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# Fruit Notes

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Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Lake Ontario Fruit Program

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PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR

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Volume 25 Issue 1 January 9, 2025

**Registration is now open for our 3rd Annual Western NY Fruit Conference February 4-5 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Rochester**

Register here: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1923>

We are looking forward to bringing you another multi-day tree fruit conference this winter! Again, this replaces our traditional "LOF Fruit Schools" and our participation in the Empire Producers Expo in Syracuse. The program will run all day on Tuesday (Feb 4) and Wednesday morning (Feb 5). There will be two Pest Management sessions Tuesday morning, followed by two horticulture focused afternoon sessions. Wednesday will have 2 morning sessions ending with lunch at noon.

Tuesday morning pest management topics will include the usual herbicide, insecticide and fungicide efficacy and timing trial result talks given by Janet van Zoeren, Dr. Kerik Cox and Dr. Monique Rivera. This year we will also provide an emphasis on adapting your management program to incorporate biopesticides and other new integrated pest management techniques, both as Aleah Butler-Jones. I am particularly excited to announce we will have a guest speaker, Dr. Brett Blaauw from University of Georgia and Clemson University, who will be discussing stink bug management. His talk will include the most recent advancements in stink bug pest management to effectively protect our crops, while also supporting our beneficial insects. In total, 1.75 DEC recertification credits will be available for attending both pest management sessions.

Tuesday we will begin the afternoon with a conversation about the 'Grower's Perspective on Farm Management'. How do you learn about a new tool, technique or variety? Talk to a grower who's using it. The session 3 program will provide helpful information and advice on farm management from experienced growers. Presentations will include the following:

- Using Hectare Orchard Management Software on Bittner-Singer Farm. Hectare is an orchard management and fruit quality software product originally developed in New Zealand. In this presentation, David Bittner will describe Hectare software, why he prefers it over alternatives, and how he uses the product on his farm.
- Customer Preferences at Schutt's Apple Mill. Being customer-focused drives revenue growth, helps companies identify areas for improvement, and be more innovative, adapting to changing market preferences and needs. But wholesale fruit growers may have few opportunities to talk directly with consumers. As owner of a farm with direct-to-consumer sales, Evan Schutt, owner of Schutt's Apple Mill, interacts with



customers daily. In this presentation, Evan will describe the preferences and concerns of fruit buyers, and how he uses this information on his farm.

Tuesday afternoon for Session 4 (3-5pm) will discuss 'Building Soils for Better Orchards'.

- Welcome/introduction - Mario Miranda Sazo, CCE LOF
- Root architecture and function of apple roots – Professor Emeritus Dr. David Eissenstat, Penn State
- Managing soils: How to measure, manage, and maintain soil fertility – TBA.
- Soil health in New York State Orchards – Dr. Deborah Aller, Cornell
- Questions & Answers

We will begin Wednesday with marketing updates from Cynthia Haskins at NYAA. Other talks will include Dr. Yosef Al Shoffe from the Watkins lab presenting on their Gala storage work, and Dr. Brian Lawrence from the Robinson lab at AgriTech, presenting on their color improvement work on Premier Honeycrisp.

Finally, we will round out the conference on Wednesday morning with a session on 'Harnessing the power of digital technologies'.

- Welcome/introduction - Mario Miranda Sazo, CCE LOF
- Why it has been so difficult to adopt digital ag-technologies – Mario Miranda Sazo, CCE LOF
- Accuracy of two precision sprayers for single-tree application – Dr. Brian Lawrence, Cornell U.
- Options for growers considering current GPS accuracy limitations – Dr. Yu Jiang, Cornell U.
- Precision irrigation – Dr. Terence Robinson, Cornell U.
- New advances on precision crop load management – Dr. Terence Robinson, Cornell U.
- Questions & Answers
- Adjourn, invite to get lunch box, and final remarks – Craig Kahlke, CCE LOF

We encourage folks to stay overnight. Dinner will be on your own, there are plenty of options close by. In addition, the meeting is in the Henrietta area, so parking is free, the area is safe, and it is easy to get around. Full conference registration includes lunch and AM/PM breaks on Feb 4, and AM break and lunch on Feb 5.

Hotel room Block: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/rocdtdt-fqm-d57d28d1-b381-4188-b884-6e2c95e250b2/> \$127 per night

Cornell Employees, Students, and Speakers at this conference please [contact us](#) regarding registration to this event.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Craig has sent out sponsorship information. If you do not receive it and are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please e-mail Craig at [cjk37@cornell.edu](mailto:cjk37@cornell.edu).

More details are available at: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/nystreefruitconference/> and in our upcoming newsletters.

