



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Allegany-Cattaraugus Counties

Visit us on the web at <http://ccealleganycattaraugus.org>

AG News

“Meeting our counties Agriculture, Horticulture, and Natural Resources Educational Needs”



It's that time of year to get back in the garden and out into the fields!

Gardeners and Farmers are beginning to migrate back outside in order to prepare their gardens and fields for another year of crop production here in Western New York. In the following issue of Ag News we will be covering garden preparation, garden techniques, pH, and IPM that will limit the stress and hard work behind home vegetable gardening and field crop production.

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Is Poultry Production the Right Enterprise For You?

Lynn A. Bliven

Whether you are looking to diversify operations on your farm or making a decision which enterprise will work for your newly acquired farm, poultry production is worth consideration. We have all heard it is best not to “put all your eggs in one basket”, but meat and egg production can add quality to your operation.

In addition to adding a quality product, integrating poultry production in to your enterprise affords other benefits as well. Manure and composted materials from the poultry contributes to the pool of plant nutrients when accurately applied to the soil. Allowing access to range areas utilized by other livestock species, poultry become an effective part of an integrated pest management systems.

Deciding which system of poultry production is best suited to your enterprise to enhance the productivity of your operation requires addressing a few questions. Who will be involved in the enterprise? What resources (land, human, financial) are available? Is there a market? Is there a knowledge and support base? Last but not least for farm business consideration, will there ultimately be a profit?

Confinement type housing arrangements will require less daily management if well designed. The trade off is that this system will require management of the manure to assure a healthy environment for the birds and to preserve the nutrient value to be added back to the soil for other segments of the diversified farm operation. An additional benefit for this system is that it may allow for a greater level of involvement and responsibility from younger family members to care for the birds. This will also hold true for free range production as well, both of these systems not requiring pen movement. Free range systems expose birds to a greater risk of predation than confinement housing.

While not a new concept, portable pasturing pen are a growing production system. This system combines the benefits of access to range with the protection of confinement housing. The trade off here is the daily time (and strength) required to move the unit. This system may be necessary with some breeds if you wish to encourage forage consumption. Some breeds are very willing to travel some distance in search of tasty morsels. Others will simply wait for you to fill the dish, showing great displeasure when the trough is empty.

A rotational grazing system also combines the benefits of access to range with the protection of confinement housing. This system does not require daily movement of the housing structure but allows the bird access to fresh paddocks as needed. Size of the flock and rate of forage growth determine how often birds are allowed access to each paddock. The trade off with this system, similar to a free range system, is that the area immediately surrounding the house often becomes a dirt lot or muddy area.

What's the next step? Get out there and talk to current producers to gain a knowledge base. Start small and build your skills and grow your successful business.



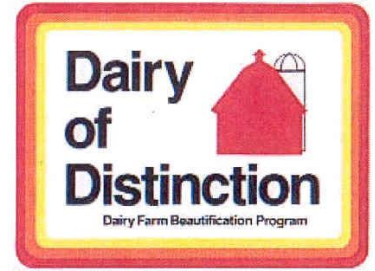
This portable pen provides access to a high and dry place to rest in addition to forage. By moving daily, these Cornish cross meat birds are encouraged to graze.

Agricultural Crops & Animal Sciences

Local Farms Recognized with Dairy of Distinction Awards

By: Lisa Kempisty

As you drive along our rural roads, you will notice painted barns, attractive landscaping, neat fences, machinery organized in the farm yard and clean cows. You note the sense of pride of this dairy farm owner, and as you drive closer, you see the colorful red, orange, yellow, black and white “Dairy of Distinction” sign proudly displayed along the roadside.



The Dairy of Distinction program, sponsored by the NYS Dairy Farm Beautification Association, honors dairy farms who keep their operations attractive. Well maintained farms help increase consumer confidence in milk and dairy products. Dairy farms apply for this award by April 15, and are judged during the month of May on their roadside appearance, maintenance of buildings, landscaping, and farm operations including cleanliness of animals and neatness of the farm yard. A team of judges score the farms, which must receive a score of at least 90 points to be eligible for the Dairy of Distinction award.

