



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”

There is no such thing as a normal year when it comes to farming. The weather in 2009 was a challenge for farmers and residents alike. The cool dry spring, then stretch of rain without heat slowed growth of garden and field crops. Flooding in late August caused damage from vegetable gardens to crop fields compromising the safety for human and animal consumption. Extension responded with outreach through one-on-one consulting and local media sources to create an awareness of the danger and provided education on handling and use of crops.

“On Farm” and “Hands On” programs are an essential part of Cooperative Extension Agricultural outreach.

Pasture Walks provide the opportunities for producers to share ideas and production experiences in a farmer to farmer setting. The “walks” also provide opportunities to disseminate valuable university research based information to local producers. On farm trainings provide instruction for hoof care management and artificial insemination practices that offer practical hands-on training directly to those responsible for these day to day practices.



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Beginning a Successful Small Farm Operation

Lynn Bliven

Beginning a Successful Small Farm Operation trainings have been an on-going effort in Allegany/ Cattaraugus County Extension for over 9 years. Maintaining agricultural and open spaces has been identified as an important aspect of retaining the quality of life associated with rural communities. Creating sustainable agricultural businesses enhances economic vitality while effectively utilizing the natural resource base of the counties. The ability to generate income from their land allows rural residents to retain their acreage and provide food security for their families. Extension offers assistance through formal trainings and individual follow-up to allow residents to make informed decisions on how to best utilize their resource. By matching land resources and skills of owners with the correct enterprise, successful businesses can flourish in these economically challenging times.

Goal of the program is to improve the success rate and profitability of beginning farmers by providing the education and support they need to reach their agricultural goals. Participants in the program are asked to complete an evaluation immediately following completion of the workshop. These evaluations have indicated that as a result of completing the series participants felt they were more prepared to make an informed decision regarding their business start-up course.

In order to maintain land in agriculture and open spaces in the region it must be profitable for residents to farm. By continuing to help landowners identify their resources and select enterprises suited to the land we can provide an opportunity to be successful in their agricultural business.

“Hoof Care Hands on Workshop”

Tom Parmenter

The dairy industry incurs substantial losses each year from hoof-related injuries and disease. In an effort to help producers better identify and manage hoof-related issues, a series of workshops were offered across New York State.

Hoof care concepts presented include cattle hoof anatomy, hoof growth and wear, manageable causes of common hoof disorders and basic treatment strategies for each disorder. Participants learn to identify early stage lameness and proper use of hoof trimming tools and treatment materials.

The program was collaboratively sponsored by Lake Effect Hoof Trimming, New York State Dept. of Ag & Markets, Lakewood Veterinary Clinic, Zinpro Corporation, Cornell University Cooperative Extension Pro-Dairy and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany / Cattaraugus Counties, and has been offered three times in our area over the past several years. Participation averages eight to ten farms represented by owners, herdspeople, and employees responsible for hoof care procedures. Attendees observe live cows to develop lame cow identification skills. They attend the hands-on session where they work on cadaver feet, learning to identify common hoof disorders and learn corrective treatment procedures to be used between regular visits by a qualified hoof trimmer.

Previous workshop participants say they gained a better understanding of hoof anatomy which helped them make better management decisions. Producers also say they came away with increased confidence in their ability to recognize and treat simple hoof problems to alleviate cow discomfort.

To date about twenty-five farms have taken part in the program, some sending more than one representative. Hoof care training has enabled participants to better identify hoof problems, provide early intervention and treatment and minimize losses of milk production and potential lost income.



Sweet Corn IPM Network

Dean Sprague

In 2009, CCE maintained a **Sweet Corn IPM Trap Network** site in Great Valley, NY. Since 1993, pheromone trap catches for the three major sweet corn pests have been collected weekly from cooperators at 15-20 locations in western and central NY and posted, with scouting and threshold information, on electronic list serve and web pages. Traps are maintained by extension field staff, crop consultants, and farmers. The information is used by consultants and extension specialists to keep their clientele informed about pest flights as an aid to making management decisions.

Formal programming, including the annual grazing conference, pesticide certification training, winter dairy management workshops and informational meetings allow producers the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge that can be used to improve farm management, profits and quality of life. One-on-one assistance continues to be an important outreach system to address questions from individual farming enterprises. Staff assists with Dairy Farm Business Summaries, manure and crop management plans, and visit farms to analysis production and management systems.



