

A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these five counties: Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Oswego & Wayne

# **Fruit** Notes

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

## Cornell Cooperative Extension Lake Ontario Fruit Program

Volume 22 Issue 4 March 10, 2022

#### **Announcing Spanish Pruning Meetings**

Mario Miranda Sazo

In addition to the two pruning meetings already scheduled with Dr. Robinson for today March 10 and next Wednesday, March 16, we will have at least two Spanish-language pruning meetings, to fine tune the dormant pruning job in the early part of spring in at Ledge Rock Farm April, from green tip until the early part of bloom (especially for Gala, Honeycrisp and Fuji). Up to four meetings may be scheduled this spring, depending on grower requests as more H-2A employees arrive in our region in the next few weeks. The first Spanish pruning meeting is scheduled at Ledge Rock Farm next Wednesday March 16 after lunch (review Table below). I will deliver the entire portion of the pruning workshop in the Spanish language, and I won't translate the content to the English language. I am willing to work with Jamaican crews and enjoy teaching them how to prune as well.

I will be more available to work with them and for more pruning visits (both languages with growers and their employees) after April 5. Please call or text me to 315-719-1318, or email me to <u>mrm67@cornell.edu</u> to schedule visits in advance.

I also would like to encourage you to check the recently posted CCE LOF YouTube video titled **'Pruning Guide for Precision Crop Load Management'**. A new video describing precision pruning: why, how and when to accomplish it. Show the video to your pruning crews. We are working hard to have the captions of this pruning video translated to the **Spanish language before March 16**, or earlier if possible.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29cF8yOKup0

Orleans County Pruning Meetings – March 16	
English language	Spanish language
Date/time: Wednesday March 16	Date/time: Wednesday March 16
(10:30am-noon)	(1:30pm-3:00pm)
Grower host: Brett Kast, Kast Farms, Inc.	Grower and Spanish orchard manager hosts: Jeff
Address: 2948 Lattin Rd., Albion, NY 14411	Toussaint and Jose Vallejo, Ledge Rock Farms, LLC.
	Address: 4362 South Gravel Road,
	Medina, NY 14103

#### Biological Orchard IPM Tactics Webinar March 14, 1:30-3 PM – 1.5 DEC Credits Available

Cornell Cooperative Extension ENYCHP and LOFP, in conjunction with Cornell's Hard Cider Program Work Team, are presenting a webinar

on biological orchard IPM tactics. Dr. Julianna Wilson of MSU Extension will discuss biorational tactics for apple insect pest management, including mating disruption for borers and the internal lepidopterans,

and biologically based insecticides for moth and leafroller management. Dr. Kerik Cox will discuss the major types of biopesticides and GRAS listed products marketed for fire blight, and their best use and efficacy. He will present additional information on the use of germicidal light to manage fire blight if time permits.

#### Register

now: <u>https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvdu</u> <u>2urD4uGtOMmoJdXq3CxncyTd5CDxdN</u>

# To receive 1.5 DEC credits, you will need to do the following:

- Email (<u>mrb254@cornell.edu</u>) or text (518 410 6823) a photo copy of your applicator ID to Mike Basedow by noon the day of the meeting.
- Be present throughout the entirety of the meeting.
- At the beginning and end of the meeting, we will post links to two forms. You will need to click on the link, and fill in your full name and ID number both times.



Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.



#### **Special Permit Training 2022**

We will be offering Special Permit Training (SPT) once again this year. While SPT is the official name, you may call it "pesticide applicator training for non-English speakers" or just "the training you bring your non-certified applicators to every April". SPT will be offered virtually in western NY again this year – if you participated last year, the process this year will be very similar. Pre-registration is required, and **you must register your workers by March 30**<sup>th</sup> to receive the training. Please learn more and register online on our website:

https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1642.