In 2009 two new farms in Cattaraugus County were recognized with this Dairy of Distinction honor, along with farms celebrating their 25, 15 and 10 year Dairy of Distinction anniversaries.

Carnahan Land & Cattle Company, owned and operated by Dennis and Kathy Carnahan, is located on Conewango Road, north of Randolph. The Carnahans milk 56 dairy cows, including Holsteins and registered Brown Swiss, and market their high quality milk through Steamburg Milk Producers. They grow corn, haylage and dry hay for their dairy herd and replacement heifers on a total of 400 acres.

Telaak Farms is a family farm on Hinman Hollow Road, Little Valley operated by brothers Don and David Telaak along with David’s wife Joyce. Don’s wife Lynn shows registered Brown Swiss cattle and is an Animal Science Instructor at Olean BOCES. The Telaak Family, with the help of their farm employees, milk 295 cows and raise about 300 youngstock. They have received the “Super Milk Award” for many years for producing high quality milk, which is marketed through Upstate Niagara, Inc. Telaak Farms grows corn, oats, and grass-legume mix for haylage and dry hay on 1,300 total acres for their dairy herd.

Frangalex Farm, owned and operated by the Andera Family, located on Andera Lane in Great Valley is very proud to have been recognized as the first Dairy of Distinction in Cattaraugus County and to be honored with the award for 25 consecutive years in 2009. Frangalex Farm was started 52 years ago by the late Francis Andera and his wife Barbara, and is now managed by Barbara, their son Christopher and his wife Cathy. This attractive dairy includes 90 head of Holstein dairy cattle, and 400 acres of land in which they grow corn, alfalfa and mixed hay for the lactating cows and replacements. High quality milk from their dairy is marketed through Dairy Farmers of America.

Doug and Mary Loomis’ dairy farm located on Sample Hill Road, Randolph was recognized with a 15 Year Dairy of Distinction award. This third generation farm milks 40 cows and raises 21 replacements on 240 acres, and markets their milk to Steamburg Milk Producers. Doug and Mary have proudly owned and operated their farm for 37 years, with the help of their son and daughter over the years.

A ten year Dairy of Distinction, owned and operated by **Gary and Julie Feldman**, is located on Route 240 in West Valley. This fourth generation farm milks 55 cows, raise 70 replacements, and grow corn silage, grass for dry hay, round bale silage and pasture their herd during the summer. High quality milk is marketed through Friendship Dairies. Gary and Julie have proudly raised a son and daughter on their family farm, with their daughter making her home on the farm and helps with chores.

Congratulations to these farm families on your Dairy of Distinction honors. Your dedication to the dairy industry, commitment to family and community make you very deserving of these Dairy of Distinction awards.





Cutting Crop Input Costs: What Strategies Work?

By: Dan Steward, Western New York Crop Management Association

(Allegany-Cattaraugus Counties' CCE Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Member)

Financing the planting and harvesting of crops in the spring of 2010 is going to be an especially challenging proposition for many farms. It is not uncommon for some farms to be way behind or even just starting to pay off last year's crop input expenses. Some farms are going to have trouble getting crop loans from their banks or may not be able to obtain financing at all. To say the least, purchasing power is going to be short on many, many farms this spring.

If you are a farm that has limited capital for putting up crops this spring, where do you begin to cut back? There are some inputs that have a very high return on the investment and others that do not. The following are some common strategies for reducing input costs and their potential impact.

Strategy #1

Cut back on lime: Lime is usually one of the first things to go in a cropping program. This strategy can be good or bad. If you have been maintaining your pH at reasonable levels, you can probably get away with reducing lime purchases for a year or two. The key is to target the lime where it will give the most bang for the buck. If you are going to seed down fields to alfalfa and the pH is below 6.4, you shouldn't pass on the lime; either put it on or don't seed it. If the pH is between 6.4 and 6.7, it is a reasonable bet to go ahead and seed and then top-dress the lime in the fall or next year. If a potential corn field is below 5.9 pH, you probably shouldn't pass on the lime. Top-dress at least one ton per acre after plowing and before you do your secondary tillage to raise the pH in the upper rooting zone. Enough of the limestone will react with the soil in the short term to pay back the cost the first year. When pH's are 5.8 or below and you can't afford lime, you should be questioning whether you should be farming that land at all. Your adviser can help you prioritize your lime applications to get the biggest bang for your buck.

