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Fruit Notes

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Ontario Fruit Program

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Volume 25 Issue 7 December 16, 2025

Season's Greetings and Thanks!

Craig Kahlke & The Rest of CCE's Lake Ontario Fruit Team

At this time of year, most of us naturally like to reflect back onto how the last 12 months went. I just wanted to say on behalf of the whole team, we appreciate all of you for your support and the partnership that we have with the fruit industry in Western New York. We are all committed to helping you stay sustainable in your businesses, through good times and bad. All of us with the Lake Ontario Fruit Team wish all of you are very safe, restful, and enjoyable Holiday Season! We look forward to working with you in 2026 and beyond!



Save the Dates for the 2026 LOF Winter Fruit Schools

LOF's Winter Fruit Schools are back! After having a single 1 ½ day centrally located conference the past three years, we are returning to our old format. These will be nearly identical programs on either side of Rochester.

Wednesday, February 4th - All day CCE-Niagara Auditorium, Lockport, NY

Thursday, February 5th - All day Location: TBA, but it will be in Wayne County!

Look for program and sponsorship info in the new year.

The educational program will feature pest management, horticulture, digital Ag, and much more!

With Deep Sadness, We Honor the Memory of Robert Brown II: A Cherished Friend, an Influential Leader in the Western NY Apple Industry, and a Remarkable Contributor to the Core Mission of CCE

(May 23, 1955 — November 23, 2025)

Robert R. Brown II (Bob), 70, seventh generation farmer at Orchard Dale Fruit Farms, business owner of Brown's Berry Patch and founding partner of Lake Ridge Fruit Company in Albion, passed away Sunday (Nov. 23, 2025).

Robert was born May 23, 1955, in Albion, NY, son of Ralph Reynolds and Claire Clement Brown. He was a graduate of Albion High School and Cornell University (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) where he studied Pomology. Growing up outside of the farm he enjoyed horses and was active in 4H. At

Cornell he was a proud member of the Polo team and Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. Serving his community was central to who Bob was. During his professional farming career he was a proud member of many associations: Orleans Cornell Cooperative Extension, Genesee Orleans Alumni Cornell Club, International Fruit Tree Association, New York Apple Association and the Albion Rotary Club. He also was a former director on Albion Federal Savings and Loan, the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station (Cornell AgriTech), Cornell University Agricultural Advisory Board, Carlton Town Planning Board, and served on the Farm Credit of Western New York and Farm Credit East board of directors.

Most of all Bob's life was devoted to family, friends and the succession of agriculture.

Survivors include his loving wife, Deborah (Beers) Brown; two children, Robert R. (Beth) Brown III of Waterport, Sarah (Scott) Brown Bennett of Harwood, MD; mother, Claire Clement Brown; grandchildren, Emaline Brown, Addison Brown and Robert Bennett; siblings, Dr Leslie (Clark) Couse, Eric (Margy) Brown, Jill (Jon) Matthews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research [give.michaeljfox.org](https://www.give.michaeljfox.org) and Holy Family Parish-St. Joseph's Church.

To share a special memory of Robert, please visit:

www.mitchellfamilyfuneralhomes.com

To order memorial trees:

<https://store.condolences.com/christopher-mitchell-funeral-homes-albion/477eaddf-f945-4dad-b7a7-c0e7125a15bd/trees>

or send flowers to the family in memory of Robert R. Brown II, please visit our flower store:

<https://store.condolences.com/christopher-mitchell-funeral-homes-albion/477eaddf-f945-4dad-b7a7-c0e7125a15bd/flowers>

Make a donation to **Michael J. Fox Foundation** in memory of Robert R. Brown II:

<https://www.mitchellfamilyfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/robert-brown#make-donation>



Cornell IPM to pause Crop and Pest Management Guidelines for 2026

Pesticide Safety Education Program

Highlighting its commitment to quality and long-term sustainability, Cornell Integrated Pest Management's Pesticide Safety Education Program has announced a pause in production of the 2026 Cornell Crop and Pest Management Guidelines. Cornell IPM Director Alejandro Calixto said this temporary measure is the result of a comprehensive reimagining process facilitated by Illume Projects of Ithaca, which included end-user interviews, internal surveys and sales data analytics.