#### Remote Good Agricultural Practices Training & Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Session

April 4th & 5th, 2022 - Zoom

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension's Lake Ontario Fruit Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, and the CCE-Eastern NY Horticulture Team on April 4th for a remote GAPs training. Instructors will walk growers thru how to conduct a risk assessment on their farm utilizing the seven areas of farm food safety. Participants will gain hands-on experience in creating a traceability system for their farm, as well as learn about packing house design with food safety principles guiding placement of equipment and suggested materials. Students will also learn about how to train their employees related to food safety and understand what they will need to implement on their farm in order to pass a third-party food safety audit, such as GAPs.

On April 5th growers can again join us for a day focused on writing their farm food safety plan. Trainers will be joined by NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets Farm Products inspectors to give guidance and input for farms in creating their farm food safety plans to meet the needs for a potential audit. At the conclusion of day two growers will have all components of their farm food safety plans outlined with the most critical pieces.

The price is \$35 for a farm to attend both days (\$25 for enrollees), or \$10 to join on the second day for the farm food safety plan writing session. The price for both days includes a "Farm Food Safety Decision Tree", worker training posters for use on the farm, and a flash drive pre-loaded to the farm food safety plan template, standard operating procedures, and log templates for use by the farm.

In order for a farm to participate, you must have the latest version of Word loaded onto your computer. We are utilizing Zoom for the training, you will need a high speed internet connection for smoothest participation experience.

Please see our website for more details and for registration here:

https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1648

Any questions can be directed to Craig Kahlke at <u>cjk37@cornell.edu</u> or 585-735-5448.

#### **Onboarding your Seasonal Workers – Updated Resources for 2022!**

Elizabeth Higgins, Ag Business Specialist, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture

We are getting near that time of year when you will be hiring and training your seasonal workforce. The Eastern NY Commercial Hort Team (ENYCH) and the Lake Ontario Fruit Team (LOFT) have been collaborating with the Cornell Ag Workforce Development Program to develop resources for you to streamline the process and paperwork of hiring new employees. This winter we reorganized many of those resources into a <u>website</u> to make them more accessible.

One of the key resources is an <u>onboarding plan</u> <u>template</u>. The plan indicates what needs to happen, who will do it, and when it should happen. Farms that have developed organized systems for new hire paperwork, and that have developed effective systems for training and assessing new staff are more likely to have employees that are productive at work more quickly, with fewer accidents and errors while working. Farms that hire lots of seasonal employees or farms that, because of the nature of the work, have a lot of employee turnover will find that the upfront investment in developing better onboarding systems will pay dividends quickly. There is a 4-week schedule in Excel that you can use to plan your month, and an Action Plan to help you identify a few key areas to focus on at first if you are overwhelmed. We also have included a template <u>NYS Employee Manual</u>.

The website pulls together links to many of the resources that you will need for hiring and training a new employee. You will find a <u>checklist and links to key paperwork</u>, <u>housing resources</u>, <u>training resources and videos</u>, and links to <u>NYS and US DOL regulations</u>. We hope that this website makes it easier to pull together the resources that you will need this season. Send welcome suggestions for additions or improvements to Liz Higgins at <u>emh56@cornell.edu</u>.



#### NY FarmNet Stress and Mental Health Survey to Inform Programming

If you work with farmers or are an agribusiness employee or owner, NY FarmNet is seeking feedback from you. The brief (less than 5 minutes) survey linked below asks how often you discuss difficult topics with your farmer clients, how well you recognize the signs of stress, and how NY FarmNet can best support your organization. This information will help NY FarmNet tailor programming and trainings to specific community needs as they vary throughout the state. Please complete the survey by visiting https://www.nyfarmnet.org/usdafrsanny and clicking

the green "Survey" button.

Over the past month, NY FarmNet has collected over 50 responses. From this preliminary data, 50% of respondents report having weekly or daily conversations with farmers about stress related to farms (i.e. fear of losing the farm, uncertain future, health issues, social isolation and difficult family dynamics) that impact their mental health. Thirty-seven percent of respondents are not at all confident in their ability to assist a farmer who is struggling with their mental health. If you haven't already, please complete the survey to share your own experiences within your agricultural community.