## Participate in the 2024 Crop Year Lake Ontario Fruit farm Business Summary!

The Lake Ontario Fruit Program will be conducting the annual Fruit Farm Business Survey (FFBS) soon and is looking for participants. Any farm enrolled in the Lake Ontario Fruit Program is eligible to participate. Growers of processing apples who already participate in Motts' annual financial survey will already have the necessary information at hand.

### What is the Fruit Farm Business Summary?

The FFBS is a series of financial reports that give insight into farm profitability, spending, efficiency, productivity, and operations. These reports can help management benchmark performance, target problem areas, and answer questions about profits, production, expenses, low sales, and losses.

### What do participants have to do?

Participating farmers will be asked to share information on farm characteristics, revenues, expenses, assets, and liabilities--***all information will be held in strict confidence and farms will be neither identified nor identifiable!***

### Here's how the summary works:

1. You will receive a template that will ask you to report different kinds of financial information about your farm operation. Individual coaching, either virtual or in-person at your farm, is available upon request.
2. Complete the template by adding your farm operation's financial information. You will use tax documents, farm records, and related documents to complete the template.
3. Save a copy of the completed template and return it to Bonnie Nelsen, LOF Business Management Specialist. That's it—we'll do the rest!

### What do you get for participating?

In addition to the FFBS summary report, all participants will receive (1) a financial scorecard that shows how their farm is performing on important measures like profitability, liquidity, financial efficiency, and repayment ratios and (2) a detailed cost comparison that shows how your costs compare to other participating farms.

***The personalized farm scorecard will be available only to farms that participate in the FFBS!***

**To participate or learn more, call or text Bonnie Nelsen at (315) 980-9926 or email to [bjn2@cornell.edu](mailto:bjn2@cornell.edu).**

## Tree Decline Survey is Now Open for your Input

Please help us by filling out the following survey, whether you have seen declining trees on your farm or not.

Apple decline research is hindered by an incomplete understanding of where it is occurring and what its symptoms look like on different rootstock/scion combinations. Please consider taking this survey, even if you haven't observed apple decline in your orchard blocks! Your participation will help drive research focus in the right direction and aid in the creation of informative extension documents. <https://forms.gle/NpRkDEZmTB6EPUh98>

[NpRkDEZmTB6EPUh98](https://forms.gle/NpRkDEZmTB6EPUh98)

## NYSERDA's Agriculture Programs

Jordan Miller, NYSERDA  
**Contractor on behalf of NYSERDA**  
[Agriculture Energy Audit Program](#)  
Outreach Coordinator  
[EnSave, Inc.](#)  
**Direct: 802-434-1824**  
Toll Free: 800-732-1399

My name is Jordan, and I work on behalf of the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA). I was just reaching out to inform you that NYSERDA has three very important agriculture energy efficiency programs. You will find a brief overview of the programs below.

Agriculture Energy Audit Program (AEAP): <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Assistance/Agriculture-Energy-Audit>

- o This program offers NY state farmers **no-cost energy audits** to help identify energy efficiency opportunities on their farm.

REAP Technical Assistance Program (RTAP): <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Assistance/REAP-Technical-Assistance-Program>

- o This program has been designed to **assist farmers at no-cost** to make applications to the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). If awarded, farmers can receive up to 50% of the total project cost.

Energy Best Practices for Agriculture: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Assistance/Energy-Best-Practices-for-Agriculture>

- o The best practices have been developed to help **educate producers** about energy efficient technologies, how they function, the average cost, as well as an average payback in years. (the greenhouse guide is a great starting point)

To learn more about these programs, click here: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Assistance>

Please let me know if you have any questions. Feel free to give me a call back, my direct number is above. I can always provide more materials as well.

## Snow Load Resources from Cornell University

Dos and Don'ts of Barn Snow Removal (PDF): <https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/9/8787/files/2019/07/Snow-Removal-Dos-and-Donts.pdf> by Curt Gooch and Sam Steinberg, Cornell University

Farmstead Recovery Checklist: Snow Load & Barn Collapse (PDF): <https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/9/8787/files/2019/07/farmstead-recovery-fact-Sheet-snow-load-barn-collapse.pdf> by NYS EDEN

Heavy Snow Loads (PDF): <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/9/8787/files/2019/07/Heavy-Snow-Loads.pdf> by Curt A. Gooch, Cornell University

# **Grant Money For Your Farm? It's Possible! This Workshop Will Show You How!**

Are you planning to invest in projects like farm worker housing, irrigation systems, storage facilities, packing facilities, cideries, craft beverage production, cooling and refrigeration, renewable/clean energy, or greenhouses in the future? Would you like to build them at a 50% discount? It's possible with a farm grant!

Grants are an attractive funding alternative to commercial lending that are available to farmers from federal, state, local and private sources. But grants aren't available for every project, nor are they "free" in the sense that you have to do nothing. And finding appropriate grants and deciphering grant requirements can be challenging.

