



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Allegany-Cattaraugus Counties

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# AG News

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

## Supporting Local Farms Growing Local Communities



By: Lynn Bliven

Small farms remain a viable part of the rural landscape in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties, adding value in aesthetics and economics. Diversity in products allow residents and visitors alike to enjoy flavor and quality farm fresh! Take advantage of the Face, Taste, and Place of farms in our region; become aware of the seasonal changes and the opportunities brought about.

Here are a few tips for enjoying local products year round. Start by identifying local producers and discovering the variety of products grown in our region. Some good sources for this type of information: *Allegany & Cattaraugus County Guide to Farm Products, Farmers Markets* and **4-H Market Animal Program**. Copies of the guides and listings of the Farmers Markets locations can be obtained from each Cooperative Extension office. Learning more about the products available and the time of year in which these products are harvested will help you become an effective regional/seasonal buyer. The Annual 4-H Market Sales offer an opportunity to both support youth in your community as well as purchasing top quality meat for your freezer.

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# Agricultural Crops & Animal Sciences

## Pasture Walks Provide Learning Opportunities

By: Lisa Kempisty

Cornell Cooperative Extension agricultural educators facilitate on-farm discussions to help individuals learn more about agricultural production practices. Recently participants had the opportunity to visit Sojourner Farm near Olean to learn about their techniques of rotational grazing livestock, including beef cattle, poultry, and swine. Pierre and Lesa Dionne, enthusiastic owners of Sojourner Farm, shared their experiences of developing an abandoned dairy farm into a productive grazing system.



Participants were able to view their high tensile and polywire fencing, water system using above ground black plastic tubing, housing for their livestock, and learned how they market their high quality, locally produced products. Much of their farm raised products are marketed at the local Farmer's Market, with some customers also visiting the farm to make their purchases. Sojourner Farm sales includes naturally raised products including: eggs and meat from pasture raised chickens, beef from rotationally grazed cattle, and high quality pork from their hogs raised on grass and supplemented with grain.

Dairy farmers also had the opportunity to visit the Bob and Clay Weaver family farm in Randolph to walk through the pastures discussing the value of the nutrients available in the grasses and clovers grazed by the cows. The group of thirty new and experienced producers asked questions to our hosts and shared ideas among themselves on grazing to help each other improve the productivity and profitability of their dairy businesses. With the high input costs to produce a hundred pounds of milk, and low prices for milk received by dairy producers, there was much discussion on managing pastures to ensure optimal pasture intakes to help control purchased feed costs.



Additional pasture walks will be held through the summer and fall months, and we welcome anyone who is interested in visiting an operating farm and learning from other's experiences. The late July pasture walk is being planned at a dairy farm in southeastern Chautauqua County, and will feature a young dairyman establishing his grazing dairy. We will view test plots of forage brassica's planted this spring to help extend his grazing season, providing high quality forage to his herd during the late summer months when forage production in paddocks slows due to lower rainfall. For more information on upcoming pasture walks, please contact Lisa Kempisty at 716-664-9502 Ext. 203, and request to be added to the pasture walk mailing list. Printed materials on grazing dairy and livestock are also available from our Cornell Cooperative Extension office. Assistance to landowners establishing or improving their grazing system is available by contacting our Cornell Cooperative Extension Educators and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff.

# Agricultural Crops & Animal Sciences

## What is Time to a Cow?

By: Tom Parmenter

As a dairy farmer, how observant are you when it comes to recognizing behaviors within your herd of dairy cattle. Little things can make a big difference when it comes to cow activity, likes, dislikes and daily activities can play a major role in cow health and milk production

Several years ago, at the Ruminant Health-Nutrition Conference in Syracuse, Dr. Richard Grant from the Miner Institute gave an excellent presentation on cow behavior. He gave the following simplified time budget:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Hours/Day</u>
Eating	3 – 5 hours (9-14 meals/day)
Ruminating	7 – 10 hours
Drinking	0.5 hours
Lying/resting	10 – 12 hours
Milking parlor	2 – 3 hours



Obviously, there are only 24 hours in a day. There are a number of activities that could impact the time a cow devotes to each activity. However, the one in the list with the most flexibility is probably the lying/resting time. What happens if a cow is forced to reduce her resting time per day? How much might this impact milk production? We have already seen evidence as to the negative effects on health and production of cows standing for long periods of time in holding areas, prior to 3 and 4 times a day milking. Could the same be true when cows are denied resting time for any other reasons?