Strategy #2

Cut back on fertilizer: Fertilizer prices have come down from last year, but there are a number of areas you can cut back on fertilizer with minimal or no loss to this year's crop. There are other areas where cutting back or eliminating fertilizer has a serious impact on yields. The common theme to all strategies is crediting your manure, utilizing your soil samples, and proper timing.

Hay: Nitrogen on grass is one of the best paybacks. You get a tremendous increase in yield and increased protein. The best return is an application before first cutting because the yield potential and the forage quality is the highest. You can cut potash on alfalfa before first cutting. Research trials have shown virtually no yield response to potash applied before first cutting regardless of the soil test level. If fields are low in potassium, fertilize after first cutting.

Seedings: Broadcasting manure for nutrients is at least as effective for seedings as broadcasting fertilizer. You can safely go without broadcasting fertilizer on fields with adequate manure without taking a hit in yield or stand establishment. If you are banding fertilizer on legume seedings you are more likely to get a response to fertilizer. Credit the manure and adjust the fertilizer rates accordingly.

Corn: Some farms are tempted to use no starter fertilizer on high fertility fields. This is probably not the best strategy as most trials show some response to nitrogen and/or phosphorus in the band regardless of fertility. The better strategy is to put some starter on all fields and adjust the rate and/or analysis according to the soil test phosphorus and manure applied. On most dairy farms there are many fields with very high phosphorus levels. Banding additional P on these fields *does not* increase yields. Put a low rate of nitrogen only starter on these fields. Set reasonable yield goals and only put on the amount of N & K that this year's crop will respond to; this is not the year to build soil test K or shoot for 250 bu. corn if you have poor cash flow.

Soybeans: Soybeans are a very efficient scavenger of fertilizer. Manured fields will not require additional commercial fertilizer. High fertility fields without manure are also unlikely to respond to additional fertilizer. Consult your soil tests.

Agricultural Crops & Animal Sciences

Strategy #3

Don't Plant any Seedings: New seedings really don't take a lot more cash input than planting corn, assuming your pH levels have been maintained. The biggest initial cost on seedings is their lower yield compared to corn silage and the amount of time to fit fields, pick rocks, etc. Short-term cash savings on not seeding fields are obtained when no hay ground is rotated to corn. The hay ground that would have gone to corn takes the place of the new seeding. You need to take a hard look at the hay stands that won't be rotated to make sure they are viable. Just because they did OK last year, a wet year, doesn't mean they will do that well this year if it is dry. You also lose by having less first year corn and more continuous corn because sod to corn should always yield more than continuous corn. Long term it really sets a farm back because they won't have the second year seeding the following year and they will ultimately have to play catch up on their rotations.

Strategy #4

Don't spend as much money on seed: Farmers should always be looking to get the best deal they can on seed. Some farms put a lot of thought into hybrid selection, some very little. Biggest savings in seed are most often obtained by planting older hybrids that are lower priced, purchasing corn without genetic traits (i.e. Roundup Ready Corn), or by purchasing "low marketing cost corn" from national companies. I've seen some excellent corn grown from "cheap" seed, and I've seen terrible corn from "cheap" seed. The best advice is to do your research and know what you are buying.

Strategy #5

Don't plant as many acres: Many are farming surplus ground that has never grown a profitable crop. *Get rid of it.* No one likes to give up control of ground, but sometimes it is necessary. I have seen farms go out of business farming land because "they might need it in the future." If it is profitable land that you want to keep but you can't afford to crop the right way, sublet it out to someone who can. Be open with the landowner; let them know what you are doing. You are less likely to lose the land that way vs. not paying the rent.

NEW YORK STATE

Integrated Pest Management
PROGRAM



IPM What Is It?