This free online workshop will help you identify and evaluate grant opportunities for your farm. The program consists of three how-to sessions followed by three virtual panel discussions with representatives from federal, state, local, and private organizations that offer farm grants. These representatives will offer practical tips for landing grants from their agencies. Farmers who have received farm grants will also describe their experiences in the panel discussions. You will be able to ask questions in all sessions.

## **As a result of participating in the workshop, you will:**

- Identify sources of federal, state, local and private farm grants
- Learn about the types of projects for which grant funding is available
- Learn to navigate grant portals and register for announcements about new grant opportunities
- Understand request for proposals
- Identify the requirements of a grant opportunity
- Determine if a grant opportunity is a good match for your farm

## **DATE**

January 16, 2025  
January 23, 2025  
January 30, 2025  
February 13, 2025  
February 20, 2025  
February 27, 2025

## **TIME**

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

## **PLACE**

Zoom

## **COST**

Free to you (this program is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2023-70027-40447 from the USDA's Northeast Risk Management Education Center)

## HOST

Bonnie Nelsen PhD  
Business Management Specialist  
Lake Ontario Fruit Program  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
1581 Route 88 North  
Newark, NY 14513  
Cell: 315-980-9926  
Email: [bjn2@cornell.edu](mailto:bjn2@cornell.edu)

**TO REGISTER, CLICK ON THIS LINK:** <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2003>

### **Understanding your perspective on fire blight management systems**

Your input on fire blight management systems is crucial for guiding future research efforts!

**Take the survey by clicking:** <https://opinion.wsu.edu/AppleManagement/start.aspx?wk=874663>

Researchers at Washington State University, Michigan State University, Cornell University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, are conducting a survey to learn about your interest in alternative fire blight management strategies on your apple orchards. These include antibiotics and non-antibiotic products such as biopesticides to control fire blight and manage antibiotic resistance.

Your opinions are important to us, even if you did not have issues with fire blight control and antibiotic resistance in your orchard.

***Please do not share the survey link with other growers through your email, social media, or website.***

Hearing your views and experience from the field will be very valuable in making our research and recommendations realistic and actionable. PLUS you will receive an electronic gift card for \$25. The survey will only take 20 min of your time.

#### **Contact:**

Janet van Zoeren, Integrated Pest Management Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
[jev67@cornell.edu](mailto:jev67@cornell.edu)  
585-798-4265

#### **Funding and acknowledgements:**

This project is funded by the USDA-NIFA-SCRI Comprehensive Fire Blight Management Systems for the United States. Project number 2020-51181-32158.

## First SPARC Survey Announcement

**SPARC** is a new group of 22 scientists from six states (WA, OR, MI, NY, PA, ME) and seven institutions (WSU, OSU, Michigan, Cornell, Penn State, U. Maine, and USDA-ARS)

**Please help us and complete the below SPARC survey!!**

Extreme temperature events—both heat and cold—have resulted in recent annual insurable losses exceeding \$80 million for the U.S. apple and pear industry. These extreme temperature events are forecast to become more frequent. Our knowledge of apple and pear responses to hot and cold temperature extremes is based off older varieties and is insufficient to assess current and future risks for newer varieties.

Our group is made up of 22 scientists from six states (WA, OR, MI, NY, PA, ME) and seven institutions (WSU, OSU, Michigan, Cornell, Penn State, U Maine, and USDA-ARS). We are working to better understand the physiological responses of apple and pear trees to extreme temperatures and seeking to identify the genetic control of those responses, to help growers choose the best varieties to grow. We will also model historical and future risk of extreme temperature events and assess their economic impacts on apple and pear production, which can then inform capital investment decisions and regional cultivar choices. Ultimately, this research will help us refine (or develop new) strategies that continue to help growers limit losses from extreme temperatures.

You can help us achieve this goal. **Please complete this voluntary, anonymous survey to help us understand how heat and cold are affecting your orchards and the strategies you use to minimize the resulting losses.** Your responses will inform our research and extension activities, so that the tools we develop to assess the risk of losses to extreme temperatures and to mitigate these losses help sustain the U.S. as a leader in apple and pear production in light of the temperature extremes that we will increasingly face in the future.