"It became clear to us that we cannot continue producing the guidelines and fully restructure them at the same time," Calixto said. "By pausing production, we can dedicate all available resources and time to rebuilding the production process, ensuring that when we re-launch in 2027, the guidelines will reflect a modernized approach built around the grower and other user experience."

A series of annually updated reference manuals produced by Cornell IPM and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), the Cornell Crop and Pest Management Guidelines are widely used by farmers, agronomists, crop consultants and extension educators in New York and throughout the Northeast. They include information about current IPM recommendations, pesticide options, cultural practices, nutrient management, disease, insect and weed identification and resistance-management strategies.

Calixto and Pesticide Safety Education Program Lead Mike Helms will spearhead efforts to restructure the guideline process over the next 12 months, with a goal of launching a more streamlined, user-friendly version in 2027.

Limited copies of the 2025 guidelines remain available for purchase while supplies last at: <https://cropandpestguides.cce.cornell.edu/>. The 2026-2027 Greenhouse Guidelines will be available. For more information contact Helms at mjh14@cornell.edu.

NEWA Weather Stations Purchased through Rainwise (now owned by KestrelMet) are Moving to a New Dashboard!

Anyone with a weather station that was purchased through Rainwise has probably already received an email or message from the company to let them know that 'Rainwise.net Sunsets January 1, 2026'.

This will not affect your ability to connect your weather station to the NEWA network.

The website Rainwise.net will shut down on January 1, 2026, so you will no longer be able to access your personal weather station data as of then. However, you can transition to the Ambient Weather Network (AWN) website now in order to continue to access your weather data in 2026.

What to Do

1. Download the AWN app on your smartphone, or visit ambientweather.net on a laptop.
2. In the upper right corner, click on "Get Started"
3. Click on the blue "Login" button in the middle of the screen
4. Enter the same email address you used to access Rainwise.net, and under Password enter "Forgot Password."
5. You will be directed to create a new password, and will then be able to access your data via the ambientweather.net website.
6. **Your weather data will continue to be sent to NEWA, and you will be able to continue to view all the same models and information via <https://newa.cornell.edu/>.**

Any questions? Contact Janet van Zoeren at jev67@cornell.edu or 585 797 8368.

Bonnie Nelsen Resigns from LOF

Craig Kahlke, CCE-LOF

Bonnie Nelsen has resigned as our Business Management Specialist, effective 12/24/25. The advisory committee overwhelmingly voted to continue keeping this position. A job description has been sent to Cornell HR and we hope to post the position before the holidays. If you have any questions or know someone who may be interested in applying for the position, please have them contact Craig at cjk37@cornell.edu or 585-735-5448.

**What Has PACMAN Delivered for NY Apple Growers?
Key Advances in Precision Crop Load Management.
Plan to Attend the Coming Nationwide Zoom Webinar:
‘The Past, The Present, and The Future of PACMAN’**

Mario Miranda Sazo, Terence Robinson, Yu Jiang, Brian Lawrence, Craig Kahlke,
Mike Basedow, and Liz Tee

Register here:

<https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2135>

Monday Jan. 12, 2026

11:00am-3pm Eastern Standard Time

Note: All NY growers are warmly invited to participate in a nationwide PACMAN (Precision Apple Crop Load Management) webinar featuring nationally renowned scientists. After more than five years of scientific research and ground-truth evaluations, the latest PACMAN results will be presented. The webinar will also highlight new research directions and provide opportunities for collaboration as we plan the next phase of the PACMAN project in the coming years. Don't miss this chance to learn about cutting-edge technologies and strategies that can help improve crop load management and orchard efficiency.