By Dean Sprague

This "word" IPM has been tossed around a lot lately. It is used by people in agriculture when talking about ways of growing field crops and vegetables. It is used by home owners to talk about controlling weed insects and diseases around the home and garden. Now, some supermarkets are even using it to describe some of their food. So what does it mean exactly? IPM means Integrated Pest Management and the basic description varies only slightly from group to group. The following description comes from the "IPM Field Corn Pocket Guide" and best explains the way agriculture producers, suppliers and educators define IPM.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a multi-disciplinary approach to pest management that uses knowledge from many disciplines to enhance profitability, optimize environmental stewardship, and protect human health. IPM practitioners base decisions on information collected systematically, as they integrate economic, environmental, human health and social goals.

Pest suppression techniques are integrated in IPM to give growers multi-pronged defenses against crop diseases and insects. One important goal of IPM is to minimize reliance on chemical pesticides whenever possible. An IPM practitioner uses weather data to predict the onset of pest attack, and cultural practices such as rotation, hybrid selection, mulching, narrow plant rows, interseeding, and various tillage techniques. To make the best pest management decisions, he or she learns how to identify and judge the extent of weeds, insects and diseases before resorting to judicious spraying the crop. When it is necessary, IPM incorporates pest prevention and suppression techniques with reactive methods. These methods, which include traditional pesticide application, are used when other options are not effective against a specific problem.

Central IPM principles include:

- ongoing soil and agriculture management strategies
- identification of the field problems. Is it caused by pests?
- sampling, or scouting to see the damage potential of pests.
- analysis of severity of the problem
- management alternatives
- implementation of pest control

Agricultural Crops & Animal Sciences

(IPM CONTINUED)

IPM strives to protect crops for the long term using:

- biological controls to preserve biodiversity.
- crop rotation to break pest life cycles.
- host plant resistance to replace pesticides.
- sanitation of sources of pest infestation.
- site selection specific to crop's needs



Each growing season Cornell Cooperative Extension Allegany/Cattaraugus Counties offers a variety of IPM related workshops. These vary from sweet corn production to alfalfa and field corn production and even fly control. For more information on local and New York State IPM activities visit the CCE Allegany/Cattaraugus Agriculture webpage at <http://ccealleganycattaraugus.org/index.php/agriculture> .

Horticulture

Getting the Garden Ready!



(Picture Source: <http://awaytogarden.com/files/2009/04/tomato-collage.jpg>)

Thinking Ahead – What to Plant & Where to Put Your Garden

By: Kabel Kellogg

It is now time to plan your vegetable garden and whether you are planting seeds or transplants it is a good practice to look ahead at what your family will actually consume. Try to avoid planting vegetables that are not commonly eaten in your home to avoid them going to waste. Make sure that the size of your garden is within the realm of your care, smaller gardens may be beneficial to new gardeners or small households because of the ease of maintenance and costs. After a season of gardening, if you need more yields, then consider expanding your garden.

Before planting take the time to map out the garden to make best use of space and to visualize how your garden is going to look. Make sure not to place tall plants where they might block the sunlight of smaller vegetables, and try to place any perennial plants, such as rhubarb and asparagus, together along one side of the garden to avoid working around them year after year.

If you are starting a new garden this year, or looking to move your existing garden, it is good practice to really evaluate potential sites for necessary elements that makes a garden productive. The site needs to be relatively sunny, receiving at least 6 hours of direct sun daily. It is best to have a moderately level site that is well drained and free of any standing water. The garden should be located far enough away from trees to allow for sunlight and to reduce competition for water and nutrients. Good air circulation will help prevent disease and produce stronger plants, however, too strong of winds can damage your plants.