As a farmer, you are spending time observing cows for heats, foot problems, and a long list of other management related issues. Use this time to look at behavior of the cows and at the same time look at what you have accomplished as the manager of a healthy productive dairy herd. It may well be the only pay raise you get for your hard work this year.

*Information taken from; Cornell Total Dairy Management, Dr. L. E. Chase, Department of Animal Science, Cornell University*

## Considering Farming?

### Guide to Farming in NYS

By: Lynn Bliven

Do you have some idle land that you're unsure what to do with. Thought about farming but didn't know where to turn for information on how to get started. Whether you have 2 acres or 200 the *Guide to Farming in NYS* can help you determine options to fit your land resources as well as your interest.

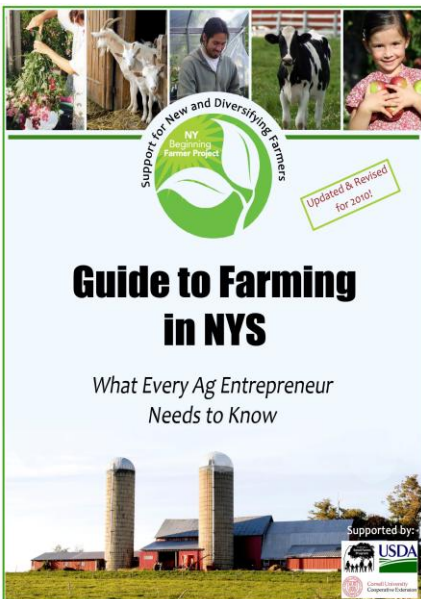
Free downloadable version is available at

<http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu/pages/resources/businessmanage/guide.cfm>

This guide is comprised of a series of individual fact sheets addressing topics pertinent to planning and operating a farm business. It is not enterprise specific. Rather it addresses topics common to operating a farm business in New York State.

The fact sheets are meant to be brief and to the point. Additional details can be found via the web links provided or by calling offices listed. The guide is meant to be a resource for both beginning and established farmers.

For additional information regarding production Agriculture and Natural Resources, please contact Lynn Bliven at (585) 268-7644 ext. 18 or (716) 699-2377 ext. 124.





# Supporting Local Farms Growing Local Communities

(Continued from Cover)

Modern food preservation techniques allow for very efficient storage with a long shelf life for household consumption. Cornell University Cooperative Extension offers many trainings and resources on this topic. The Rural Living Expo, held annually in spring, is one such training opportunity but many others are offered throughout the calendar year.



Canning, root cellaring, and freezing work best when product quality is at its peak. The time of day the vegetables are harvested can influence their quality.

Local producers harvest leafy vegetables in early morning while they still glisten with dew, and handle fresh vegetables carefully to avoid cutting, breaking, or bruising them. For your part, proper storage will extend the life of this quality produce. You will have a high quality finished product if you start with very fresh vegetables. Talk with the producer about your preservation plans. Some products are better suited for one storage method over another. Different varieties of vegetables are grown for different uses.

Meat products can also be purchased from local producers. Whether you are looking for organic, grass-fed, natural or just plain want to know where your meat comes from; local producers are willing to work with you to meet your family's needs. Many meat products are only available seasonally so you will need adequate freezer space to store a year's supply. A 1000 pound market steer will produce approximately 400 pounds of packaged weight ready for the freezer. Many producers will sell you a half or quarter of a beef. A 240 pound market pig will yield approximately 130 pounds when packaged for the freezer. A market lamb will yield 35-37 pounds per 100 pound animal. Poultry will range between 4-6 pounds per bird depending on the species. Freezing halves rather than whole birds will save on space.

What about storage needs? If you are planning to use root cellaring as a part of your storage plans, a 5 foot by 8 foot root cellar will store 30 bushels of produce, plenty of space for the average family. Freezer capacity is rated in cubic feet. One cubic foot of freezer will hold approximately 25 to 30 pounds depending on how items are packaged.

Once you have had the opportunity to taste quality food and have identified with local farmers, you are on your way to making a difference in your community. Farmers enjoy answering questions about their products and business operations. Take time to familiarize yourself with farmers in your community and the products they produce. Each of us can make a difference by supporting local farms.

