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Fruit Notes

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Ontario Fruit Program

Volume 22 Issue 9 May 27, 2022

Announcing Premier Spring Spanish Fruit School – Friday June 17

Mildred Alvarado, Nicole Waters, Mario Miranda Sazo, Alejandro Calixto, Hannah Rae Warren

Friday, June 17, 2022 from 12:00 PM- 4:30 PM

CCE Orleans County Office Location: 12690 NY-31, Albion, NY 14411

Join the Cornell Small Farms Program, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program and NYS Integrated Pest Management for a Spanish Language Field day!

Open event - No registration required!

Click here to view this event in Spanish:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y_Qe8J27G9765epZpKYFVYwxTdy3L89L/view

This Spanish language event brings the Latino farming community together to promote best practices in orchard management, featuring talks from Alejandro Calixto (New York State Integrated Pest Management), Mario Miranda Sazo (CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program), and Mildred Alvarado (Cornell Small Farms Program). This collaborative and fun WNY field day is a chance to meet other Latino farmers, share ideas and experiences, and connect with agricultural service providers in Western New York!

Agenda	Program	Topic	Details
12:00 Outdoor under pavilion	Provided by the SFP Futuro en Ag	Lunch	Mariachi del Oro : https://www.mariachideoromexicangrill.com/
1:00 PM Outdoor under pavilion	NYSIPM: Alejandro Calixto, Hannah Rae Warren	The Importance of IPM: Introduction to IPM principles, and key topics for farmers	Introduction to IPM -What is IPM and why is it important for agriculture, environment and worker health?
2:00 PM Inside CCE County Office	CCE LOF: Mario Miranda Sazo	Basic Plant Physiology/Tree Fruit Nutrition/Orchard Management Practices	Understanding Why Honeycrisp is so Difficult to Grow but Highly Profitable
3:00 PM Inside CCE	SFP: Mildred Alvarado	The Hispanic Leadership Spirit and Contribution in	Futuro en Ag: Farm Management:

County Office		WNY Apple Industry	Recognizing, Keeping, and Growing Leadership and Management in the Latino Community
4:30 PM		Program Close	

Program details:

NYS Integrated Pest Management - Agriculture: (<https://nysipm.cornell.edu/agriculture/>)

1:00-2:00 PM, Alejandro Calixto

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a science-based, decision-making process that focuses on sustainable prevention of pests through a combination of biological, cultural, physical and chemical methods, to reduce economic, health and environmental risks. The first line of prevention is to know and actively monitor the pests in your crop to ensure they are maintained under tolerable levels; this is essential to determine what is the best tactic (or combination of tactics) that you should adopt to control that pest.

First, know your pests: it's essential to IPM. If you treat for the wrong pest, you waste time and money, perhaps even your crops. Abiotic problems can mimic pest damage too. Don't spend money and time on treatments that don't work or may damage your operation.

Relying too heavily on just one tactic makes for adaptable pests. Pests can become resistant to pesticides. The battle against pests costs money — which you should weigh against what you might lose from a pest. The balance point, or threshold, varies from situation to situation. This is where scouting, a cornerstone of IPM, kicks in. Meanwhile, maintaining tolerable levels of pests helps keep their natural enemies — the insects or diseases that prey on them — on location and working for you.

CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program – Tree Fruit Production:

2:00-3:00 PM, Mario Miranda Sazo

This year practical technical knowledge of Honeycrisp among Hispanic orchard workers in Western NY needs to continue and be expanded. The CCE LOF Spanish Fruit Program has identified this as a key area for educational programming and collaboration with the Cornell Small Farms Program and NYS IPM.

There is a great need in the WNY apple industry to improve tree growth and reduce occurrence of bitter pit in Honeycrisp trees which require constant support, care, and labor provided by a well-trained, primarily Spanish-speaking labor force. During the June 17 event, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of crop load management and tree fruit nutrition, both critical aspects in business success for Honeycrisp cultivars and much more.