NY FarmNet and the NYS Agricultural Mediation Program (NYSAMP) are working with agricultural and mental health organizations to build programming and trainings geared specifically toward rural and agricultural communities, focusing on Mental Health First Aid, suicide prevention, conflict management, and communication. These programs will help farmers and their larger communities reach out, connect, and help each other during times of crisis, when support can seem hard to find. This project is made possible by funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food & Agriculture. They have invested nearly \$25 million in addressing farmer behavioral health on a state by state basis as part of the Farm and Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) through state Departments of Agriculture.

In New York State alone, 1.3 million residents live in rural areas (USDA-ERS). Those rural areas, for a wide variety of reasons, lack the mental health resources to support their residents. Out of the 62 counties in New York State, 51 have a mental health professional shortage. Sixty have a primary care health professional shortage. By supporting farmers and expanding mental health literacy in rural communities, people are more likely to reach out when they, or someone they know, are struggling. The more mental health is talked about in a safe, respectful, healthy way, the more it is destigmatized.

NY FarmNet helps farmers, farm families, and agricultural professionals navigate times of crisis, growth, and opportunity. Farm clients are assigned both a family and a financial consultant to help address the many issues they may face. All services are free of charge and completely confidential. For more information or to request assistance, call 1-800-547-3276 or visit <u>www.nyfarmnet.org</u> and click the red "Contact" button.

NY FarmNet was founded by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University in response to the national farm crisis in the 1980s. NY FarmNet still operates at Cornell as part of the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management. The Dyson School is part of both Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the SC Johnson College of Business. NY FarmNet is funded by the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, NYS Office of Mental Health, the private sector, and individual donations. If you are interested in making a donation to NY FarmNet, visit <u>www.nyfarmnet.org</u> and click the banner across the top. For more information, contact Kate Downes at kdownes@cornell.edu.

This work is supported by 7 U.S.C. 5936, Section 7522 of FCEA of 2008, Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN), Grant No. 2021-70035-35550, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

#### **Cornell Pollination Survey for Apple Growers**

Mike Biltonen, Know Your Roots

We are working with Cornell on an Apple Pollination Survey that is querying apple growers about their production/pollination practices. We are at the very front end of the project and looking to get more growers aware of, involved and participating in the project. I have assembled my own list of growers to contact and the initial communications have been sent out. In order to reach more growers I am hoping you can help us by either rounding out the contact list we already have or by sending out an email to your grower lists about the survey and how to reach us for more information or to participate. I understand you may be limited in your ability to help provide specific contact info, so simply alerting growers to the project through your normal channels and giving them our contact info may be best. Since you each represent one of the three major apple growing regions of New York your support would help ensure optimal statewide coverage. In any case, I have attached the letter that has been sent out already and hoping you can help us expand our reach. They can reach out to

<u>northeast.apple.survey@gmail.com</u> for more info or to respond.

#### NY FarmNet + NYS Agricultural Mediation Receive \$500,000 Grant from USDA-NIFA to Address Farmer Behavioral Health in New York State

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced that an investment of nearly \$25 million for 50 grants supporting Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) State Department of Agriculture (SDA) projects. NY FarmNet and New York State Agricultural Mediation Program (NYSAMP) received \$500,000 to support this work in the Empire State. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets is supporting both organizations with this project.

#### "NIFA's Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance

<u>Network</u> connects farmers, ranchers, and others in agriculture-related occupations to stress assistance programs," said NIFA Director Dr. Carrie Castille. "Creating and expanding a network to assist farmers and ranchers in times of stress can increase behavioral health awareness, literacy, and positive outcomes for agricultural producers, workers and their families."

Funded projects must initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral for other forms of assistance as necessary through farm telephone helplines and websites; training programs and workshops; support groups; and outreach services and activities.