The Allegany & Cattaraugus County offices of Cornell University Cooperative Extension produce the *Guide to Farm Products*, with support from local farmers, Cattaraugus County Department of Planning and Tourism, Farm Bureau, R.E.A.P and New York Sustainable Agricultural Working Group. This publication lists local sources of farm fresh produce, meats, processed products and handmade items. In addition the guide provides ideas for entertainment opportunities. Experience all there is to learn about agriculture in our region. For your free copy please contact Extension at 585-268-7644 ext. 10.

## Growing Strawberries at Home?

### What you need to know!



**By: Kabel Kellogg**

The information provided in this article is derived from Cornell's Guide to Growing Fruit at Home, a must have for all homeowners interested in fruit production, and is available for purchase at our CCE offices in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties. The Guide to Growing Fruit at Home contains information pertaining to all fruits suitable for production in New York State and provides recommendations ranging from choosing the best varieties to proper pruning methods, and everything in between. This guide is designed to help the homeowner product the best fruit possible.

Some fruits are easier to grow than others, and Strawberries may just be the easiest to grow of all the fruits being produced in New York State. Strawberries aren't much harder to grow than most annual garden crops and bear fruit quickly making them the ideal fruit for beginning fruit growers. Strawberries can handle a variety of weather conditions and climates from tropical highlands to subarctic regions, making them the most widely grown fruit crop in the world.

Now are you ready to start growing strawberries? The first step in any fruit production is selecting the appropriate site. Strawberries will need a site with full sun, good drainage, and a slightly acid pH ranging from 5.5 to 7.0. Growers should begin improving the soil the year prior to planting, especially if the pH needs adjusting. Soil pH can be tested at any of our offices for a small fee and at many of our local pH clinics throughout the year for free.

Strawberries should be planted in early spring where no strawberries, brambles, or crops in the tomato family have been grown for several years to reduce the potential for diseases and to increase crop yield. With most plantings you can expect about 3 years of harvest before a noticeable decline in yield and an increase in disease and insect problems.

There are two main types of strawberries, June-bearing and Day-neutral. June-bearing strawberries are just that, June bearing, and are expected to have one push of a June bumper crop each year. Day-neutral's are ever bearing strawberries that produce fruit from June through October anytime the temperature is between 35 and 85 degrees F. No matter which type of strawberry you chose to plant the growing conditions will be the same and your plants will need plenty of water because of their shallow rooting systems.

When your crop is ready for harvest be sure to only pick berries that have been red a day or two to maximize sweetness and flavor. Strawberries picked early will turn red but will not continue to sweeten. These strawberries may be suitable for jams. For more information on Strawberries and other New York produced fruit pick up a copy of The Cornell Guide to Growing Fruit at Home from our office today.



## Caterpillars Everywhere!

By: Colleen Cavagna

We have been receiving a lot of inquiries about the outbreak of caterpillars crawling all over trees, houses, and anything else in their path in their search for food or a place to construct their cocoons.

Tent Caterpillars have been enjoying themselves this spring eating leaves on the trees of black and choke cherry, apple and other species in the family *Rosaceae*. When the outbreak is especially large, as it is in some areas this year, they may be found eating oak, beech, poplar, willow, fruit trees, and other deciduous trees.

Tent caterpillars have cyclical populations. In other words, every 10 – 12 years we have an outbreak of these pests that defoliate our trees. The outbreak typically lasts for 2-3 years and then their numbers decline again. Natural enemies of Tent Caterpillars begin building up as soon as an outbreak begins, but it may take a year or two before their populations become large enough to help in the control effort. Rodents, diseases, some birds, environmental extremes – like cold weather, and parasites (such as flies and wasps that parasitize the eggs, larvae, and pupae) all do their best to help control the Tent Caterpillars.

What can you do to help end the current cycle at your home?

**Right Now:** If you are in a heavily infested area and the caterpillars have developed their cocoons (some may be on the side of your house, trees, hand rails, etc.), you can remove the cocoons and destroy the pupae before they become moths and begin laying eggs for the next generation.



Eastern Tent Cocoon



**Fall/Winter:** If you see the adult moths (see photo on left) in late June or July they are laying their eggs to over winter for hatching next spring. You can crush the egg masses that you find on twigs.

**Next Spring:** If you miss some egg masses in the fall and see tents next spring, you can destroy the tents (and the caterpillars in them) before they begin feeding on your trees. Just use a stick and remove the tent, you can put the caterpillars in a bucket of sudsy water; don't burn the tents while they are on the tree as you can harm the tree.