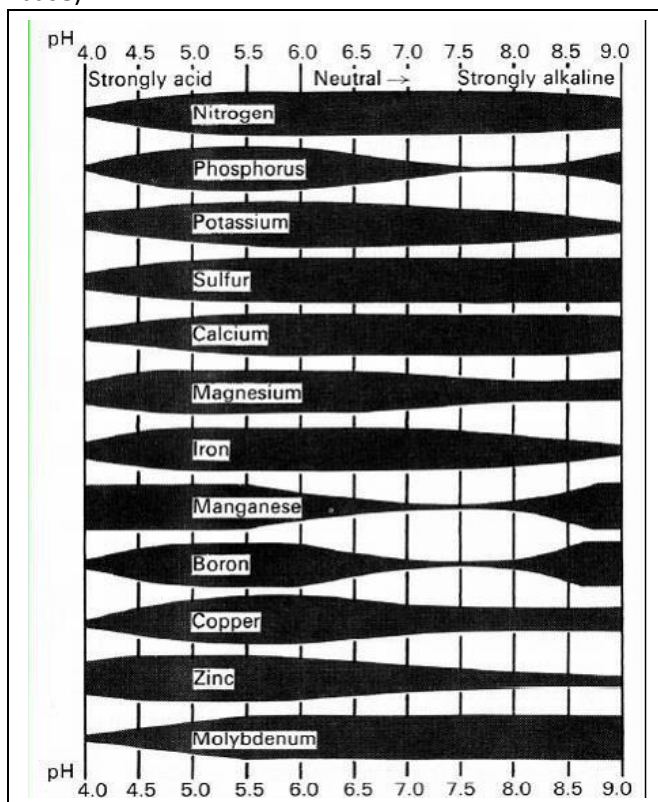
Sometimes these elements are not all readily available in your useable space and this is where a raised bed could be established in a traditional gardens place. Raised beds require more work to establish at a greater expense, but also allow a grower to control all the elements of their garden from the soils nutrient content to the drainage and everything in between.

The Reason for Testing Your Soil pH

By: Colleen Cavagna

Master Gardeners of Allegany & Cattaraugus Counties host free pH clinics at host sites throughout both counties. The results obtained from a pH soil sample can provide valuable information to the home gardener.

Why should a home gardener care what the pH of their soil is? Because pH affects plant growth; most garden crops need a soil pH in the range of 6.0-7.0. When you are measuring the pH of soil you are determining the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. The pH scale ranges from 0 – 14; 7 is neutral with 0 being highly acidic and 14 high in alkalinity (or sometimes called base).



The level of pH influences nutrient availability and microbial activity. Plants need to get the majority of their nutrients from the soil. Plants need these nutrients to be dissolved in the soil solution. A pH range of 6.0 – 7.0 is the best for most readily available plant nutrients. This doesn't mean that plants will not grow in pH soils that are higher or lower than this range. Examples of plants that grow well in strongly acid soils are azaleas, blueberries, rhododendrons, conifers, and white potatoes. While coral bells, day lily, honeysuckle, lilac, silver maple, chokecherry, and spinach grow well in slightly to moderate alkaline soils.

Some plants can tolerate these wide ranges of pH as listed above, but these are the exception, not the rule. Extremely acidic or alkaline soils can interfere with plants ability to uptake specific nutrients and can cause nutrient deficiencies that can be detrimental to the plant. A great example is chlorosis of the leaves of oaks and some other trees since these trees cannot uptake iron at pH level 7.4 or higher. This will stress the tree and can even lead to the trees mortality. The photo may look like fall oaks leaves, however these are summer leaves; note the green veins that are indicative of chlorosis. Photo: <http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/FactSheets/microchlorosis/microchlorosis.htm>

The soil pH can also influence plant growth by slowing down the activity of beneficial microorganisms. Bacteria that decompose soil organic matter are hindered in strong acid soils. This prevents organic matter from breaking down, resulting in an accumulation of organic matter and the tie up of nutrients, particularly nitrogen, that are held in the organic matter.

Now that you understand why you should test the pH of your home grounds and gardens, stay tuned for the springs dates of our free pH clinics. These will be listed in local newspapers and on our website at <http://www.ccealleganycattaraugus.org/index.php/registration-and-events>. Be prepared by bringing in a proper soil sample that will ensure accurate results.



Soil Sampling Instructions: In your home grounds or garden start by scraping away any debris, or mulch and ½ to 1" of the surface layer of soil. Select 8 to 10 spots in the garden and take a slice (core) of soil to the depth of 6 – 8 inches. Try not to handle the soil sample with your hands, use a clean tool or gloved hand. Mix the soil cores together in a clean bucket. If the soil is wet allow it to air dry. Remove debris, roots, stones, or plant residue. Save about one cup of this mixture in a plastic bag or jar and label it with your name and phone number. Bring the sample to the pH Clinic for analysis!