NY FarmNet has been assisting farmers for over 35 years by offering free, confidential, and impartial financial and personal consulting services. Personal consulting is centered around communication, stress management, referrals to community resources, family dynamics, and managing anxiety and depression. This project aims to raise awareness in the agricultural community of New York around behavioral health services that are available, and to expand upon these services. NY FarmNet will develop a group of skilled trainers in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and hold free of charge workshops in MHFA and suicide prevention for farmers and agribusiness professionals across the state. A marketing campaign will help lessen the stigma associated with asking for help with behavioral health challenge and raise awareness of available resources.

NYSAMP, as a subrecipient to NY FarmNet, will offer direct services for labor issues to the farm community. They will provide specialized training to a team of highly skilled mediators and expand services to address labor topics between or amongst employees and employers such as conflict management, cultivating relationships, and communication.

Long before the pandemic caused an increase in stress across the board, mental health issues were a rising concern in farm communities across the country. USDA-NIFA introduced a competitive grants program, the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN), reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, which supports projects that provide stress assistance for people in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations. In fiscal year 2020, NIFA awarded \$28.7 million to four regional entities to develop the FRSAN and ensure vulnerable agricultural producers and their families have sufficient options for high-quality, affordable help, close to home. The funds now being utilized by NY FarmNet and NYSAMP are an additional effort by the federal government to address these same issues on a state-by-state basis. If you have any questions about this project, please contact NY FarmNet at 1-800-547-3276.

This work is supported by 7 U.S.C. 5936, Section 7522 of FCEA of 2008, Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN), Grant No. 2021-70035-35550, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

### USDA Gathering New Data on Certified Organic Agriculture Production

Maria Diaz, (800) 498-1518

HARRISBURG, PA – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is currently conducting the 2021 Organic Survey to gather new data on certified organic crops and livestock commodities in the United States. This effort is critical to help determine the economic impact of certified organic agriculture production on the nation.

Participants should respond by April 4. Producers can return their questionnaires by mail or complete them online at <u>www.agcounts.usda.gov</u> using the new

Respondent Portal. On the portal, producers can complete their surveys, see previously reported data, access data visualizations and reports of interest, link to other USDA agencies, get a local weather update and more.

"We continue to receive requests for updated data on organic farms, especially to measure growth in the production sector of the organic industry," said King Whetstone, director of NASS' northeastern regional office. "According to the 2019 survey, U.S. certified organic producers sold a total of \$9.93 billion in products, up 31% over 2016. That is a significant increase, and this upcoming survey will help determine if that type of growth has been sustained."

Agriculture statistics are used by many, including business and policy decision makers, but in this case, farmers and ranchers stand to reap the most benefits. The 2021 Organic Survey will provide data for USDA's Risk Management Agency to evaluate crop insurance coverage to help provide adequate pricing for organic producers. The report, to be released on the NASS website December 15, 2022, will also assist producers, suppliers, and others in the private sector in planning the production and marketing of new products to help sustain industry growth.

"This survey continues a great partnership across USDA agencies in a commitment to support certified organic producers based on the best data possible," added

Whetstone. "This voluntary survey gives all organic farmers and ranchers who receive it an opportunity to impact the industry."

"I encourage producers to participate in this survey so we can continue to improve Federal crop insurance for organic producers," said Marcia Bunger, Administrator for USDA's Risk Management Agency. "We now offer an organic price for 84 crops, which is up from just four in 2011, due in part to the information received from this survey. Producers' participation in this survey will aid USDA efforts to meet the needs of our nation's everexpanding organic market."

As is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is kept confidential and will not be published in identifiable form, as required by federal law. For more information about the 2021 Certified Organic Survey, visit www.nass.usda.gov/organics.

#### **Mark Your Calendars**

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/tJlvdu2urD4uGtOMmoJdXq3CxncyTd5CDxdN.
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 <b>mating disruption and biological insecticide options</b> , while Dr. Kerik Cox will review some efficacy data for new and old <b>biofungicides</b> .