Small Farm Soil Health and Nutrient Management

Dean Sprague

The fall of 2008/winter of 2009 saw some of the highest fertilizer and fuel prices on record. Small farms strapped for cash worried what to do about fertilizing for spring planting and top dressing hay crops. This provided Cornell University Cooperative Extension – Allegany/Cattaraugus Counties a “teachable moment” on the value of nutrient management for small farms. We tagged fertilizer/manure management and soil health topics on to existing fall and winter crop meetings. Articles on these subjects were also included in the “Field Crop Memo” newsletter sent to farmers in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties and posted on the Associations website.

Articles and topics discussed at the meeting included:

- The value of soil and Manure testing to know what nutrients are already available your.
- How to match crop needs, soil tests, and manure test to find out how much fertilizer is needed.
- How pH affects nutrient availability.
- Using crop rotations to reduce fertilizer needs in the short term and long term.
- How to credit the “fertilizer value” of cover crops and plowed down sods.
- Prioritizing what fields will give the most benefits from nutrient inputs.

These topics were well received when presented at the crop meeting. Informal feedback from producers included the following comments:

- “I am going to spread lime on more of my fields, use manure as fertilizer and cut back on my purchased fertilizer.”
- “I need to take some soils test and fertilize based on those rather than using the same fertilizer.”
- “I guess it’s worth my time to spread manure on some farther away fields.”
- “I’m going to concentrate on getting maximum production from my best fields and just take what I can get from my poorer fields this year.”

Living in the Country; Sharing the Road

Lynn Bliven

Rural life appeals to many people evidenced by the continuing growth of residential homes in what has traditionally been open farmland. As more and more non-farm families' build or move into homes adjacent to actively farmed land and traffic volume increases, challenges can arise. There are some important facts to keep you, your family and your farm neighbor safe. Farmers provide the stewardship which results in the beauty of our rural landscape. One way non-farm residents can help farmers sustain that beauty is to become educated about what it means to live in farm country.

How we choose to share the road during the busy planting season is one way we can keep our families, farm neighbors and others safe. Expanding residential areas have interrupted once contiguous farm fields. As a result, farmers must often use public roads to get from barns to fields and from field to field. Here are some tips to help keep you and your farm neighbor safe. Farm vehicles are slow, reducing your speed when approaching from either direction is essential as some farm machinery is big; it often needs more than one lane, especially when crossing a bridge. Visibility on farm machinery is limited so leave plenty of room between you and a farm vehicle. If you can't see the driver, chances are he can't see you. Passing farm machinery can be dangerous for you and for the farmer. Often equipment may sway side-to-side erratically, especially on rough roads, cause equipment to move into your path.

“Horse and Buggy” signs mean watch for these conveyances, slow down and give them space. Use caution passing, honking the horn may seem like a good way to let the carriage driver or riders know you are there but can spook the horse. NYS Motor Vehicle Law states “It is illegal to sound your horn when approaching or passing a horse”.

Slow Moving Vehicle Emblems should not be used to mark the mailbox or driveway. SMV emblems help drivers recognize the need to slow down when approaching a vehicle bearing them. It is illegal to use SMV emblems on stationary objects.

Support your neighborhood farms, buy local. There is a wealth of food and fiber products grown and processed right here in our community. Farmers Markets and roadside stands along with many year-round stores have local products to sell. As a consumer, you can let your retailers know you are looking for local products.

You do not need to be a farmer to be involved in organizations which support or lead the agricultural industry. As consumers, we each have a role to play in staging our rural landscape. Organizations such as the Farm Bureau, Grange and Cooperative Extension are some of the groups you may want to become involved in.

For more information on farming, farm safety and sources of local agricultural products, please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at 585-268-7644 or 716-699-2377.



Late Blight

Ways to Reduce Potential Infection Next Year

Colleen Cavagna

Source: Northeastern IPM Center, Late Blight Q & A

So many residents in our counties experienced total devastation of their potato and tomato plants this year from *Phytophthora infestans* or late blight. This affected both home gardeners and commercial growers alike. If you lost your crop this year, there are ways to make sure late blight does not survive through the winter in your garden and to reduce the likelihood of having the disease again next year. Below is an article from the Northeastern IPM Center that addresses this very important issue.