Agenda:

11:00-11:10am: Introduction to SCRI-PACMAN project - Terence Robinson, CU

11:10-11:30am: Optimum bud and fruit number of HC and Gala - Terence Robinson, CU

11:30-11:50am: Economics of thinning HC and Gala - Mauricio Guerra, CU

11:50-12:30pm: Fruit Growth Rate Model results - Todd Einhorn, MSU; Tom Kon, NCS

12:30-12:50pm: WA-38 crop load management - Stefano Musacchi, WSU

12:50-1:10pm: Pollen Tube Growth Model improvements - Greg Peck, CU

1:10-1:30pm: Engineering Results - Long He, PSU

1:30-2:00pm: GPS and Variable Rate Spraying - Brian Lawrence, Yu Jiang, CU

2:00-2:20pm: Extending the results of PCLM - Jon Clements, UMass

2:20-2:40pm: Discussion

2:40-3:00pm: Future SCRI proposal to continue PCLM - Yu Jiang and Terence Robinson, CU

What Has PACMAN Delivered for NY apple growers?: Over the past several years, the USDA-SCRI PACMAN (Precision Apple Crop Load Management) project has brought together scientists, extension educators, growers, and ag-technology partners to address one of the most challenging aspects of apple production: managing crop load precisely to achieve consistent yields, good fruit size, high quality, and strong return bloom.

PACMAN has advanced both the science and on-farm practice of crop load management and helped move apple production towards a more data-driven, season-long approach.

Crop load is a season-long decision: One of PACMAN's most important outcomes has been redefining crop load management as a continuous process, not a one-time thinning decision. The project identified four critical stages for evaluating crop load: (1) Dormant bud number, (2) Bloom density, (3) Fruit set and early fruitlet development, and (4) Final fruit number and fruit size.

This framework helps NY apple growers make earlier and lower-risk decisions, especially in seasons with variable weather and uneven bloom.

Stronger Physiological Understanding: PACMAN improved our understanding of how bud load, bloom density, fruit set, and carbohydrate balance interact to determine final fruit size and return bloom. Research confirmed what some growers already observed in the field: early decisions strongly influence fruit size uniformity, packout, and next year's crop. Fruit growth rate measurements and carbon balance concepts have helped refine thinning timing and expectations.

Digital Imaging Tools: What Works and What Doesn't: A major focus of PACMAN was the evaluation of digital imaging technologies, including ground-based systems and drones, to count and map buds, blooms, and fruit. Trials in commercial orchards showed that: (1) No system is error-free due to canopy structure and occlusion, (2) Imaging tools are effective at showing orchard- and tree-level trends, (3) These tools greatly improve speed and spatial coverage compared to manual counts.

For NY growers, the key takeaway is that imaging does not replace experience – but it can support better, more targeted decisions.

Understanding Orchard Variability: PACMAN demonstrated that crop load varies significantly: (1) Within individual trees, (2) Between trees, and (3) Across blocks.

Recognizing this variability opens the door to precision management, including targeted pruning, selective hand thinning, and improved labor allocation-especially important given rising labor costs.

Variable-Rate Thinning and Precision Sprays: PACMAN showed that crop load information can guide variable-rate chemical thinning and other precision spray applications. This reduces the risk of over- or under-thinning, improves fruit size consistency, and helps limit unnecessary chemical use – an important consideration for growers.

Models and Field Data Working Together: The project linked fruit growth models, carbon balance concepts, and field measurements with digital data. This integration improved confidence in early thinning decisions, particularly in challenging years when weather conditions affect thinning response.

Strong Cornell-CCE-Grower Collaboration: PACMAN's success was driven by close collaboration among Cornell scientists, CCE extension educators, and NY growers. Research trials were conducted at Cornell AgriTech, in commercial orchards, and results were shared in real time through winter meetings, field days, Zoom webinars, CCE newsletters, Fruit Facts, and on-farm demonstrations.

What PACMAN Has Made Clear: PACMAN also clarified current limitations. Digital tools are not yet “plug-and-play” for every orchard, and grower expertise remains essential. However, the project clearly showed that precision crop load management is achievable and improving.

Bottom Line for NY Growers: PACMAN has helped move NY apple production from reactive thinning to proactive, precision-based crop load management. As technologies continue to evolve, the PACMAN framework will remain central to improving orchard efficiency, fruit quality, and long-term profitability.

A Historic Transition for the NY Apple Industry

The New York apple industry should be preparing for the significant impacts of the retirements of two of Cornell University's most respected and influential experts. **Professor Chris Watkins**, a world authority in postharvest physiology, will retire at the end of **December 2025**. **Professor Terence Robinson**, a global leader in orchard systems and apple production efficiency, will retire one year later, at the end of **December 2026**.

Together, their work has shaped nearly every aspect of modern apple production, storage, management, and extension outreach in New York State—and far beyond.

Professor Chris Watkins: A Global Leader in Postharvest Science

Dr. Christopher (Chris) Watkins began his career in 1979 at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in New Zealand, working in postharvest horticulture. After completing his Ph.D. at Rutgers University (1981–1985), he returned to DSIR until 1994, when he joined Cornell University as an associate professor of horticulture.

He became a full professor in 2004 and has held major leadership roles, including:

- Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)
- Associate Dean for both CALS and the College of Human Ecology
- Associate Director of CCE

Professor Watkins is internationally known for his pioneering advances in apple storage technologies, especially controlled atmosphere (CA) storage systems that have transformed global apple markets. His research has allowed fruit growers and packers to maintain exceptional apple quality for extended periods, ensuring year-round supply for consumers worldwide.

Professor Terence Robinson: Architect of Modern Orchard Systems

Dr. Terence Robinson joined Cornell University in 1984 immediately after earning his Ph.D. at Washington State University. He has spent his entire 40-year career at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station (now Cornell AgriTech) in Geneva.

He has provided decades of leadership to the fruit research and extension community, serving in roles such as:

- Editor of the *Fruit Quarterly*
- Leader of extension trainings for educators, growers, and consultants
- Advisor on numerous horticultural boards and committees
- Project director for major research initiatives, including the national NC-140 rootstock testing project and the nationwide USDA-SCRI PACMAN project (2017–2025)

Professor Robinson is recognized globally for advancing orchard efficiency through high-density planting systems, tall spindle training, precision irrigation, nutrient management, and innovative use of plant growth regulators. His work has transformed the economics and productivity of apple orchards in New York and worldwide.

- **Profound and Lasting Impacts on the New York Apple Industry**
 - The contributions of Professors Watkins and Robinson have been both extensive and enduring:
- **Direct Local Support via CCE**
 - Both scientists have been foundational partners in CCE, helping growers in all three major NY apple regions translate scientific research into practical orchard and storage strategies.
- **Hands-On Field Engagement**

- They have consistently spoken at winter fruit schools, field days, grower meetings, and in-depth fruit schools organized by CCE regional fruit teams—often providing on-site, grower-specific guidance in orchards and storage facilities.
- **Implementation of Best Practices**
 - Professor Robinson guided the industry-wide transition from low-density to high-density tall spindle systems, improving efficiency, yield, and profitability.
 - Professor Watkins ensured that fruit quality from the orchard carried through storage, optimizing CA systems and postharvest practices across NY packing houses.
- **Strengthening NY's Global Competitiveness**
 - Their combined efforts have helped maintain New York's standing as one of the most innovative and competitive apple-growing regions in the world.
- **Mentorship & Education**
 - Through the CCE system, both have trained multiple generations of growers, consultants, technicians, and extension specialists, leaving a lasting legacy of expertise.
- **Looking Ahead: A Critical Moment for NY Apple Growers**
 - The upcoming retirements of Professors Watkins and Robinson represent a **major loss of institutional knowledge** for the state's fruit industry. Ensuring continuity in research and extension support must be a top priority for both Cornell and industry stakeholders.
 - Growers, organizations, and partnering institutions will play a crucial role in advocating for the timely initiation of a CALS hiring process to secure world-class replacements for these two unparalleled scientists.