Meeting Title	Northeast Extension Fruit Consortium, Winter Webinar series
Date	Tuesdays, March 15 – 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: <u>https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/news-events/northeast-extension-fruit-consortium</u> . 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	Precision Pruning Workshops for 'Honeycrisp' and other Important Apple Cultivars
	in WNY
Date/Time	Wednesday, March 16, 2022
Time	10:30 AM-12 noon
Location	Grower host: Brett Kast, Kast Farms, Inc.
	Kast Farms, 2948 Lattin Rd., Albion, NY 14411
Cost	Free
Contact for Info/Registration	Mario Miranda Sazo (cell 315-719-1318; mrm67@cornell.edu)
Brief Description of Meeting	Dr. Robinson will show modern pruning techniques and share results from his
	extensive 'Honeycrisp' precision pruning trials at Cornell AgriTech and on-farm trials.

Meeting Title	First Spanish Pruning Workshop (Spanish language)
Date/Time	Wednesday, March 16
Time	1:30 PM-3 PM
Location	Grower and Spanish orchard manager hosts: Jeff Toussaint and Jose Vallejo, Ledge
	Rock Farms, LLC.
	Address: 4362 South Gravel Road, Medina, NY 14103
Cost	Free
Contact for Info/Registration	Mario Miranda Sazo (cell 315-719-1318; mrm67@cornell.edu)
Brief Description of Meeting	Mario will introduce, explain, and show modern apple pruning techniques to
	Spanish orchard managers and their pruning crews.

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: <u>https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYuc-</u> 6hqzspGtdsp3VFnf7sQKDgO1wGQg5S.
Brief Description of Meeting	CCE-ENYCHP and CCE-LOF are presenting a webinar on what's new in crop load management. Speakers will be joining us from NYSIPM, Cornell University, Michigan State University, and Valent USA. Topics will include NEWA crop load management tools, including the Pollen Tube Growth Model, the Carbohydrate Thinning Model, and the Fruit Growth Rate Model. We will also discuss the future of precision crop load management with computer vision technologies, and new materials you will soon be able to incorporate into your apple thinning programs. For those growing peaches, Dr. Anna Wallis will present on thinning with ACC, the first chemical thinner commercially available for stone fruits

Meeting Title	Remote Good Agricultural Practices Training and Farm Food Safety Plan Writing
	Session
Date	Monday, April 4 & Tuesday, April 5
Time	8:45 AM – 4:45 PM on April 4, 8:45 AM – 2:00 PM on April 5
Location	Zoom
Cost	\$35 for April 4 (\$25 for enrollees), \$10 for the optional day 2
Contact for Info/Registration	https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1648
	Craig Kahlke, <u>cjk37@cornell.edu</u> , 585-735-5448
Brief Description of Meeting	See article in this newsletter

Meeting Title	2022 Respirator Fit Test Clinic
Date and Time	April 7 9 AM-4 PM (Orleans Co)
	April 8 8:30 AM-12 PM (Niagara Co)
Location	Orleans County CCE, Conference Room, South Entrance, 12690 State Route 31
	Albion, NY 14411
	Niagara County CCE, 4H Training Center, Large Meeting Room, 4487 Lake Ave,
	Lockport, NY 14094
Cost	\$65 per person
Contact for Info/Registration	Call 607-547-6023 (Monday-Friday, 7:30 am—4:00 pm) and ask for the Fit Test Clinic
	scheduler <b>OR</b> E-mail FitTest@bassett.org.
Brief Description of Meeting	The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) and CCCE of
	Niagara and Orleans Counties are pleased to provide respirator fit testing clinics for
	agricultural businesses in your region. During the clinic, NYCAMH will provide
	medical evaluations, respirator fit tests and WPS compliant trainings on how to
	properly inspect, put on, take off, fit, seal check, use, clean, maintain, and store
	respirators. Appointments are one hour long. Up to 4 workers can be seen at the
	same time. Medical evaluations, fit tests, and trainings are available in both English
	and Spanish.

#### **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Lake Ontario Fruit Program 12690 Rt. 31 Albion, NY 14411

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Mark Your Calendar

Contact Us

# 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 1 585-797-8368 I 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