Why was late blight such a serious problem this year? The late blight fungus spreads fast, rapidly producing spores that travel on wind currents to infect other plants and nearby fields. This year, the disease was reported over a broad portion of the country very early in the season. Infected plants may have been distributed to large local retail stores throughout the Northeast. To make matters worse, cool, damp weather conditions in much of the region were ideal for development and spread of the disease for a period of 6-7 weeks from early June until late July.

How can I prevent late blight from surviving the winter? The late blight fungus needs live plant tissue to survive. Tomatoes will not carry late blight over the winter because freezing kills the whole plant. Even seeds from fruit that was infected will not carry the pathogen, so you can still use your own seed to start next year's crop. Late blight will not survive on tomato stakes and cages. Even so, other tomato plant diseases (such as *Septoria* leaf spot) can over winter on dead tissue or stakes, so it's wise to do thorough cleanup of all tomato debris.

Potatoes are trickier because infected tubers can carry the pathogen into the next spring if the tubers don't freeze or decay during the winter (e.g., if left several inches down in the soil at harvest, or in a compost pile that doesn't fully decompose or freeze). Try to do a thorough job harvesting potatoes, and incorporate any remaining vines and leaves into the soil (the soil environment speeds decay). Composting also works; but be sure to keep the pile heating till plant material is fully decomposed.

What should I do next spring? Select disease-resistant tomato varieties for at least some of your crop, and use disease-free seed. "Mountain Magic," "Plum Regal," and "Legend" are three varieties with resistance or tolerance to late blight. Grow your own tomato transplants or purchase from a reputable grower to ensure a healthy start next season. Inspect all transplants for stem, petiole cankers, or leaf blight before planting. Don't save potato tubers as seed to be planted next spring if you had late blight symptoms in your garden this year. Instead, purchase certified disease-free seed from a reputable source (ask your supplier whether their source was inspected for late blight). Check last year's potato plot and any compost piles for "volunteer" potato plants that might come up. If you do find plants and buried tubers, dig them up and destroy them. During the growing season, pay attention to weather conditions and pest alerts to find out whether late blight has been observed in your area. And what actions you need to take to protect your crop.

For more information on late blight prevention and management see these great fact sheets:

www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/blight/files/late_blight.pdf
www.umassvegetable.org/LateBlightAlertforTomatoandPotato.html
vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/DiagnosticKeys/TomKey.html

Horticulture

New Berry Programming for Allegany and Cattaraugus County Growers

Colleen Cavagna

In an effort to address the needs of our current berry farmers and to encourage more people to consider growing these fruit crops in our region we are developing a series of presentations for this audience.

Initially we contacted our known berry farmers and asked them to fill out a survey that asked them what type of programming is most important to them. This information is being used to target the most pressing needs and bring in Berry Extension Support Specialist Cathy Heidenreich to talk on various topics. Cathy will start our programming on **December 14th** with a presentation for potential new berry farmers with the presentation **“Introduction to Commercial Berry Growing for New Growers.”** This is a three hour workshop that will help potential berry growers understand the principles of start-up costs, marketing, site selection, preparation and layout, selecting and planting the right cultivars, crop production and management as well as considering the labor expense and profitability of becoming a berry producer. Strawberries, brambles, blueberries, currants and gooseberries will be included in the discussions. This is the perfect venue to help new farmers decide if growing berries commercially is right for them. **If you are interested in participating in this presentation the cost is \$10.00 and will be held at the Belmont CCE Office from 9:00 am – 12:00.**

This presentation will be followed up in 2010 with presentations on weed management, insect and disease scouting and other topics that were marked as areas of concern by our farm survey. If you would like to be included on future mailing lists for upcoming presentations contact Colleen Cavagna at 585-268-7644 Ext. 12.

2009 Master Gardener Training

Colleen Cavagna

The Master Gardener Regional Spring Training 2009 included 7 counties (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chemung, Erie, Schuyler, Steuben, and Wyoming). These training sessions were broadcast through 3 local Cooperative Extension Offices (Belmont, Bath, and Ellicottville) via the Cornell University Polycom system allowing trainees to keep travel to a minimum. Presenters were rotated around these three locations and were physically at one of these locations while the remaining two locations watched the presenter via Polycom. Master Gardener Training started on Tuesday, March 31st and ran Tuesdays through June 9th as full day programs (9:00-3:30). Twenty three (23) residents signed up through Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties.