Eastern Tent Caterpillar Egg Mass on Twig

**Remember:** Pesticides are usually only effective during the larval stage while the caterpillars are small, and right now most of them are beyond this stage!

There are many types of caterpillars and moths that look similar; these include the Eastern Tent Caterpillar, Forest Tent Caterpillars, Webworms, and Gypsy moths. For more information and detailed photos of each, go online to: <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/oneida/home%20garden/INSECTS/Tent%20Caterpillars%20What%20can%20I%20do.pdf>

Photo Credits: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern\\_tent\\_caterpillar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_tent_caterpillar), <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7111.html>, <http://bugguide.net/node/view/116600/bgimage>

## Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): What Home and Woodland Owners Should Know

New York's quarantine order prohibits the movement of ash seedlings, trees, logs, boards, wood chips, other plant parts, and the insect both within and beyond Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties without certification or compliance agreements issued by Department of Ag & Markets. Additionally, the movement of these regulated wood products into and through the quarantine zone is restricted. More information about the quarantine is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47761.html>

Additionally, a DEC firewood regulation ([www.dec.ny.gov/animals/28722.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/28722.html)) limits the transportation of all species of untreated firewood to no more than 50 miles from its source and prohibits the importation of firewood into NY unless it has been heat treated to kill EAB or other potentially invasive species.

**Compliance by the public with the EAB quarantine and firewood regulations is critical to slowing EAB spread in New York.** People with questions about EAB and related regulations should contact the NYS DEC Firewood Hotline: (866) 640 – 0652. If you suspect illegal transport of potentially infested firewood or nursery stock please contact the DEC TIP hotline at (800) 847 7332 (800-TIPP-DEC).

Homeowners are encouraged to avoid hastily implementing control or chemical prevention strategies unless an EAB infestation is known on your property or is located within 10 to 15 miles. Aggressive and compulsive actions are often not prudent, may not significantly change the impact of EAB, carry financial and environmental costs, and may limit your future control options. However, diligent, thoughtful planning for EAB arrival by woodland owners and municipal governments is warranted. Woodland owners should think carefully about their objectives and talk with a forester to assess if some management activity is warranted.

\* Any harvesting should be completed based on an inventory, management plan, and deliberate silvicultural prescription. Work with professionals to evaluate your need and desire to manage the impact and extent of mortality associated with EAB relative to your ownership objectives.

\* Determine the current status of EAB in New York and consider geographic location and the need for timely actions.

\* Assess the abundance and age of ash in your forest. Consult with a forester to learn how ash abundance in your woodlands, relative to other species, will be affected by the potential complete loss of ash.

\* In young forests or those that have low ash density, you could harvest or kill the ash that compete (shade) with other desired trees. This will retain some ash that are not competing and will ensure that a mixture of species is thriving in the event that EAB arrives and affects your forest.

\* In mature forests or those with high densities of ash, identify potential markets and harvest ash trees to capture current values.

\* Call Before Your Cut: Consult with a forester, DEC or Cooperating Forester, prior to making decisions to cut or not to cut. Woodland owners can learn more about selecting foresters and loggers to assist with management activities through publications available at [www.ForestConnect.info](http://www.ForestConnect.info).



Suspicious specimens or photographs should be submitted to your county Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Association for a no-cost screening and identification. The Cornell-based NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse <http://nyis.info/Insects/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx> is another excellent sources of information.

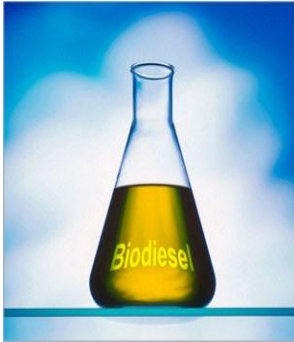
# Natural Resources

## Renewable Energy Workshop

### Practical Applications for Farms and Rural Landowners

Join us **Saturday July 31, 2010** for a half day event focused on renewable resources and the possibilities available for utilizing them. Topics to be covered are Marketing, Utilizing, and Growing Grass as a Bio-fuel, Bio-Diesel, Portable Sawmills, and The Basics of Solar and Wind energy. If you are planning on or are even just considering utilizing the natural resources on your property, this event is for you. Workshops will consist of informational sessions, hands on training, and examples of practical applications.