Cornell Small Farms - Futuro en Ag Project: (<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/futuro/>)

3:00-4:30 PM, Mildred Alvarado

While this portion of the field day will promote maintaining a broad perspective when facing decisions to achieve personal and professional goals as farm business managers and owners, the Futuro en Ag project focuses on producing educational programs and resources for new and beginning farmers and future ag entrepreneurs. Check out the latest educational resource offerings in Spanish by visiting SFP's Centro de Recursos para Fincas (<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/recursos/>)

The Hispanic Leadership Spirit and Contribution in WNY Apple Industry

Year to year, New York State harvests more than 1.2 billion pounds of apples, cares for more than 1.6 million apple trees, and farms more than 55,000 acres that provide fresh, nutritious apples to more than 68 million people around the country. (New York Apples Association, 2022). A huge portion of this effort is due to the massive contribution of Latino farmers, employees, and service providers who actively grow, harvest, pack, market, distribute, and export world-famous, NYS grown apples. Recognizing our contributions as Latino farmers, our leadership, our skills, and our role in the agricultural sector will create opportunities to envision and develop successful agricultural careers. Additionally, understanding our contributions help us identify unique skills, as well as professional and business goals, which in turn improve our well-being and family lives, while inspiring our entire Latino agricultural community.

Together, we will explore and learn sustainable management practices from our local Latino community of farmers, managers, supervisors, farm owners, crew leaders, and employees in Western New York. As a community, we possess the skills to sustainably manage human, financial and natural resources. Sharing this knowledge and experience is key to continuing to grow leadership and business ownership in the apple industry.



Welcome Natalie Mrzywka to Our Team!

Natalie Mrzywka & Craig Kahlke

Some of you may know by now that our longtime Administrative Assistant, Kim Hazel, resigned from CCE effective May 9. We are fortunate that we will not miss a beat as she's been replaced by Natalie Mrzywka. Natalie was raised in Holley NY on a small family farm. They raised market lambs and showed Boer goats along with showing horses that she's done her whole life. Natalie also grew up in the Orleans County 4-H programs. She currently still has her own small farm in Albion. She started with CCE back the summer of 2016 as a summer assistant in the 4-H office. She did this for 2 years and then came back in January of 2020

as the 4-H administrative assistant. Natalie has been a friendly face and hard worker in the Orleans CCE office ever since!! Please welcome Natalie to the team when you see her or talk to her on the phone!

Welcome Jennifer Duerden to Our Team!

Craig Kahlke & Jennifer Duerden

LOF has hired some help for the growing season! On May 24, Jen Duerden started with our team. She'll continue full-time with us through harvest, until October 28. Jen comes to us with a master's degree in Food Studies from Chatham University in Pittsburgh. She is originally from Florida, growing up in a commercial fishing family on the west coast. She also has experience as a fabricating assistant for many artists and projects. Jen will be working with us on a number of funded projects, along with learning the duties of the extension team. Please welcome Jen when you see her!



Announcing the 2022 Virtual Orchard Meetup Summer Series Orchard Efficiency: Labor and Technology

First Meetup is Next Thursday June 2, 7pm EST

Mario Miranda Sazo (CCE LOF), Kristy Grigg-McGuffin (OMAFRA), Bernardita Sallato (WSU), Anna Wallis (MSU), and Daniel Weber (PSU)

Please join us for a second season of Virtual Orchard Meetups in June-July 2022. In 2021, we launched the Honeycrisp Virtual Meetups, a series of four webinars connecting industry members across North America, which included over 20 specialists and 1000 participants. Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback, we will be offering a second season in 2022.

This year's theme will be **Orchard Efficiency: Labor and Technology**. Webinars will showcase growers and other specialists leading the development of these aspects of the industry. We will hear about their experiences managing the current challenges and participating in novel solutions.

Webinars will be conducted live on Thursdays at 4:00pm (PST)/7:00pm (EST), on June 2, 16, 30, and July 14. The format will be an open discussion and in a very inclusive virtual format. Each webinar will last 90 minutes. The program is free of charge.

Register Here: https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lbvRIOYcR52A_Nfw03Z_qQ

- **June 2 Labor – Grower Experiences**
- **June 16 Labor – Specialist Panel**
- **June 30 Technology – Grower Experiences**
- **July 14 Technology – Specialist Panel**

This extension effort is being conducted across North America in close collaboration with the International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) (<https://www.ifruittree.org/>), the AI Institute for Transforming Workforce & Decision Support (<https://agaid.org/>) and Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture (CIDA) (<https://digitalagriculture.cornell.edu/>)

Whether you are a fruit grower with ample experience in labor and technology, one that has modest experience, or one that is just getting started, the Virtual Orchard Meetups will be the right setting for you to ask questions and find the right technical information based on the most recent science and experiences.

Agricultural Supervisory Leadership Certificate Program

Dr. Rich Stup, Cornell University

Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development: (<https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/>)

has opened registration for the **Managing Performance** course offered by the **Agricultural Supervisory Leadership Certificate program:** (<https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/agricultural-supervisory-leadership-certificate-program/>)

Continuing education credits are now offered for this course!

Understand motivation. Harness the power of performance feedback and coaching. Build clear and effective workplace communications. Set safety expectations. Conduct effective performance improvements.

\$275 per person

Materials release June 17, 2022 and live weekly Zoom discussions will be held from 11 AM to noon EST each Thursday from June 23 through July 28. Participation in the live sessions is highly encouraged and provides a valued opportunity for peer to peer learning and networking.

Register Now:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/b54d2e6c-6f95-4f8d-b7f8-711635e178ef/regPage:75f863b4-af77-42d8-9177-5dcbe67d5de9?locale=en-US>

Supervisors are critical to the success of farm businesses. They have a major impact both on employees' daily work experiences and on the production performance of the business. The Agricultural Supervisory Leadership certificate helps farm supervisors and managers learn and apply human resource management practices and leadership skills that foster rewarding workplaces and drive business results. Confident managers who thoughtfully apply leadership and management skills improve employee performance, develop teams, reduce employee turnover, and increase employee engagement. The courses within the certificate program will offer extensive practice and engagement activities to build confidence and skill sets.

Other courses in the Agricultural Supervisory Leadership certificate include:

Transitioning to Supervisor: *Develop essential communication skills and manage conflict. Lead a multi-cultural team. Build an effective workplace culture.*

- **Organizing Work for High Quality Results:** *Develop clear expectations and standard operating procedures. Delegate effectively. Diagnose and correct performance problems.*
- **Managing Performance:** *Understand motivation. Harness the power of performance feedback and coaching. Build clear and effective workplace communications. Set safety expectations. Conduct effective performance improvements.*
- **Ethics and Employment Regulations for Supervisors:** *Implement responsible and ethical labor practices and understand why this matters for agriculture. Recognize and prevent sexual harassment. Understand and follow minimum wage and overtime laws. Implement Equal Employment Opportunity laws to prevent discrimination and harassment. Use an employee handbook. Handle employee discipline and termination.*
- **Employee Development and Training:** *Identify training needs. Understand learning styles. Design and plan learning experiences that accommodate learner needs. Develop effective training skills and techniques. Evaluate learning results and training effectiveness.*
- **Staffing and Organizing Your Team:** *Develop job descriptions. Learn how to find potential employees, interview and select the right people. Implement new hire documentation, employment authorization, and onboarding: bringing new employees into the business successfully and productively.*

More Information

Each course includes up to six weeks of instruction on topics that will build your leadership and management skills. Instruction includes a combination of prerecorded lectures, reading assignments, written exercises, live discussion sessions and quizzes. For those looking to learn more on a particular topic, supplemental videos and articles may be recommended by the instructor. To get the most out of the course, students should plan to spend two to four hours each week on combined course activities. Courses can be taken in any order.

For questions, contact Rachel McCarthy, Supervisory Leadership Certificate Program Coordinator, at rachel.mccarthy@cornell.edu.