Presenters came from Cornell University (professors, graduate students and staff), CCE Master Gardeners, Alfred University, local horticulture businesses, county agencies, and other highly qualified persons. Trainees were given the NYS Master Gardener Manual to coincide with the presentations and were required to do quizzes and a final exam at the end of the training.

Our Master Gardener Trainees hit the floor running, even before the training ended they were participating in pH Clinics with current Master Gardeners learning the ropes of soil pH testing and interacting and answering residents gardening questions. Half way through the training, events were being planned where Master Gardeners determined that their presence would be greatly appreciated.

Our group has developed a great bond of friendship and common interest in gardening. **If you are interested in taking part in the Master Gardener program or just learning a little more about it and upcoming programs contact:**

Allegany County

Colleen Cavagna @ 585-268-7644 ext: #12

Cattaraugus County

Kabel Kellogg @ 716-699-2377 ext: #125

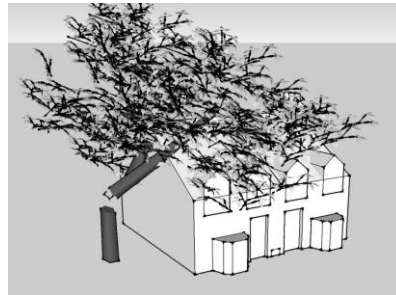
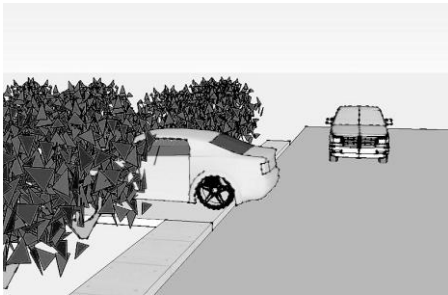
Residential Landscape Safety

Kabel Kellogg

When someone hears safety in the landscape usually the first thing that comes to mind is leaves of three, or poison ivy. Poisonous plants are something to be concerned about but they are not the only danger in your yard. Plants and structures that provide poor visibility, trees that may pose a threat to a home, and plants that may be harmful to children or animals are all possible dangers in your home landscape. The following will describe dangers to look out for and preventative measures that can be taken to keep your yard safe.

Plants such as shrubs and trees are often planted around the home to provide shade, ornamental value, and most of all privacy. The common misconception is that if no one can see my property or inside my home then my family and property are safe. Knowing that they cannot be seen from the road or by neighbors, criminals are more likely to target your property rather than a property that is well lit and visible to the public. If a criminal cannot be seen by neighbors or local law enforcement they can easily break into your home and make an easy escape. Large shrubs and trees in certain locations can also provide hiding spots for criminals to wait and surprise their victims. However, planting shrubs like Barberry, which can hurt to the touch, in areas under easily accessible windows and near entrances can deter would be criminals from entering your residence uninvited.

Large unmanaged shrubs near entrances to driveways can also prove harmful blocking views both in and out of residences. Without a clear view of the road one might easily back out or pull into oncoming traffic. The same view blocking the road may block a clear view into a driveway where kids may be playing, so keep views in and out of properties clear to provide safe lines of sight.



Large trees that have been a staple of your landscape for years should be accessed from time to time for any defects or potential for failure. A tree that is in decline may appear to be structurally sound, but if the trees root system has failed the weight of the trees canopy may cause the tree to uproot itself and cause damage to your property. Large dead limbs should also be pruned from trees that are still structurally sound to reduce the risk of personal injury. These limbs are commonly referred to as widow makers, any loose overhead debris such as limbs or tree tops that may fall at any time, creating an extreme danger of injury to the public. A tree inventory should be conducted every couple of years on large trees showing signs of decline, removing any trees or limbs that are considered dangerous.

When replacing trees that have failed on your property careful selection of a replacement tree is vital to prevent future problems. Choose a replacement tree that will not pose as large of a threat as the previous tree, avoiding extremely tall trees, trees with poor branch structure, short life spans, and trees with narrow crotches.

For more information on your home landscape or general horticulture questions, contact your local Cornell University Cooperative Extension office. In Cattaraugus County, contact Kabel Kellogg in the Ellicottville office at 716-699-2377, ext. 125 or e-mail kck57@cornell.edu.