Oswego CCE Enrollment Available Online

Besides the paper form, there is an online option available: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/AgREG26_254.
Questions? Contact Josh Vrooman at jwv33@cornell.edu or 315-963-7286.

12/18 Webinar | USApple Insights: Harvest Wrap-Up

Thursday, December 18, at 3pm EST, Chris Gerlach, USApple's Vice President of Insights and Analytics, will review August production estimates in light of more recent storage and movement levels – helping the industry recalibrate for the remainder of the marketing year.

The webinar will also look at the latest trends in the trade, prices and costs of fresh and processing apples – data critical to understanding how the current season is unfolding, how it relates to prior crop years, and what it might mean for the future of the U.S. apple industry.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/dGNwzFe3T-yBXnLOZZHsUg#/registration>

Reducing Apple Crop Loss from Cold and Heat Events: We Want to Hear from You!

Mike Basedow, CCE-ENYCHP and Mario Miranda Sazo, CCE-LOFP

A national team of researchers and extension agents are working on a multi-year SCRI project (<https://sparcscri.com/>) to evaluate different management practices to reduce crop loss from severe cold and heat. The Cornell team consists of Lailiang Cheng, Jason Londo, Terence Robinson, Brad Rickard, and ourselves.

One of our extension goals is to make this multi-year research as relevant as possible to your operations. Please complete this anonymous survey to help us understand how heat and cold are affecting your orchards and the strategies you use (or might want to use) to minimize losses. Your responses will help us prioritize our research and extension goals over the course of the project.

Survey Here: https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d6Jy6w4RASyv1DU

Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development Registration Now Open for Labor Roadshow IX

Immigration, unions, overtime, employee housing, and technology, workforce issues continue to demand farm employers' attention. Every farmer employing people in New York should attend the Labor Roadshow. The Agricultural Workforce Development Council (AWDC) is thrilled to announce that registration is now open for Labor Roadshow IX, a pivotal event dedicated to educating and supporting farm employers. This year's Roadshow will feature a series of insightful discussions led by top experts in the field addressing critical agricultural issues.

In-Person events will be held in 2 remaining locations:

- **December 17** – Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, NY
- **December 18** – Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY

The one remaining online session will be held via Zoom on topics that are different from, and in addition to, the in-person events:

- **December 22** from noon to 2:00PM

Labor Roadshow IX will cover a range of pressing topics, including:

- Immigration and Farm/Family Preparedness
- Compliance Updates
- Unionization Updates from PERB and attorneys
- Employee Engagement and Improving Culture
- Employee Housing Operational Costs
- Pest Management in Employee Housing
- Legality of Employee Monitoring Using Cameras and Technology
- How to Interact with Regulators and the Public about Labor Issues

With one registration, participants gain access to one in-person event, a recording of an in-person session, and all online sessions on December 1 and 22. Whether attending in person or virtually, this is a unique opportunity to engage with industry leaders and peers.

Registration Details:

Registration is open. To secure your spot, please visit: <https://forms.gle/HheZLetKwyi8J3t6A>. Early registration is encouraged as spaces may be limited.

Event cost:

\$75 per person

Cash, check, and advance online payments will be accepted. Each registration includes onsite programming for one event date, access to two webinars, coffee, refreshments, and lunch provided.

For the latest updates on expert speakers, session topics, and additional information, please continue to check our Labor Roadshow webpage: <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/labor-roadshow/>

Questions?

About program: cu-agworkforce@cornell.edu

About registration/payment: office@nedpa.org

About AWDC: The Agricultural Workforce Development Council (AWDC) is dedicated to enhancing the agricultural workforce through education, advocacy, and support. By providing resources and training, AWDC helps farm employers navigate labor challenges effectively.

NYS Veg Growers Association Announces the 2026 Becker Forum

The New York State Vegetable Growers Association (NYSVGA) is pleased to announce the 2026 Becker Forum, a key event for agriculture professionals, will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at Jordan Hall on the Cornell AgriTech campus. Producers need to stay up to speed with major changes in H-2A, overtime, and union organizing, as well as important issues like tax credits, retirement plans, and avoiding fraud and scams.

The Becker Forum, an annual gathering of growers, farm managers, and industry experts, offers a comprehensive program tailored to address the most pressing challenges facing the agricultural community today. The day will feature a series of informative sessions designed to equip attendees with the tools and knowledge they need to navigate these complex issues successfully.

Program Highlights:

- H-2A Wage Changes and Best Practices for Producers
- How New York State is Handling the H-2A Changes
- Other Visa Options for Securing Workers
- NY State Refundable Tax Credits for Farmers
- Onboarding Resources for Growers
- NY Farm Labor Union Updates
- Avoiding Fraud and Scams for Employees and Your Business
- New York's New Mandatory Retirement Savings Program

Schedule:

- **8:30 AM** – Check-in opens
- **8:50 AM** – Program begins
- **4:30 PM** – Program concludes

The Becker Forum provides a unique opportunity for networking, professional development, and staying up to date with the latest industry trends and regulations. This event is a must-attend for anyone involved in farm management, labor, or agriculture policy.

Registration: <https://nysvga.org/meeting-registration/>

ADVANCED REGISTRATION - \$90/person

WALK-INS - \$120/person

For more information and to register for the event, please visit <https://nysvga.org/meeting-registration/>

Contact: For inquiries, please contact the NYS Veg Growers Association at nysvegetablegrowers@gmail.com.

We are Looking for Growers for Testing of a Novel Frost Protection Product in the Spring of 2026

Murli Manohar, CryoBio

We are a team of researchers developing a novel spray solution to protect crops against frost damage. We are currently formulating a product that can be easily applied before expected frost events using common spray equipment. Additionally, we are interested in learning about growers' experiences with frost and the measures they take to protect their crops. Below is the contact information if you are interested in talking with us.

Contact information:

Murli Manohar

Email: mm829@cornell.edu / murli@cryo.bio

Phone: 979-481-9382

Brief Technology Overview:

Currently frost-prevention methods rely primarily on physical interventions. Farmers typically use heaters and smudge pots to warm their fields, deploy wind machines to equalize air temperatures, and utilize frost barriers that act like large blankets to protect crops from the cold. Unfortunately, these methods can be costly to install and operate, often making them unaffordable for small-scale growers. Moreover, they tend to be largely ineffective against severe frost.

To address these challenges, the team has founded CryoBio, a company developing a first-of-its-kind crop spray that functions similarly to other common sprays like biopesticides. This spray utilizes food-safe biochemical antifreeze that lowers the freezing temperature of plant tissues by 5-8 °C. The team is currently in the greenhouse validation stage to demonstrate the spray's efficacy for commercial applications.

We are looking to collaborate with growers to learn more about frost challenges in NY and small plot on-farm tests:

1. *Understanding Frosts and Their Impacts on the Farm:* We would like to learn about the intensity and frequency of frost in your region, how long frost events usually last, the typical temperature and stage of crop development during a bad frost, and the local history of damaging frost.
2. *Current methods for Frost Protection:* What methods do you use for frost protection? What challenges and limitations do your current frost protection strategies face? Are there instances where your methods were successful or did not meet your expectations?
3. *Potential Future Method for Frost Protection:* Are there any technologies you've heard of, but haven't had a chance to try? What are these, and why haven't you tried them?
4. *General Discussion:* Would you be interested in small plot trials in the spring of 2026? If not, we would still love to talk and learn more about the frost challenges.

CryoBio has been selected as one of four finalists in the national AgInnovation challenge organized by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) (https://www.fb.org/news-release/ag-innovation-challenge-finalists-compete-for-100k/?utm_source=Social&utm_medium=LinkedIn&utm_campaign=AFBF).

Please stop by to meet us if you're attending the AFBF convention in Anaheim, California, coming January.

Mark Your Calendars

- 12 Jan-2026* **The Past, the Present, and the Future of PACMAN Webinar** – 11AM-3PM
Registration Link: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2135>
Questions? Contact Mario at mrm67@cornell.edu, 315-719-1318 | See flyer attached to the electronic version of this newsletter.
- 12 Jan-2026* **2026 Dyson Agricultural Food & Business Outlook Conference**, Stocking Hall, Cornell University
See attached flyer here: 2026 Dyson Agricultural and Food Business Outlook_final_agenda.pdf
Register here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/6326ce23-9fad-4d28-b19d-5ae376704bc6/regProcessStep1>
- 14 Jan-2026* **EXPO – Becker Forum**
See article in this newsletter. <https://nysvga.org/meeting-registration/>
- 15 Jan-2026* **EXPO – Educational Sessions for Berries and DEC Applicator Credits** <https://nysvga.org/meeting-registration/>
- 20 Jan-2026* **Agbiotech Soil School**, Shadow Hills Lodge, 7259 Lakeside Rd, Ontario, NY 14519
More info: 585-455-0331 www.agbioinc.com
- 21 Jan-2026* **Agbiotech Soil School**, Rustic Roots, 5324 W Ridge Rd, Spencerport, NY
More info: 585-455-0331 www.agbioinc.com
- 22 Jan-2026* **Cornell Winter Fruit Webinars: Blueberry Pruning and Soil Health to Minimize Pests and Maximize Yield**
11am – 12:30pm, Online Register Now! <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2132>
- 29 Jan-2026* **Cornell Winter Fruit Webinars: Cost of Production for Fruit Crops**
11am – 12:30pm, Online Register Now! <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2132>
- 12 Feb-2026* **Cornell Winter Fruit Webinars: Fire Blight Management Updates**
11am – 1pm, Online
Register Now! <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2132>
- 19 Feb-2026* **Cornell Winter Fruit Webinars: Pink and Petal Fall Insecticides – Can We Strike the Right Balance?**
11am – 12:30pm, Online Register Now! <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2132>
- 23-25 Feb-2026* **2026 NY Farm to School Summit**, Saratoga Springs NY.
Final programming is still being finalized, but we have a sneak peek to share with you. Everything you need to know can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/cornell/nysf2ssummitregistration?e=1685bebde5>
Please feel free to reach out with any questions and share with your networks! Cheryl Bilinski, Cornell Cooperative Extension | Harvest NY cbt32@cornell.edu | <https://harvestny.cce.cornell.edu/> | www.farmtoschoolny.com (cell): 607.592.9507
- 25-26 Feb-2026* **ENYCHP Winter Fruit and Vegetable Conference**, Albany, NY. More info to follow soon.
- 12 Mar-2026* **Cornell Winter Fruit Webinars: Inoculating Orchards with Mycorrhizal Fungi**
11am – 12:30pm, Online Registration Page link to individual webinar registrations: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2132>
- 19 Mar-2026* **Cornell Winter Fruit Webinars: St. Peachtrick's Day – Cherry Pruning Strategies and Plum Varieties for the Northeast**
11am – 12:30pm, Online Registration Page link to individual webinar registrations: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2132>
- May – 2026* **Respirator Fit Testing**, Orleans County – CCE Orleans | Albion, NY
\$78 per person (\$40 for eligible farms) | OSHA Compliant Fit Testing & Training (English & Spanish)
Proof of Medical Clearance Required
Provide respirator make, model, & size when scheduling. To Schedule an appointment or learn more call: 800-343-7527 | email: fittest@bassett.org

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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
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, pollinators.

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

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

Check out our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6PXiElo7nLDY1A81Ek5brQ>