**So thinking about utilizing renewable resources?  
Come let us help you make that decision on July 31<sup>st</sup>.**



Each participant will be able to participate in 2 workshops, and with class size restrictions preference will be given on a first come basis, so make sure to pre-register before July 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be no walk-ins. **For more information contact Dean Sprague @ 716-699-2377 ext 123 or email him @ [das57@cornell.edu](mailto:das57@cornell.edu).**

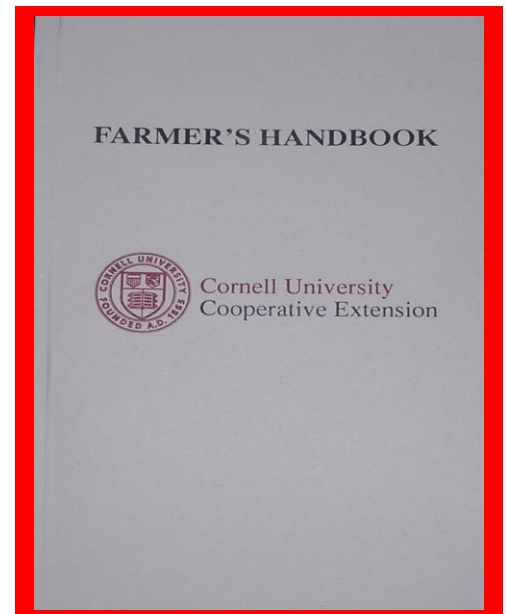
## FARMER'S HANDBOOK

Do you have trouble remembering...

- English/metric conversions?
- How to figure the capacity of a grain bin?
- How many rods in a chain?
- The actual size of a 2 by 4?
- The gestation of a cow, cat, or opossum?
- Seeding rates on corn, alfalfa, or carrots?

Would you like to have information at your fingertips on...

- Temperature Conversions?
- Weights & Measures?
- Lime and Fertilizer?
- Fruit Crops and Gardening?
- Field Crops?
- Livestock?
- Machinery & Engineering?
- Finances and Budgeting?



If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the "Farmer's Handbook" was designed for you with almost 100 pages of information on these and other topics. All this information is in a convenient 4 by 6 1/4 inch pocket sized book. The Farmer's Handbook can be purchased for \$5.00 at either the Belmont CCE Office or the Ellicottville CCE Office.

## PREVENTING ENCOUNTERS WITH BLACK BEARS

### Bear Activity and Sightings Typically Increase During June Breeding Season

As the black bear breeding season approaches its peak, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds Western New Yorkers to remain vigilant and take precautions to reduce negative encounters with black bears.

Black bears have been recently sighted in Boston, Alden, Wales, West Seneca, Springville, Eden and Elma. These recent instances of black bears moving through urban areas have involved mostly sub-adult male bears, who are on their own for the first time and trying to establish a new home range. Due to a lack of natural foods this time of year, bears look to humans to obtain an easy meal from bird feeders, garbage cans, barbecue grills, tents, vehicles, or houses. When bears learn to obtain food from human sources, their natural foraging habits change and their behavior becomes unpredictable



Once a bear becomes a problem, DEC is often asked to relocate the bear. However, bear relocations are rarely effective at solving the problem. Relocated bears often return to their original capture site or simply continue their bad habits at a new location. If the circumstances that led to the original problem are not corrected, other bears will quickly be attracted to the site and the problems will persist. Food-conditioned bears will often become bold and assertive in their quest, potentially leading to property damage or dangerous situations for humans. Unfortunately, this often results in DEC having to euthanize the bear, echoing the adage, "a fed bear is a dead bear."

#### **Important tips to minimize or avoid a negative encounter with a black bear include:**

- Never feed bears.
- If you believe that bears are being fed, intentionally or unintentionally, immediately report it to DEC.
- Stop feeding birds as soon as the snow melts. Birds do not need supplemental food in the summer, when natural foods are most abundant. Clean up all seed fragments and shells left over from winter feeding, as the smell will attract bears.