Starting Seeds Indoors

By: Master Gardener Debbie MacCrea

There are many benefits to the practice of starting seeds of both vegetables and ornamentals indoors, well ahead of their safe outdoor planting time. A great motivator is what the ritual does for the winter-weary spirit, starting seeds indoors is an obvious antidote to “Old Man Winter” and cabin fever.

I’ve found, over several decades of gardening, that there is more “leisure” hours available to me in winter, when the work I’d love to be doing in the garden can’t be done. There is good reason we say “the dead of winter”! But when we fill those anxious, impatient months with planning, planting, nurturing and designing, the benefits are manifested in earlier, healthier, more productive and beautiful gardens all spring, summer and fall.

Other very important reasons include:

- raising your own plants adds extra weeks, sometimes months to summer’s productivity, with long season vegetables, like peppers, melons, winter squash or eggplants, growing seedlings can mean the difference between little or no harvest and a bountiful one- at least for Northern gardeners,
- gives “you” the consumer a far greater choice of plant varieties that might not be available locally. By shopping the countless seed sources, we have far greater selection of varieties; with vegetables, this can mean the characteristics of flavor, color, size and period of harvest are yours to choose, while neighboring gardeners settle for whatever varieties are stocked locally,
- has the potential to save money in large garden settings; if you have a large garden buying transplants can be costly, however if you have a relatively small garden this savings may not materialize,
- and allows you to customize the timing of your planting schedule precisely to your needs, it is relatively simple to grow seedlings which are healthier, and better timed to be of perfect size and readiness for planting outside when YOU are ready to plant them.

Now that you are hooked and chomping to start your own seeds, go to our website, <http://ccealleganycattaraugus.org/index.php/vegetables> and read my step-by-step article on how to make the most of starting seeds indoors.



Hardening off

By: Kabel Kellogg

After following Deb’s seed starting advice, don’t forget to harden off your transplants before putting them in the garden. Hardening off refers to the steps taken to prepare transplants for the outdoor conditions. The hardening off process begins slowly with the gentle introduction of the plants to the outside climate.

Start by placing the seedlings (still in containers) outside in a somewhat sheltered area for an hour to two during the early morning or late evening hours returning them to their inside conditions afterwards. Gradually increase the seedlings time outdoors for a period of up to two weeks before planting permanently in the garden (a cold frame can work well for hardening off too); this allows the plants to become accustomed to the more intense light, wind, and temperature of your outside garden. If your seedlings begin to wilt or droop during this period take them back inside for the rest of the day to rejuvenate them. It is also a good practice to reduce the amount of water and fertilizer you give these seedlings during the hardening off process.

When transplanting vegetable plants into the garden try making sure to harden off the seedlings, pick a day that is calm with overcast, water as soon as planted, and try to plant later in the day to increase your transplants survival rate.

Horticulture

Is Tilling Destroying My Garden?

By: Kabel Kellogg

A gardener's first instinct of the impending growing season is to try getting that rusted old roto-tiller fired up for another season of soil destruction. Many people feel that good garden soil is soft, crumbles in your hand, and needs to be broken up by tilling year after year, but that is not the way to help your garden perform, and is causing a lot more damage than good.



Why is over-tilling destroying my garden? When a garden is first established it is good to till up the garden removing large stones and debris, but the tilling should be extremely limited from that point on. A complex relationship between the soil surface and underlying micro-organisms exists to create healthy soil structure, and constant tilling disturbs this process. Poor soil structure, poor water holding capacity, erosion, compaction, and increased weed production are all results from over tilling gardens. So if tilling is allowing the sun to bake your loose soil and burn your plants what is there you can do? "NOT-TILL"

No-till Gardening? With no-till gardening, once the garden is established the surface area of the garden is no longer disturbed. Items such as compost, straw, lime, fertilizer, and manure are added in layers to the top of the soil. These amendments will be pulled into the soil naturally through watering and the natural activity of subsoil organisms. When it is time to plant you merely push a little of the mulch aside and plant your seeds or starters. Using a no-till method eliminates a need for constant weeding as the mulch acts as a barrier preventing pesky weeds from making it to the surface. The subsoil continues to absorb nutrients, resist compaction, and develop a better water holding capacity. The soil is also able to remain loose due to the added earthworm population that enjoys the new moist soil conditions and the healthy microbes that make nutrients available to the soil and plants. This practice is similar to the methods soils are formed in nature. If you would like more information on "no-till" garden practices feel free to contact your local cooperative extension.