Resurgence of Spongy Moths (previously called gypsy moths) in New York

Anya Osatuke, CCE Western NY Berry Extension Specialist

Last year, numerous blueberry, strawberry, and low-input apple fields were set back by spongy moth caterpillars. Spongy moths, or *Lymantria dispar*, previously known as gypsy moths, are an invasive pest in the United States. Right now, tiny, black, fuzzy caterpillars are drifting down from trees on little threads of webbing. You might notice them landing on you if you are out in the field, especially near a tree line.

At this early life stage, we recommend spraying DiPel BtK (Active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki*), or DiPel aizawai (active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *aizawai*) to control the caterpillars. When applied to leaves, the bacteria in DiPel create a protein that crystalizes in the digestive tract of the larvae, eventually killing them. Thus, the larvae need to eat leaves that are coated with DiPel for the pesticide to take effect.

As larvae get older, in another week or two, their digestive systems become more robust. By the time you can see colorful splotches on the spongy moth larvae, eating DiPel-covered leaves is more likely to slow them down than to kill them.

Spongy moths typically have only one generation a year. Their larvae overwinter in spongy-looking egg masses on tree bark and other rough textured structures. While spongy moths have lived in the United States for over 100 years, their populations can only become noticeable in certain years.

The hot, dry weather we had early last summer let massive numbers of caterpillars grow into adults and mate. By the time we had constant rains in July last year, the next generation was safely tucked away into egg masses. Now that we are having another hot, dry spring, the spongy moths are emerging again and they are feeling wonderful. Hopefully, the rain we've had in the past week and again in the forecast will slow the caterpillars down, but I'd recommend having some DiPel available if the populations persist past this week.

Wanted: Woolly Apple Aphids

The Apple Rootstock Breeding Program in Geneva, NY is collaborating with a network of U.S. scientists to collect and DNA fingerprint Woolly Apple Aphids (WAAs) throughout the U.S.A. We need to collect material all over the state of New York. If you see WAAs on your farm can you please send a quick email to Gennaro Fazio at gf35@cornell.edu ? Our intention is to come and collect some and preserve it for DNA extraction. Thank you

Mark Your Calendar

Meeting Title	2022 Virtual Orchard Meetup Summer Series Orchard Efficiency: Labor and Technology
Date	First meetup (grower experiences from the entire US) is next Thursday June 2. Three additional meetups are scheduled on June 16, 30, and July 14
Time	7:00-8:30pm EST
Location	Meeting via Zoom Register Here: https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lbvRIOYcR52A_Nfw03Z_qQ
Cost	Free
Contact for Info/Registration	Mario Miranda Sazo (cell 315-719-1318; mrm67@cornell.edu)
Brief description of Meeting	Webinars will showcase growers and other specialists leading the development of these aspects of the industry. We will hear about their experiences managing the current challenges and participating in novel solutions.

Meeting Title	Premier Spring Spanish Fruit School
Date	Friday, June 17
Time	12:00-4:30pm
Location	CCE Orleans County Office, 12690 NY-31, Albion, NY 14411 (pavilion and indoor class)
Cost	Free, no registration required
Contact for Info/Registration	Mario Miranda Sazo (cell 315-719-1318; mrm67@cornell.edu)
Brief description of Meeting	This event will feature talks from Alejandro Calixto (New York State Integrated Pest Management), Mario Miranda Sazo (CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program), and Mildred Alvarado (Cornell Small Farms Program).

Meeting Title	2022 LOF Summer Tour
Date	Tuesday, August 9 th
Time	All day
Location	Orleans County
Cost	Free, thanks to our sponsors
Contact for Info/Registration	Preregistration required for lunch counts: https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=1669
Brief Description of Meeting	Confirmed Farms: Fish Creek Orchards, LLC, Kast Farms Inc., Orchard Dale Fruit Farms and Nesbitt Fruit Farms. Topics: Precision Crop Load Management (including the use of new technologies, bloom thinning results, and pruning severity results), Pneumatic Pruners, Herbicide Trial Results, and Pest & Disease Management.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Lake Ontario Fruit Program

12690 Rt. 31

Albion, NY 14411

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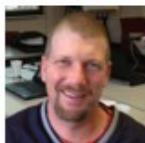
Wanted: Woolly Apple Aphids

Mark Your Calendar

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