**(For more tips make sure to visit the NYDEC website.)**



**Incorrect way to store food!**



**Correct way to store food!**

Approximately 1,800-2,500 bears live in the New York's southern bear range, which includes the Catskills and parts of central and western New York. Bear populations, particularly in the southern bear range, have been increasing in number and expanding in distribution over the past decade. Additional information about bears in New York State can be found on DEC's website at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html). For more information or to report a black bear sighting, please call DEC's wildlife office at (716) 372-0645. **Photo credits: www.dec.ny.gov**

## Youth Farm Safety Day

**By: Lisa Kempisty**

Living, working and even visiting a farm can be very dangerous to adults and especially young children and teens. The dangers on farms include powerful farm machinery, unpredictable animals, harsh chemicals and storage areas. A farm safety youth day was held in early May organized by Cornell Cooperative Extension - Cattaraugus & Chautauqua Counties to address these issues. Our dairy farm hosts included Tom and Robin Degenfelder and family, from Cattaraugus and the Rhinehart family from Kennedy. Forty youth and adults participated to learn more about staying safe on the farm.

Instructor Jim Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health (NYCAMH), from Cooperstown, NY presented the two hour training. Information was presented through demonstrations; walk through of the farm, and handouts. The youth did a hands-on evaluation of the farm to recognize hazards that should be corrected to keep the family, workers and visitors safe. This included the farm machinery and required protective guards, working safely around animals, shop and equipment safety, the availability of personal protective equipment, manure storage and silo safety.

The youth and parents watched a simulated power take-off entanglement, demonstrating the need to avoid wearing loose clothing, clothing with strings, and even loose or untied shoe laces, which can become entangled in the fast moving power shaft. The instructor also provided a demonstration showing the dangers of moving parts of operating equipment and how one can easily get caught and become injured. Participants also received some handouts on various farm safety topics, which are available to anyone interested in learning more about staying safe on a farm. For more information, please contact Lisa Kempisty, Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator - Dairy & Livestock, at 716-664-9502 Ext. 203 or Jim Carrabba, NYCAMH, at 1-800-343-7527 Ext. 239.



## What Research Shows about Youth Entrepreneur Training Programs

**Lynn Bliven, Ag team Coordinator**

Entrepreneurship programs can be a lot of fun for youth. Learning skills to connect academics to real business opportunities can be motivation to work harder in school. Entrepreneurship programs also give wide scope to student creativity and energy and offer a positive way for students to channel their talents.

A couple positive benefits of Youth Entrepreneur Training Programs: these programs can create employment opportunities (if students actually start new enterprises) and they provide youth with an opportunity to develop new skills and enjoy new experiences. Other key benefits include a increase of goods and services into the community, builds a stronger sense of community, promotes innovation and resilience, and promotes social and cultural identity giving youth, especially at-risk youth, a sense of meaning and belonging.

A key survey by the Gallup Poll\* indicates that many students have a strong interest in entrepreneurship. Sixty-nine percent of high school students said that they wanted to start their own business. Sixty-eight percent of the students said that it was very important for successful entrepreneurs or business owners to give something, in addition to providing employment, back to the community

\*Supporting research: Gallup Organization, Inc. & National Center for Research in Economic Education. (1994). *Entrepreneurship and Small Business in the United States: A Survey Report on the Views of the General Public, High School Students, and Small Business Owners and Managers*. (Available from the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Inc., Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, MO.)

Youth looking for summer activities? Check out the Nebraska 4-H website [http://4h.unl.edu/esi/games\\_sites.html](http://4h.unl.edu/esi/games_sites.html).

## Coming Events

### **Wednesdays in the Arboretum A Free Gardening Lecture Series**

Nannen Arboretum/ CCE Ellicottville Office  
Wednesdays in July and August  
2 Sessions From 7PM to 8:30PM  
For more information contact Kabel Kellogg @  
716-699-2377 ext 125

### **Alternative Energy/Renewable Recourses Practical Applications Workshop**

Pioneer Central School  
Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9AM to 1PM  
Pre-registration by July 27<sup>th</sup>  
For more information Contact Dean Sprague @  
716-699-2377 ext 123

### **Master Gardener's Home Gardens Tour**

Location: Home Gardens in Alfred, NY  
Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 11AM to 6PM  
For more detailed information please contact  
Colleen Cavagna @ 585-268-7644 ext 12

### **Maple Production Basics for the Beginner**

Belmont and Ellicottville Extension Offices  
Thursday, August 5th from 7-9 PM  
For more information or to pre-register, please  
contact Lynn Bliven 585-268-7644 ext 18

## **Visit the Farm Day Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Free and open to the public. For more information about participating farms please check our website for link to farm description and map of locations.**

For more information go to  
<http://www.ccealleganycattaraugus.org/index.php/agriculture>

### **Allegany/ Cattaraugus County Staff Contact Information**

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Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities