for a grade other than U.S. Fancy.

Interested parties can submit comments via the [Federal Register](https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2022-01566/common-crop-insurance-regulations-apple-crop-insurance-provisions) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2022-01566/common-crop-insurance-regulations-apple-crop-insurance-provisions>).

Farm Employers Urged to Respond to Labor Management Survey

Dr. Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development

Many New York farm employers will receive a survey in the coming weeks in an envelope from our contractor, Michigan State University Office for Survey Research. This mailing is part of Cornell research about how changing labor markets and regulations are affecting the viability of farming in New York. The industry needs relevant and timely information from farms like yours to speak with authority about what is happening and find solutions for the future. We can't do this without you!

My colleagues and I have already produced a preliminary report based on the participation of farms in related research last year, see "[Effects of NY Overtime Laws on Agricultural Production Costs and Competitiveness](https://dyson.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/01/EB2021-06_Ag-Overtime-Extension-Bulletin_CWolf-VD.pdf)." ([\[content/uploads/sites/5/2022/01/EB2021-06_Ag-Overtime-Extension-Bulletin_CWolf-VD.pdf\]\(https://dyson.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/01/EB2021-06_Ag-Overtime-Extension-Bulletin_CWolf-VD.pdf\)\) The results from this study were used by policy makers, the press, and farm groups in the recent wage board hearings. We need your help to provide this type of work on a larger scale about farm labor management.](https://dyson.cornell.edu/wp-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

This work is important because:

1. New York's agricultural industry needs this important data about how changing markets and regulations affect the industry and the people who work in it. This data can affect state policies and regulations directly, as evidenced by the current wage board process.

2. Cornell researchers and educators need this data to help improve human resource management and workforce development in New York. A well-trained workforce is key to a viable future for farming in our state.
3. New York's labor challenges are not going away any time soon. We need data and insights to respond more proactively to challenges this year, and the next, and the next.

If you receive this survey in the mail from Michigan State, it is urgent that you respond. Fill out the paper survey with your farm information and return it in the provided envelope. If you need help, our Cornell team is ready to support you to complete the survey. Contact Rachel McCarthy (rpl4@cornell.edu or (607) 255-7871) to schedule assistance. Thank you!

DEC Announces Actions to Protect New York's Pollinators by Restricting Use of 'Neonic' Pesticides

New Requirement for Neonicotinoids Will Help Prevent Potentially Harmful Exposure to Honeybees and Other Beneficial Insects.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced actions to limit the unrestricted use of pesticides that can harm bee and other pollinator populations. DEC is reclassifying certain products containing the neonicotinoid (neonic) insecticides imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and acetamiprid as "restricted use" to ensure applications are limited to trained pesticide applicators in specific situations. Restricting the use of these pesticides enables DEC to collect new data to determine where, when, and how they are used, as well as their potential impacts.

"Protecting pollinators is a top priority, and today's action to restrict the use of these neonicotinoid pesticides is another important step in our ongoing efforts to safeguard these species that are crucial to New York's environment, agricultural economy, and biodiversity," **Commissioner Seggos** said.

"Reclassifying these pesticides will ensure they are only used in targeted instances by qualified professional applicators, and only available for sale to certified applicators which will further protect public health and the environment."

New York is committed to promoting the health and recovery of pollinator populations, as highlighted in the State's [Pollinator Protection Plan](#) (PDF). Pollinators contribute substantially to New York's environment and economy. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollinators provide approximately \$344 million worth of

pollination services to New York and add \$29 billion in value to crop production nationally each year. The state's ability to produce crops such as apples, grapes, cherries, onions, pumpkins, and cauliflower relies heavily on the presence of pollinators.

Pesticides represent one of many factors that stress pollinators, and neonicotinoids in particular have been identified as a group of pesticides that, in general, are highly toxic to pollinators. While commercial application of all pesticides is reported to DEC as part of the State's stringent regulatory oversight, residential applications and sales of general use products to consumers are not. The reclassification ensures proper use by trained applicators and enables DEC to collect sales and use data to estimate and monitor the quantities and locations where these products are used. The reclassification will take effect on Jan. 1, 2023, allowing time for registrants, distributors, and retailers to prepare for the change in classification. Neonics will be reclassified under DEC's pesticide regulation authority and pesticide registrants have been notified of the intent to reclassify the applicable products. Products labeled for "limited directed application" to tree trunks and the ground at the base of trees, shrubs, and plants are not included in the reclassification. These products provide cost-effective and unique pest control for residential applications, particularly for invasive species, and limit potential exposure to pollinators.

"Getting 'over-the-counter' neonic products off of store shelves marks an important first step in reining in widespread neonic contamination, which

we see in New York State's water and in record yearly losses of bees," said **Dan Raichel, Acting Director of Natural Resources Defense Council's Pollinator Initiative**. "We look forward to continued work with the DEC on even more protections for people and pollinators from these neurotoxic pesticides."

"Reclassifying the neonic insecticides imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and acetamiprid as 'restricted use' takes these dangerous pollinator-killers out of circulation for the everyday consumer and helps to curb their misuse and overuse," said **Caitlin Ferrante, Conservation Program Manager, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter**. "The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter commends Governor Hochul and DEC for this important action to help reverse the pollinator crisis and we hope today's announcement will lead to further restrictions of this dangerous insecticide,

and recovery of plummeting bird and insect populations."

"Over the last decade, neonics have come under increasing scrutiny because of their impacts on pollinators-but new evidence demonstrates that these chemicals are harming an even wider range of wildlife," said **Erin McGrath, Policy Manager for Audubon New York**. "Exposure to neonics can prevent songbirds from orienting themselves for their migration, cause significant weight loss, and interfere with their reproductive success. We thank Governor Hochul and DEC for taking action to curtail the unrestricted use of neonic pesticides in consumer products, which will help protect birds and the places they need."

More information about [DEC's pesticides program](#).

Mark Your Calendars

Meeting Title	IFTA Annual Conference
Date	Feb 12 – 15
Time	All day
Location	Hershey, PA
Cost	\$450-850
Contact for Info/Registration	See link below.
Brief Description of Meeting	Information about the organization and the event can be found at https://www.ifruittree.org/event/ifta-2022-annual-conference/ .

Meeting Title	2022 Eastern NY Fruit & Vegetable Conference
Date	Feb 15 – 17
Time	Varies by day
Location	Virtual
Cost	\$40-\$60
Contact for Info/Registration	See link below.
Brief Description of Meeting	Information about the event can be found at: https://cce-enychp.teachable.com/p/2022-eny-fruit-vegetable-conference-sessions .

Meeting Title	Northeast Extension Fruit Consortium, Winter Webinar series
Date	Tuesdays, Feb 22 – March 29
Time	12:00 pm noon
Location	Virtual
Cost	Free
Contact for Info/Registration	Register for each separately, see link below.
Brief Description of Meeting	Information about the series can be found at: https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/news-events/northeast-extension-fruit-consortium . Join on Feb 22 for the "Precision Crop Load Management of 'Honeycrisp'" talk with Dr. Robinson. He will share results from his extensive 'Honeycrisp' crop load management trials at Cornell AgriTech and on-farm trials. 1 DEC credit is available for this talk.

Meeting Title	Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Conference
Date	Feb 23 - 24
Time	All day
Location	Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada
Cost	\$35 - 115
Contact for Info/Registration	Pricing and registrations links can be found at: https://www.ofvc.ca/pricingA.html .
Brief Description of Meeting	Information about the event can be found at: https://www.ofvc.ca/ .

Meeting Title	USDA SCRI – Root to Fruit (R2F) webinar
Date	Tuesday, March 1
Time	11am-4pm (EST)
Location	Virtual (nationwide)
Cost	Free
Contact for Info/Registration	Mario Miranda Sazo (cell 315-719-1318; mrm67@cornell.edu); https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uyec5ZIBQxCu5Pf31GKwQg
Brief Description of Meeting	This free webinar will provide an opportunity to learn new findings on rootstock and nutrition for managing ‘Honeycrisp’ and other high value varieties in the Pacific Northwest and Eastern U.S. It will be a one-day intensive workshop focusing on the new advances in nutrition and rootstock research and the applications of new designer rootstocks suited for specific climates, soils, cultivars, and planting systems in the U.S. Facilitated by the CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program and the CCE Eastern NY Commercial Fruit Program.

Meeting Title	Biological Orchard IPM Tactics Webinar
Date	Monday, March 14
Time	1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Location	Virtual
Cost	Free
Contact for Info/Registration	Register online at: https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvdu2urD4uGtOMmoJdXq3CxcncyTd5CDxdN .
Brief Description of Meeting	Cornell Cooperative Extension ENYCHP and LOFP are presenting a webinar on biological orchard IPM tactics. Julianna Wilson of MSU Extension will present on mating disruption and biological insecticide options , while Dr. Kerik Cox will review some efficacy data for new and old biofungicides .

Meeting Title	What’s New in Crop Load Management
Date	Friday, March 18
Time	1:30 pm – 4:45 pm
Location	Virtual
Cost	Free
Contact for Info/Registration	Register online at: https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYuc-6hqzspGtdsp3VFnf7sQKDgO1wGQg5S .
Brief Description of Meeting	Information about the event can be found at: https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1613 .

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Lake Ontario Fruit Program

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Fruit Notes

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

Fruit Specialists



Craig Kahlke | 585-735-5448 | cjk37@cornell.edu
Team Leader, Fruit Quality Management

Areas of Interest: Fruit Quality and factors that affect fruit quality before, during, and after storage,
Crops: Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums



Mario Miranda Sazo | 315-719-1318 | mrm67@cornell.edu
Cultural Practices

Crops: Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Currants, Gooseberries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums



Janet van Zoeren | 585-797-8368 | jev67@cornell.edu
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Areas of Interest: IPM of tree fruit and berry pests, biological control, and pollinators.
Crops: Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Currants, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plum



Mark Wiltberger | 315-272-8530 | mw883@cornell.edu
Business Management

Crops: Apples, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums

For more information about our program visit us at lof.cce.cornell.edu