Natural Resources

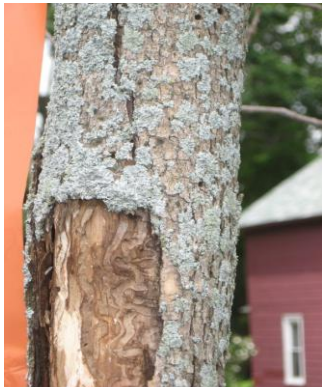
Impact of Invasive Species · *Emerald Ash Borer*

Lynn Bliven

CCE Allegany/Cattaraugus County partnered with Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Agriculture and Markets, and APHIS to educate landowners and professionals about the Emerald Ash Borer.



Compliance by the public with the EAB quarantine and firewood regulations is critical to slowing EAB spread in New York. In order to comply, residents must be aware of the regulation and the impact their actions can have on the spread of EAB. In addition to compliance with regulations, educating homeowners is essential to avoid hastily implementing control or chemical prevention strategies that may not significantly change the impact of EAB, carry financial and environmental costs, and may limit future control options. The objective of the public meetings and assisting in dissemination of information is to encourage planning for EAB arrival by land owners and municipal governments. Additional recommendations include consult educational resources and local professionals to develop an action plan for management of EAB.



Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Agriculture and Markets, and APHIS. Over 200 attendees were present at the public meetings representing private resident, forestry, landscape/nursery businesses, government agencies, and educational institutions. Twenty insect samples submitted for identification, none found to be EAB.

Rural Landowners Workshop

Lynn Bliven

CCE Allegany/Cattaraugus County has focused on improving management of forested land in Western NY for 17 years by offering annually a Rural Landowners Workshop. Approximately 67% of land in Allegany County and 70% of land in Cattaraugus County is forested; primarily in private owners. Both counties have recently completed Farmland Enhancement and Protection Plans, each identifying forestry as a critical piece of the agricultural industry in our 2 county regions.

The annual Rural Landowners Workshop offers educational opportunities in the areas of forestry management, water quality, invasive plant and insect impacts, agro-forestry, and ecosystem management for this valuable natural resource. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York Forest Owners Association, CCE Master Forest Owners, CU Department of Natural Resources, SUNY ESF, Soil and Water Conservation Service, and several private natural resource consultant firms.

As a result of participating in the Rural Land Owners workshop, landowners indicated that they had;

- Started 1 or more practices to produce new and value-added agricultural or forestry products.
- Improved their productivity and competitiveness producing timber or agro forestry products.
- Reduced safety risks at home, workplace or in the woodlot.
- Increased savings or investments.
- Protected or sustained the quantity and quality of surface and ground water supplies.
- Become actively involved in 1 or more public policy issues affecting ecosystem integrity and biodiversity.

Public Outreach & Educational Resources

Visit the Farm Day

Lynn Bliven

Rural life appeals to many people evidenced by the continuing growth of residential homes in what has traditionally been open farmland. As more and more non-farm families' build or move into homes adjacent to actively farmed land and traffic volume increases, challenges can arise. Farmers provide the stewardship which results in the beauty of our rural landscape. One way non-farm residents can help farmers sustain that beauty is to become educated about what it means to live in farm country. Cooperative Extensions Agricultural Team offers the educational resources to build neighbor understanding and strengthen relationships.



The 2009 **Visit the Farm Day** held in northwestern Allegany County allowed residents to meet with producers on their farms. An opportunity to learn more about the diversity of agriculture directly from the farmer with 8 farms opening their doors; visitors were able to view firsthand the care of animals, production of maple products, sawing timber into boards, knitting hand spun yarn from alpacas and sheep, horse training, field and greenhouse production of vegetables. The Rural Living Expo continues to be a strong outreach program educating residents in the production of their own food through gardening and storage of these grown products by extending the shelf life with proper preservation methods. With challenging economic times these life skills benefit families economically as well as enhancing health and well-being.

Serving the Agricultural Community

Lynn Bliven

Farm Link

“A sister program of New York FarmNet, New York FarmLink is committed to helping individual producers achieve personal, managerial, and financial success through assistance with farm succession and business partnership planning issues. When individual farms are successful, communities and New York State benefit in turn. Together, NY FarmLink works with farmers to ensure the long-term economic viability of New York agriculture.” (Source: www.nyfarmlink.org)

Maintaining existing and growing new farming enterprises is a long term goal for Cooperative Extension. Providing services to meet this goal involves working with public and private organizations, and teaming together to best utilize our resources. Two service providers often overlooked are FarmNet and FarmLink.

“New York FarmNet was established in 1986 to provide farm families with a network of information, contacts and services that are uniquely suited to the financial and personal challenges of agricultural business management. This network covers every aspect of high-pressure decision making from partnerships and transfers to stress management, family communication, domestic concerns, and disaster response.” (Source: www.nyfarmnet.org)

FarmNet strives to provide a network of support and contacts to sustain the personal wellbeing of our farm community members. To request services from FarmNet, please call 1-800-547-FARM (3276) or contact them by email @ nyfarmnet@cornell.edu

This program provides assistance in business transfer, financial management, and decision making. To request services from FarmLink, please call 1-800-547-FARM (3276) or you may contact them by email at nyFarmLink@cornell.edu.Consultations

Consultations and services for FarmNet and FarmLink Programs are free and confidential. If you or someone you know are in need for service, please contact 1-800-547-FARM (3276) today. Help us spread the word and grow strong community's one connection at a time.

Public Outreach & Educational Resources



Cornell University Cooperative Extension
Allegany - Cattaraugus

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Farming the Web in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties

Dean Sprague

Anyone that's tried to find information on the World Wide Web knows there's a lot to plow through. Even with a good search engine, you still need to do a lot of hand weeding. Agriculture minded people in Allegany and Cattaraugus now have an improved tool to help cultivate information from the web. The newly revised Cornell Cooperative Extension – Allegany/Cattaraugus Counties' web page <http://ccealleganycattaraugus.org/index.php/home> - has information for anyone with agriculture or other interests. Information here is specific for Southwestern New York with links to areas of state and national interest.

Do you ever wonder how to get an old hay field back into production and what forages to plant? Need information on crop protection? The proper way to take soil samples, how to use a microwave to determine forage moisture, what does it cost to plow, plant, or harvest a crop? These are just some of the things this web site can help you with. This year, information on the Emerald Ash Borer, Late blight on tomato plants at local large "BOX" stores, and what to do with flooded fields and gardens was put on the site. This allows us to get information out faster than we could with traditional mailings.

If you want information that you can't find on these pages, there are e-mail links and phone numbers for the local extension professional. Using this site will help you to keep up on local Cornell Cooperative Extension happenings. Check out the website now and continually as it will be continually updated based on your input.

Sustainable Forests Webinars

Cornell University's ForestConnect program and the Department of Natural Resource are working with the Sustainable Forests Partnership on this project. Webinars provide an opportunity for nationally acclaimed speakers to provide an educational experience via a high-speed Internet connection to people around the world. Prospective participants need to pre-register; registration is easy, happens once and is free. Register at www.ForestConnect.info via the web conference link. You can also connect via www.sustainablewoodlands.info. Detailed information about the webinars, and previously recorded webinars, are available at these websites.

All webinars are offered once, without charge, from 12:00 to 1:15 (Eastern time) and limited to the first 100 participants to arrive. You need a high speed Internet connection and functional speakers on your computer. All webinars will be recorded for later viewing. Some libraries have high-speed connections and allow use for educational webinars.

Farmers Handbook

Farmer's Handbook - This handy pocket guide prepared by CUCE staff in Allegany/Cattaraugus County is full of facts, figures and information to assist you in finding answers to everyday farm production questions. You can check out the Table of Contents on our website for a snap shot of the information offered in the handbook. Individual copy - \$6.00 plus \$2.50 shipping & handling. To place an order or for bulk purchase pricing call 585-268-7644 ext. 10 or email dmh34@cornell.edu

Youth Development

Ag Literacy Week

Colleen Cavagna

Each year in the spring, New York State celebrates Ag Literacy Week; this year it will be March 15-19. Ag Literacy Week allows students throughout Allegany and Cattaraugus counties to learn about NYS agricultural products. All public, private, and parochial elementary schools within Cattaraugus and Allegany counties are contacted and have the opportunity to participate.

Volunteer readers visit second grade classrooms and read a book chosen by New York Ag in the Classroom staff; these books are developed to foster an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture and the total food and fiber system. The book is donated to the school's library after the event.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Horticulture Educator, Colleen Cavagna, has worked in the past with Farm Bureau members, BOCES staff, FFA students, National Honor Society members, Master Gardeners, CCE staff, and local residents to schedule and read to our youth. In 2009 we had Congressman Massa come to the Cuba Elementary School to read!

Feedback from the teachers and readers has been extremely positive for this program and we have had requests for CCE to come back and do further youth programming. This year new staff member Kabel Kellogg will take over scheduling Ag Literacy Week in the Cattaraugus County schools and Colleen Cavagna will remain the coordinator for Allegany County. **If you wish to become a volunteer reader or to donate money toward the purchase of the agriculture books, please contact Kabel Kellogg, 716-699-2377 Ext. 125 for Cattaraugus County and Colleen Cavagna, 585-268-7644 Ext. 12 in Allegany.**

2009 Ag Literacy Statistics:

Allegany County –

Schools Attended: 14

Classrooms: 41

Students Reached: 658

Cattaraugus County –

Schools Attended: 23

Classrooms: 75

Students Reached: 1163

New York Agriculture in the Classroom is a partnership of Cornell University, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, NYS Education Department, and NY Farm Bureau.

Tractor and Machine Safety Training

Tom Parmenter

New York State, non-farm, youth between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who will be working with and operating farm tractors and equipment are required to complete a Tractor and Machine Safety Certification Program. Farm owners and parents of non-farm youth use the program to ensure adequate safety training is received by these young people.



The program is offered in June, advertised through 4-H, local schools and media. The three day training is comprised of classroom instruction, daily maintenance guidelines, hands-on tractor and implement operation. Instruction focuses on safety issues in the areas of tractor highway travel, field operation, PTO, hydraulic, pulleys, belts and electrical safety.

The program is a collaborative effort between Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County, area high school vocational agriculture instructors, BOCES and local machinery dealers. Cooperative Extension staff and Vo-Ag instructors teach the program while BOCES provides the facilities and driving area and local machinery dealers bring in tractors for student training.

On average about twenty students and an occasional adult complete the safety program each year. There have been no statistically recorded farm accidents in Allegany County involving this youth age group during all years of this program. Parents of farm youth report increased safety awareness by their children following the training. The small acreage (farm-et) owners often request the training for their children as a precaution for lawn mowing and compact tractor operation. The hands-on tractor operation segment of the program receives high marks from farm owners, parents and students for the practicable application of the safety program.

Coming Events

Rural Landowners Workshop

Saturday, March 6 from 9AM to 3PM
Yorkshire, NY

For more information, please contact Lynn Bliven at 585-268-7644 ext 18, 716-699-2377 ext.124, or email lao3@cornell.edu

Sheep Care and Shearing Hands-On Workshop

Saturday, March 27th from 9AM to noon
Rushford, NY

For more information, please contact Lynn Bliven at 585-268-7644 ext 18, 716-699-2377 ext.124, or email lao3@cornell.edu.

New Berry Programming

"Introduction to Commerical Berry Growing for New Growers." Starts on December 14th

For more information contact Colleen Cavagna in Allegany County at 585-268-7644 Ext. 12 (cc746@cornell.edu)

Winter Dairy Management School

January 13th
Portageville, NY

Contact Cindy Keil in the Wyoming County Office at 585-786-2251

Winter Dairy Management School

January 14th

Randolph, NY Fire Hall

Contact Lisa Kempisty in the Chautauqua County office at 716-664-9502 ext. 203

Pasture Expo

Friday, February 19th

Randolph, NY Fire Hall

Contact Lisa Kempisty in the Chautauqua County office at 716-664-9502 ext. 203

Winter Field Crop Update Meeting

Early March 2010

Contact Dean Sprague in the Ellicottville Office at 716-699-2377 ext. 123

Allegany/ Cattaraugus County Staff Contact Information

- Lynn Bliven · Association Team Coordinator · Ag Economic Development, Animal Science, and Natural Resources
Contact: lao3@cornell.edu 585-268-7644 ext. 18
- Dean Sprague · Resource Educator · Field & Forage Crops, Ag and Natural Resources
Contact: das57@cornell.edu 716-699-2377 ext. 123
- Tom Parmenter · Extension Community Educator · Dairy
Contact: tdp6@cornell.edu 585-268-7644 ext. 26
- Lisa Kempisty · Extension Community Educator · Dairy, Livestock
Contact: ljik4@cornell.edu 716-664-9502 ext. 203
- Colleen Cavanga · Extension Community Educator · Horticulture, Master Gardener Coordinator
Contact: cc746@cornell.edu 585-268-7644 ext. 12
- Kabel Kellogg · Extension Community Educator · Horticulture, Master Gardener Coordinator
Contact: kck57@cornell.edu 716-699-2377 ext. 125

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