Take the survey in English:	Complete la encuesta en español:
Survey link: <a href="https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eyfLFPQZ3dHutUi">https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eyfLFPQZ3dHutUi</a>	Enlace a la encuesta: <a href="https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8q21anBgzuBmlam">https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8q21anBgzuBmlam</a>
Survey QR code: 	Código QR a la encuesta: 

## IFTA Rochester Raffle & Silent Auction

This year the Annual Meeting of the IFTA will be held here in Rochester, NY. The IFTA Research Foundation is planning on having a raffle and a silent auction ongoing throughout the conference. We are reaching out to each of you to ask for your help in collecting donations for these activities. The thought is that we would collect industry items for the raffle (pruners, jugs of chemicals, bigger ticket items, etc.) and the silent auction would be more of the donations for “experiences” (beach houses/cabins/cottages, hunting trips, ciders, wine, etc.). If you have any items that you would like to donate please email Brett Kast at [Bkast@kastfarmsny.com](mailto:Bkast@kastfarmsny.com). Please also reach out to your contacts to see if they have any items that they would be willing to donate to the auction. All proceeds from the raffle and silent auction will go towards funding 2025 research projects.

Please consider joining me in donating for auction to benefit a very worthy cause. It is always neat to see what fun and unique items show up in these auctions. I will be donating a complete 8 volume book set from 1921 entitled “How plants are trained are trained to work for man” by Luther Burbank, along with a couple other books out of my collection.

The International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) formed a task force in 2011 and charged them with guiding and completing the necessary steps to establish a separate 501(c)(3) charitable organization that could provide the tree fruit industry with the potential for more research fund donations and an effective means to grant funding for tree fruit research long term. The Foundation is a 501 © 3 organization formed in 2012, with its own Board of Trustees and budget separate from IFTA.

IFTA has always, as a core mission, sought to encourage research that will address issues that advance tree fruit growing and support systems. To meet that need in the future, the Foundation has also established a permanent endowment fund. The other primary activity for the IFTA Research Foundation is one of fundraising. They will request contributions from growers and suppliers for both current year research projects and for the permanent endowment fund.

IFTA will continue to manage the Research Committee's Request for Proposals and review of submitted proposals; however, the IFTA Research Foundation will fund the projects recommended by the IFTA Committee. The Committee meets once per year during the IFTA Annual Conference held typically in February. During that time they review all submitted research proposals as a group and create a list of projects they recommend funding for the year.

Ken Hall, Edwards Apple Orchards, Inc. of Poplar Grove, Ill., was elected as the first president of the Foundation Board of Trustees.

"The IFTA Research Foundation is about making a commitment to tree fruit research for the long term," said Hall. "The benefits won't be paid today, and the recipients may not be you or me. But there will be future fruit growers, maybe your grandchildren or mine, who will be better at what they do because IFTA research continued on."

For any questions or donations, please contact me at [Bkast@kastfarmsny.com](mailto:Bkast@kastfarmsny.com).

~Brett Kast, 2025 IFTA NY Chair





### Winter Webinar Schedule:

Please save the date for six upcoming bi-weekly lunch hour webinars happening on Fridays this January through March.

*Webinars hosted by NYSIPM, CCE Harvest NY, CCE LOFP, and CCE ENYCHP.*

#### **Week 1: Digging in to Pruning and Soil Health**

Speakers: Mario Miranda Sazo (CCE LOFP) and Dr. Debbie Aller (Cornell CALS)

Friday January 17, 2025 11:00am-12:30pm

Register: <https://bit.ly/digging-into-soil-health-pruning-2025>

#### **Week 2: Cider Apples - Mechanized Harvesting and Sweet Cider Food Safety**

Speakers: Dr. Greg Peck (Cornell CALS) and Dr. Randy Worobo (Cornell CALS)

Friday January 31, 2025 11:00am-12:30pm

Register: <https://bit.ly/cider-apples-mechanized-harvest-2025>

#### **Week 3: The Value of “Eco-Friendly” Marketing - OMRI Certification, Red Tomato, EcoApple, NYS Grown and Certified**

Speakers: Liz Higgins (CCE ENYCHP), Josh Morgenthau (Fish Kill Farms), and Kevin Clark (Rose Hill Farm)

Friday February 14, 2025 11:00am-12:30pm

Register: <https://bit.ly/eco-friendly-marketing-2025>

#### **Week 4: Berries**

Speaker(s): McKenzie Schessl (Cornell AgriTech) and Samantha Willden (Cornell AgriTech)

Friday February 28, 2025 11:00am-12:30pm

NYSDEC Pesticide Recertification Credits will be available | Register: <https://bit.ly/berries-Feb28-2025>

#### **Week 5: St. Peachtrick's Day**

##### **Stone Fruit Insect and Disease Management**

Speakers: Dr. George Sundin (Michigan State University) and Brett Blaauw (University of Georgia)

Friday March 14, 2025 11:00am-12:30pm

NYSDEC Pesticide Recertification Credits will be available | Register: <https://bit.ly/st-peachtricks-2025>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

#### **DEC CREDIT INSTRUCTIONS:**

If you would like DEC Credits, please send a copy of your photo ID to Anna Wallis [aew232@cornell.edu](mailto:aew232@cornell.edu)

To receive credits you will need to attend the entire webinar on your own computer/device, and complete the required Google Form survey at the beginning and again at the end of the webinar.