Whether you have an established garden or a new garden, getting a soil test done can greatly increase your chances of have a good producing garden. (For more information on soil test please read the article "ph test" on page.) Nutrients can be added to gardens in many ways from spreading garden fertilizers to applying mulches such as compost, leaves, and manure directly onto the soil. With no-till gardens, mulches can be added to the top of the soil in the fall to directly benefit the soil and plants the following spring.

Join Us for CCE Gardening Days Presented by the Allegany/Cattaraugus Master Gardeners

Gardening Day in Cattaraugus County

May 8th

Theme: The Home Landscape

Location: CCE

28 Parkside Drive Ellicottville, NY

It's FREE, just pre-register with
Kabel Kellogg @ 716-699-2377 Ext 125

Leave a message anytime

Auction and Door prizes

Gardening Day in Allegany County

May 15th

Theme: Vegetable and Berry Gardening

Location:

Genesee Valley Central School, Belmont NY

It's FREE, Pre-registration is required, space
is limited so contact Colleen Cavagna @
585-268-7644 or cc746@cornell.edu for
more information ASAP .

Emerald Ash Borer Outreach Training Workshops



From the side

WANTED

emerald ash borer



About to fly



Underside

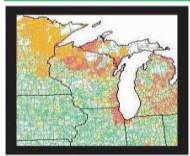
The Cornell Department of Natural Resources has received a grant from USDA-APHIS to conduct a series of workshops in New York State to establish Cornell Cooperative Extension as the source of information and guidance to citizens and communities on the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB is a small beetle from Asia that has been spreading throughout the Midwest since the mid 1990's killing millions of native ash trees in urban and rural settings. It was first detected in western New York State in the summer of 2009 and will gradually spread throughout the state.

The goal of the Emerald Ash Borer Workshops is to train CCE Educators and community volunteers to be a source for trusted information and guidance to help communities prepare for the eventual arrival of this devastating pest. We have planned 14 workshops throughout the state. The target audience for these workshops will be CCE educators, Master Gardeners, Master Forest Owners, Master Naturalists, members of NY's Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs), and land management professionals in county and municipal governments.

The workshops will cover topics of vital importance to help individuals and communities prepare for the arrival of the EAB and to minimize the potentially devastating economic impacts. Specific components of the workshop include: introduction and background to the EAB problem; basic EAB biology and identification; EAB control tactics; community stakeholder identification, EAB message development, and effective communication practices; and the design and development of EAB community action plans.

A local training will be held on Wednesday, April 14th at the Cooperative Extension Center in Ellicottville. **For details or to register for the training, please contact Lynn Bliven at 716-699-2377 ext 124 or by email lao3@cornell.edu**

Target: ash trees



Areas under threat



Shape of ash tree leaf



Branches of ash trees are positioned oppositely of each other.

SYMPTOMS



Areas Appearance of 'water sprouts' (epicormic shoots) on the tree's trunk.



Tiny (1/8 inch) 'D'-shaped exit holes in the bark on the trunk and limbs



S-shaped channels under ash tree bark caused by larval feeding



Increased activity by woodpeckers on ash trees.



Woodpecker markings



Vertical splits in the tree's bark.

COMPILED BY WWW.SPUDART.ORG

Insect Identification and Diagnostic Informational Program

Date: Tuesday, April 20th.

Time: 12:00 to 3:00 pm.

Location: 5435A County Road 48, Belmont (CCE Office)

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Allegany/Cattaraugus Counties in conjunction with NYS Community IPM Program and are hosting a program designed to improve the diagnostic and insect identification abilities of individuals involved in pest management in various types of structures. The skills taught in this class are useful for school and municipal building managers, university personnel and structural pest control operators.