2025 Cornell Winter Fruit Webinars

**Digging into Soil Health and Pruning**  
Friday January 17, 2025 | 11:00am-12:30pm

Image Source: Canva

Please join the Cornell Program Work Team on Friday Jan. 17 for a webinar on Soil Health and Pruning!

Debbie Aller (Cornell Soil Health Program) will discuss specific aspects of soil health in orchards, with an emphasis on how to interpret Soil Health Assessment Results. Mario Miranda Sazo (CCE LOFP) will share ideas on pruning concepts for modern, high-density orchards.

**Register here today!**



**Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/digging-into-soil-health-pruning-2025>**

**New York State  
Integrated Pest Management**

**Cornell Cooperative Extension**



**Cornell University**



## **2025 Pesticide License Training and Exam to be held in Wayne County**

Join Mike Stanyard from the NWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team , Janet van Zoeren of the Lake Ontario Fruit Program, and Josh Bowman Ag Economic Development Educator at CCE Wayne, who will review core concepts and commodity specific items to help you prepare for the Pesticide Applicator exam.

Registration will open in the next week or two—contact Janet van Zoeren today to reserve a space: [jev-67@cornell.edu](mailto:jev-67@cornell.edu)

This is not a 30-hour course. No DEC recertification credits will be offered.

## **2025 Pesticide Training & Recertification Series**

Russell Welser, CCE-Ontario

[rw43@cornell.edu](mailto:rw43@cornell.edu)

585-394-3977 Ext. 436

Canandaigua, NY: A series of pesticide training and recertification classes are being offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County. Anyone interested in obtaining a pesticide certification license and meets the D.E.C. (Department of Environmental Conservation) experience/education requirements or current applicators seeking pesticide recertification credits should attend.

This training is NOT a 30-hour certification course for commercial licenses.

The Pesticide Training and Recertification classes will be held at Cornell Cooperative Extension – Ontario County, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424. The classes will be on Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025, from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm with the exam being offered on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, from 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

The program series includes the following topics: Class 1: Pesticide Laws and Regulations: Certification Regulations, Pesticide Registration, Worker Protection Standards, Hazard Communications Standard, and NYS Reporting Law and Pesticide Record Keeping. The presenter will be Chris Wainwright, NYSDEC. The other 3 classes will be taught by Russell Welser, Sr. Resource Educator. Class 2: Pesticides and the Environment: Toxicity of pesticides, pesticide residue and tolerance, Environmental considerations, Pesticides and ground water, and types and formulations of pesticides. Class 3: Pesticide Safety: Personal and environmental safety, Selection & use of personal protective equipment, Symptom of pesticide poisoning, Pesticide storage & disposal, and understanding the pesticide label. Class 4: Pesticide Mixing and Equipment Calibrations: Procedure for mixing and filling, Calculations for mixing pesticides, Equipment calibration, and Types of pumps, nozzles, and sprayers.

The cost for the pesticide training series to obtain a license is \$240.00 per person, includes training manuals and attendance at all four classes. This does not include the \$100.00 DEC exam fee, that is due the day of the exam. Certified applicators, private and commercial applicators seeking recertification credits will receive 2.5 core credits per class. The cost for each recertification class is \$40.00 per person.

To receive registration material or for additional information, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County at (585) 394-3977 ext. 427, email [nea8@cornell.edu](mailto:nea8@cornell.edu) or ext. 436, email [rw43@cornell.edu](mailto:rw43@cornell.edu)

The registration form and more information are available on-line at <https://cceontario.org/agriculture/pesticide-training-certification>

# Unlock Career Growth and Enhance Communication on Your Farm with the Agricultural English Mentorship (AEM) Program

Are you ready to help your Spanish-speaking farm employees advance their careers and strengthen communication on your farm? The Agricultural English Mentorship (AEM) program, created by Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development (CAWD), is designed to address the language challenges faced by many farm workers and to provide them with the skills they need to succeed.

With 62% of farm employees in the U.S. being native Spanish speakers, language barriers can impede productivity and career advancement. The AEM program offers a solution by providing farm employees with the opportunity to improve their English language skills in a way that is practical, engaging, and directly relevant to their daily work on the farm.

## What is the Agricultural English Mentorship (AEM) Program?

The AEM program combines professional English instruction, personalized mentorship, and hands-on learning to enhance the language skills of Spanish-speaking farm employees. The program is designed to be both educational and practical, incorporating real-world farm scenarios that directly relate to the work your employees are doing every day.

A mentor must register with the English learner and commit to 15 minutes of mentorship each week. Mentors do not need to know Spanish to participate. The dual goals are to teach specific farm terminologies and to strengthen relationships between the English-speaking mentors and their Spanish-speaking employees while learning English.

## Course Format:

- **Agricultural Focus:** AEM is tailored specifically for Spanish-speaking farm employees, using visual and auditory learning tools that are closely linked to farm work and terminology.
- **English Instruction:** Participants can learn at their own pace with pre-recorded videos, followed by live Zoom sessions where instructors provide individualized guidance on topics like pronunciation, grammar, and conversational skills.

**Mentorship:** Each farm is encouraged to assign an English-speaking mentor to meet with employees weekly. These 15-minute sessions will focus on farm-specific vocabulary and exercises, fostering stronger relationships and better communication between Spanish-speaking employees and English-speaking leadership.

## Course Topics Include:

- Lesson 1: The Alphabet and Vowel Sounds
- Lesson 2: Introductions and Greetings
- Lesson 3: Farm Mission Statements
- Lesson 4: The History of the Farm (Learning Numbers)
- Lesson 5: The Employee Handbook
- Lesson 6: The Values and Culture of the Farm

By participating in AEM, farm employees will gain confidence in their English skills, helping to improve workplace communication, enhance productivity, and open doors to career advancement.

**Course Dates and Materials:**

The course will be offered virtually through the Moodle app, which is easily accessible from phones and computers. Course materials will be available starting **January 17, 2025**, with live discussion sessions running every **Friday from January 24 to February 28, 2025**. Participants can choose between morning or afternoon sessions for the live sessions.

We highly encourage attendance at these live Zoom sessions to maximize learning and take full advantage of the personalized instruction available. To get the most out of the course, we recommend that participants set aside at least two hours per week for course activities. The involvement of an English-speaking mentor is a critical component of success in this program and will greatly enhance the overall learning experience.

**Get Started:**

Investing in your farm's workforce by offering the AEM program not only enhances communication but also builds a more engaged and skilled team.

For more information or to sign up for the Agricultural English Mentorship program, visit <https://cvent.me/BqPWrm> or contact Mary Lewis at [ml2656@cornell.edu](mailto:ml2656@cornell.edu)

**About Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development (CAWD):**

Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development (CAWD) provides resources and programs designed to strengthen the agricultural workforce. Through research, education, and innovative programs, CAWD helps improve farm employee skills, productivity, and career growth opportunities.

Info & Registration: <https://web.cvent.com/event/0a894aff-4245-4b6b-901f-19b7f0897229/summary>

Español: <https://web.cvent.com/event/0a894aff-4245-4b6b-901f-19b7f0897229/summary>

## **Electric Weeding in Organic Perennial Crops**

**Join us for a free webinar on electric weeding in organic perennial crops on January 14, 2025!**

We're pleased to invite you to an upcoming webinar hosted by eOrganic on January 14, 2025. This session will explore Electric Weeding in Organic Perennial Crops, a promising solution for one of the most persistent challenges in organic fruit and berry production: effective weed management. In this engaging webinar, researchers from Oregon State University, University of California Davis, and Cornell University will share the findings of their latest experiments with electric weeding machines in organic blueberry and orchard crops.

**Register now at** [https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZJ5T7ytCQD29DyLrbulGNg](https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZJ5T7ytCQD29DyLrbulGNg)

## Happy New Year from the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health! (NYCAMH)

2025 Respirator Fit Test clinics are now open for registration!

To register you will need the following information:

1. Full name (first/last) of person being fit tested.
2. Make/Model/Size of respirator being fit tested.
3. Respirator type: Full face / half-face elastomeric / disposable face filter
4. Documentation of completed medical clearance.

Over 90% of farmers who tested with us in 2024 used the convenient, online option for medical clearance, provided by 3M. You can find that option here. <https://www.respexam.com/>

If you opt to have your medical clearance completed by your Prime Care Practitioner, please call us so we can send you the necessary documents you need to take to your appointment. We cannot provide respirator fit testing without documentation of medical clearance.

As practiced in the past, we will be “front loading” or filling the appointment slots starting with the first of the day and moving forward. In other words, first come first serve to the earliest appointments. Please note that two day clinics are held afternoon on the first day and morning on the second day. You can find our schedule here: <https://www.nycamh.org/programs-and-services/respirator-fit-test-clinics.php>

### May 7-8 at CCE Orleans

Email [FitTest@bassett.org](mailto:FitTest@bassett.org) or call 1-800-343-7527 to register.

Give us a call if you have any questions at all! We are here to help and glad we can support your fit testing needs.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Mitzi Sackett

Respiratory Fit Testing Program Coordinator

Editors note—please contact Janet van Zoeren at [jev67@cornell.edu](mailto:jev67@cornell.edu) if you would like to participate in a similar fit testing clinic in Wayne county (date TBD). Thanks!

### Mark Your Calendar

Meeting Title	From Seed to Success: Turn Your Idea into an Actionable Plan Farm Business Plan
Date	Online Course January 7- March 4, 2025. Tuesdays, Time TBA.
Location	Zoom
Cost	Free
Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration	For registration info and questions., contact Bonnie Nelsen at <a href="mailto:bjn2@cornell.edu">bjn2@cornell.edu</a> , or 315-980-9926.   See more information on page 13.

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>NYS Ag Forum</b>
<b>Date</b>	January 9, 2025
<b>Location</b>	ON Center, Syracuse
<b>Cost</b>	Varied
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	See below for agenda and registration info? <a href="https://www.nysagsociety.org/about-the-forum">https://www.nysagsociety.org/about-the-forum</a>

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Electric Weeding in Organic Perennial Crops</b>
<b>Date</b>	January 15th 2025
<b>Cost</b>	Free
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	See more information on page 15. Register now at <a href="https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZJ5T7ytCQD29DyLrbulGNg">https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZJ5T7ytCQD29DyLrbulGNg</a> .

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Farm Grant Literacy Workshop</b>
<b>Dates</b>	January 16, 23, 30, February 13, 20, 27 (12-1PM)
<b>Location</b>	Zoom
<b>Cost</b>	Free thanks to USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2023-70027-40447 from the USDA's Northeast Risk Management Education Center)
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	See article on page 10. Questions? Contact Bonnie Nelsen, <a href="mailto:bjn2@cornell.edu">bjn2@cornell.edu</a> , 315-980-9926  315-980-9926 Email: <a href="mailto:bjn2@cornell.edu">bjn2@cornell.edu</a>  <b>TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE:</b> <a href="https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2003">https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2003</a>

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Cornell Fruit Webinar—Digging into soil health and pruning</b>
<b>Date</b>	Friday, January 17 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Location</b>	Online via Zoom
<b>Cost</b>	Free
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	Registration information on flyer on page 16.

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>2025 Agricultural &amp; Food Systems Conference</b>
<b>Date</b>	January 17, 2025, all day
<b>Location</b>	Stocking Hall, Cornell University
<b>Cost</b>	\$100 for non-Cornell attendees
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	New York agricultural leaders learn about the short-and long-term outlook for agriculture and agricultural products. Breakout sessions concentrate on dairy, grains and feed, and horticultural products. By attending, you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better understand critical issues facing agriculture in New York and the Northeast</li> <li>• Learn about the near-term outlook for major New York commodities</li> </ul> Interact with fellow leaders of the vibrant New York agricultural industry  Conference Contact Information: Michelle Cranston, <a href="mailto:mmc292@cornell.edu">mmc292@cornell.edu</a> General Questions Contact: <a href="mailto:dyson.lgp@cornell.edu">dyson.lgp@cornell.edu</a>

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Agricultural English Mentorship (AEM) Program</b>
<b>Date</b>	Starting <b>January 17, 2025</b> , with live discussion sessions running every <b>Friday from January 24 to February 28, 2025</b> . Participants can choose between morning or afternoon sessions for the live sessions.
<b>Location</b>	Online
<b>Cost</b>	\$275 for NYS residents; \$325 for out-of-state residents.
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/Registration</b>	<b>Unlock Career Growth and Enhance Communication on Your Farm</b> <i>Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development (CAWD) Introduces a Unique, Agriculturally-Centered English Program for Spanish-Speaking Farm Employees</i>  See more info on page 11.

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>NOFA-NY 2025 Winter Conference</b>
<b>Date</b>	January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>Location</b>	SUNY Morrisville
<b>Cost</b>	NOFA-NY Member Price \$100
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/Registration</b>	The conference will feature more than 25 educational workshops and events, the Farmer of the Year keynote address, an engaging trade show, evening entertainment, the In Living Color BIPOC Affinity Space, and more.  Info & registration here: <a href="https://nofany.org/2025conference/">https://nofany.org/2025conference/</a>

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Cornell Fruit Webinar—Cider Apples: Mechanized Harvesting and Sweet Cider Food Safety</b>
<b>Date</b>	Friday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Location</b>	Online via Zoom
<b>Cost</b>	Free
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/Registration</b>	Registration information on flyer on page 16.

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Western NY Tree Fruit Conference</b>
<b>Date</b>	February 4-5, 2025 (all day Feb 4, AM only Feb 5)
<b>Location</b>	Double Tree by Hilton, Rochester
<b>Cost</b>	TBD
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/Registration</b>	See article in next fruit notes. For upcoming program and registration info, stay tuned to <a href="https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1923">https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1923</a> .  Questions? Contact Craig Kahlke at <a href="mailto:cjk37@cornell.edu">cjk37@cornell.edu</a> or 585-735-5448

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>2025 Pesticide Training and Recertification Series</b>
<b>Date</b>	Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025; Exam Wednesday, March 5, 2025
<b>Time</b>	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm. Exam: 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm
<b>Location</b>	Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ontario County, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424
<b>Cost</b>	\$240.00 for certification which includes the training manuals and all 4 classes. Does not include the \$100.00 exam fee. Recertification is \$40.00/person/class.
<b>Contact for Info/Registration</b>	Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ontario County, 585-394-3977 x 427 or x 436 or email <a href="mailto:nea8@cornell.edu">nea8@cornell.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:rw43@cornell.edu">rw43@cornell.edu</a> Registration form is available on the website
<b>Brief Description of Meeting</b>	Anyone interested in obtaining a pesticide certification and meets the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) experience / education requirements <b>OR</b> current applicators seeking pesticide recertification credits should attend. 2.5 recertification core credits will be available for each class.



<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Cornell Fruit Webinar—The Value of "Eco-friendly" Marketing. OMRI Certification, Red Tomato, EcoApple, NYS Grown and Certified</b>
<b>Date</b>	Friday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Location</b>	Online via Zoom
<b>Cost</b>	Free
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	Registration information on flyer on page 16.

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>IFTA 2025 Annual Conference in Rochester</b>
<b>Date</b>	February 16-19, 2025
<b>Location</b>	Rochester Riverside Convention Center & Hyatt Regency Rochester
<b>Cost</b>	See program
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	2 full days of educational programs, and one full day field tour plus social events. <b>More info &amp; registration here:</b> <a href="https://ifruittree.org/event/ifta-2025-annual-meeting-rochester-ny/">https://ifruittree.org/event/ifta-2025-annual-meeting-rochester-ny/</a>

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Cornell Fruit Webinar—Berries</b>
<b>Date</b>	Friday, February 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Location</b>	Online via Zoom
<b>Cost</b>	Free
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	Registration information on flyer on page 16.

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Pre-Exam Training and Test to Become a Certified Pesticide Applicator</b>
<b>Date</b>	Training: March 13 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Exam: March 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>Time</b>	1:00 PM-5:00 PM
<b>Location</b>	Wayne County CCE Office, 1581 NY-88, Newark, NY 14513
<b>Cost</b>	Training: \$50 Exam: \$100
<b>Contact for Info/Registration</b>	More information to come next issue. Contact Janet van Zoeren with questions: 585 797 8368
<b>Brief Description of Meeting</b>	Agriculture Specialists Mike Stanyard from the NWNY Team, Janet van Zoeren of the Lake Ontario Fruit Program, and Josh Bowman from CCE Wayne will review core concepts and commodity specific items in preparation for the Pesticide Applicator exam.  This is not a 30-hour course. No DEC recertification credits.

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Cornell Fruit Webinar—Stone Fruit Insect and Disease Management</b>
<b>Date</b>	Friday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Location</b>	Online via Zoom
<b>Cost</b>	Free
<b>Brief Description of Meeting/ Registration</b>	Registration information on flyer on page 16.

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- 2024 Crop Year Lake Ontario Fruit Farm Business Summary
- Tree Decline Survey
- NYSEERDA's Agriculture Programs
- Snow Load Resources from Cornell University
- Grant Money For Your Farm? It's Possible!
- Understanding your perspective on fire blight management systems
- First SPARC Survey Announcement
- IFTA Rochester Raffle & Silent Auction
- 2025 Winter Fruit Meetings
- 2025 Pesticide License Training and Exam to be held in Wayne County
- 2025 Pesticide Training & Recertification Series
- Unlock Career Growth and Enhance Communication on Your Farm with the Agricultural English Mentorship (AEM) Program
- Electric Weeding in Organic Perennial Crops
- Happy New Year from the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health! (NYCAMH)
- Mark Your Calendar

## Cornell Cooperative Extension

### Lake Ontario Fruit Program

12690 Rt. 31

Albion, NY 14411

# Fruit Notes

## Fruit Specialists



Craig Kahlke | 585-735-5448 | [cjk37@cornell.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jev67@cornell.edu)

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

**Areas of Interest:** IPM of tree fruit and berry pests, biological control, pollinators.

**Crops:** Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Currants, Nectarines,



Bonalyn Nelsen | 315-980-9926 | [bjn2@cornell.edu](mailto:bjn2@cornell.edu)

**Business Management**

**Areas of Interest:** Fruit Farm Business Management, Farm Labor & Regulations, and Evaluation of ROI of New Technologies

**Crops:** Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums

For more information about our program visit us at [lof.cce.cornell.edu](http://lof.cce.cornell.edu)