Through a series of hands on and traditional educational presentations, participants will learn the basics of insect identification and will gain firsthand experience using various references and tools for identification including hand lenses, microscopes, printed references and preserved insect specimens. The cost of the program is \$20.00 per person and pre-registration is required. Pesticide credits have been applied for. To register, please go to <http://ccealleganycattaraugus.org> and explore the meetings and events section or contact Colleen Cavagna @ 585-268-7644 ext 12.

Public Outreach/Youth Development

Tractor and Machine Safety Classes

By: Tom Parmenter



The annual Tractor and Machine Safety Course will be offered June 23, 24, and 25th, 2010 for all youth 14 and 15 years of age and any adult wishing to become familiar with the safe operation of a tractor and power equipment. Non-farm youth 14 and 15 years old are required by law to have a Machine Safety Certificate before they can be employed and operate a tractor and equipment. It is recommended that all youth who will be operating a tractor on the highway take the safety class. Many farm owners send their children for the training in safe operation and highway travel procedures as an added level of safety precautions.

Adults and youth alike can benefit from the “hands-on” training. On site tractors and trailing equipment are used to help participants master the skills needed to help prevent accidents and injuries. Youth may not get the necessary safety learning experience “on the farm”. The course gives them the opportunity and time needed to learn safe operating skills. More home and land owners are finding the need to own a tractor and power equipment for mowing, brushhogging, development of wildlife food plots and general property maintenance. First time owner/operators can get a boost in operating confidence and safety procedures by attending the training.

Safety is number one around farm equipment. Getting the safety training and realizing the dangers can go along way toward preventing injuries and a lifetime of pain or the loss of a precious life.

The three days of safety classes will take place at the Belmont BOCES, June 23, 24, and 25th. Classes run from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, with a written and driving test for the 14 -16 year old students given on the 25th.

For more information on the Tractor and Machine safety classes and to register call Tom Parmenter at 585-268-7644 Ext.# 26. Registration forms are also available on the Allegany-Cattaraugus Cornell Cooperative Extension web site under Allegany County 4-H. (cceaalleganycattaraugus.org)

Farm Safety Youth Day

Saturday, May 8, 2010

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Tom & Robin Degenfelder Dairy Farm
8820 North Otto Road, Cattaraugus, NY



Topics to be discussed:

- ◆ Safe tractor and equipment operation
- ◆ Animal safety
- ◆ Family and worker safety
- ◆ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use for hearing, breathing, vision and skin protection
- ◆ Other farm safety issues that may be of particular concern

All 4-H youth and interested parents are encouraged to attend
This program will be presented by the NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health
Please call Cornell Cooperative Extension - Cattaraugus County
to pre-register before May 1, 2010 716-699-2377 Ext. 121

Coming Events

Poultry Production for Farm and Family

Ellicottville Extension Office
Tuesdays, May 4, 11 & 18 6:45pm-9:00pm
For more information or to pre-register,
please contact Lynn Bliven 1-585-268-7644
ext. 18

Multi-species Pasture Walk

Sojourner Farm East of Olean, NY
Saturday, June 5th 9-12
For more information or to pre-register, please
contact Lynn Bliven 1-585-268-7644 ext. 18

NYS Maple Tour - Houghton College

Tour Sites: Allegany, Livingston, and Steuben
Counties
June 6-8
For more information or to pre-register,
please contact Lynn Bliven 1-585-268-7644
ext. 18

"CORE" Pesticide Training and Exam

****Space is Limited/Pre-Registration required****
*****Register by Friday, April 9, 2010*****
Tuesday, April 13 Wednesday, April 14
Jamestown, NY Ellicottville, NY
For more information contact Dean Sprague
@ 1-716-699-2377 ext. 123



7th Annual Rural Living Expo

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Cuba-Rushford High School, Route 305 North, Cuba NY
(Exit 28 off I-86, north on Route 305 – School just under one mile on right.)

View the schedule of events on our website <http://ccealleganycattaraugus.org>

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 2nd

COST: \$30 per person; price includes class proceedings, print materials and lunch

PLEASE NOTE: NO CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT. NO REFUNDS, NO WALK-INS

For more information, contact Dorene at the Belmont office: 585-268-7644 ext. 10

Allegany/ Cattaraugus County Staff Contact Information

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Visit us on the web at <http://ccealleganycattaraugus.org>

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