News From CCE

By Andy Fagan, CCE Chemung and Tioga Executive Director

CCE Chemung Welcomes New Ag Development Specialist

Executive Director Andy Fagan is pleased to announce that Liz Alexander will be joining the CCE Chemung staff on May 18th. Here is an introduction letter from Liz:

Hello! My name is Liz Alexander and I am very excited to be joining the CCE Chemung County team as Ag Development Specialist. I am moving to Chemung County from central Indiana, after having just completed my Master’s degree in Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication at Purdue University. My primary research explored the obstacles encountered by female agricultural entrepreneurs in niche markets. Over the last few years, I have also had the opportunity to work on several research projects using agriculture to teach STEM to middle school students and coordinating a workshop series on mentoring.

I first discovered my passion for agriculture as a teenager while volunteering at Conner Prairie, a living history museum with a 19th century working farm. After obtaining my Bachelor’s in Animal Sciences at Purdue University, with a focus on dairy management and reproductive physiology, I returned to serve as an informal agricultural educator. In addition to helping with the management of over 100 head of livestock and maintenance of historic gardens, I had the opportunity to train youth volunteers, develop programs, and engage visitors. This experience led to my decision to pursue a career in working with communities to support agriculture. I couldn’t be more excited to begin my career in extension in Chemung County. I am looking forward to learning from and working with all of you to continue to grow Chemung County agriculture.

Outside of work, I am eager to take advantage of all the beautiful parks and attractions Chemung County has to offer! In my free time I can be found painting, hiking, gardening, travelling, or curled up with a good book and a cup of tea.

Important Websites for Farmers and Gardeners

General Questions & Links for dealing with COVID-19:

https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/

Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources:

https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/

Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers:

https://www.nyfarmnet.org/

Barb Neal, CCE Tioga Agriculture and Horticulture Educator, ban1@cornell.edu

Jingjing Yin, CCE Chemung Horticulture Educator, jy578@cornell.edu

Mary Kate Wheeler, SCNY Farm Business, mkw87@cornell.edu
Virtual Gardening Classes for Beginners #2 – All the Dirt on Soil

Healthy soil is the basis of healthy plants and a healthy garden. When garden soil is in good shape, there is less need for fertilizers or pesticides. In this class, our Master Gardener will be talking about how to build healthy soil and how to create nutrient-rich compost for your garden.

This second class will be held on May 6, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM.

Registration is required. Please email us at jy578@cornell.edu to register and obtain a Zoom link to the online class.

Victory Garden 2020

Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Is this the year you grow your first vegetable garden? Join us for an online class that will teach you all the basics of vegetable gardening. It is FREE--we want everyone to be able to take this class and start growing fresh, healthy and delicious vegetables. This class is for beginners--we will walk you through making a garden, planning your garden beds, preparing soil, planting, garden care and harvesting--everything you need to start your own veggie patch.

If you have never watched an online presentation via Zoom, please watch the following three minute video that shows you how to connect and enjoy the programming: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhTMy8C347U. Also, please join us a few minutes before the presentation is due to start so you get comfortable with the Zoom platform.

Here is the link for the Zoom presentation.
https://cornell.zoom.us/j/5722853064

Meeting ID: 572 285 3064
One tap mobile
+16465189805,,5722853064# US (New York)

Fee
Please enjoy this class for FREE! If you are able, we would gladly accept donations (suggested $10 per family) to help us continue the program. Thank you!

For more information and to donate if you wish, see the Event webpage: http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/events/2020/05/06/victory-garden-2020

Plant Doctor app series available from Purdue University and USDA-NIFA

Tree Doctor, Perennial Flower Doctor, Annual Flower Doctor, Tomato Doctor and Turf Doctor. Purdue’s Plant Doctor app suite is designed to help anyone in the green industry (professional or otherwise) identify pest and disease problems. Now, just released is Shrub Doctor with more than 800 images depicting over 250 common problems on 121 kinds of shrubs.
Dogs trained to detect oak wilt, invasive species

By Krishna Ramanujan Cornell Chronicle, April 15, 2020

Dogs have highly sensitive noses, a trait environmental conservationists, land managers and plant disease specialists are harnessing to sniff out invasive species.

A group at the NY NJ Trail Conference, which hosts the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), a partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), started training dogs in 2018 to recognize scotch broom, an invasive shrub, and spotted lantern flies, invasive pests that feed on grapes, apples and other plant species.

In March, Karen Snover-Clift, director of the Cornell University Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (CUPDDC), helped conservation dog handlers teach the dogs to recognize and seek out oak wilt, a devastating oak disease that has appeared in a few areas in New York state.

By all measures, the dogs previously proved how effective they were at locating an invasive plant and insect. Dog handlers Joshua Beese, from the Trail Conference and Aimee Hurt, a mentor from Working Dogs for Conservation, had also trained the dogs to sniff out oak wilt, a plant pathogen that can kill a tree in just three weeks and once infected, there is no cure.

“When we talk about protecting our forests and keeping out these invasive plant pathogens, our primary goal is to find them as quickly as possible because that increases our chances of having a successful eradication,” Snover-Clift said. “So I think that introducing the dogs to this program would allow us to do that more quickly and more successfully.”

In November 2018, Snover-Clift attended an Agriculture, Food & Environmental Systems In-service conference through CCE, which brought together faculty, educators and industry professionals from various agricultural fields to discuss the latest developments in research and practice. She attended a session on using dogs to identify invasive weeds and insects, presented by Working Dogs for Conservation, a Montana-based group that was training staff at the NY NJ Trail Conference-PRISM.

After the session, Snover-Clift spoke with Linda Rohleder, the director of the NY NJ Trail Conference-PRISM, who was pursuing a grant to determine if dogs could effectively detect key invasive species in New York. Snover-Clift suggested using the oak wilt pathogen for the project because it is a devastating pathogen, it is spreading very slowly and it can smell like stale beer or bread yeast, to humans.

“You need a dog that is probably not the world’s best pet,” Snover-Clift said. “You need one that is very high-energy and will want to keep playing for us … keep finding their target.”

The NY NJ Trail Conference-PRISM team came to Cornell March 12 for two days of oak wilt detection training for Dia and Fagen, a search and rescue Belgian Malinois that Beese was also teaching. The dogs learned fast.

Immediately following the initial training at Cornell and with the help of Rob Cole, the state Department of Environmental Conservation’s oak wilt response incident commander, the group tested the dogs in real-world conditions, where oak wilt had been detected and trees were removed in Ontario and Yates counties. In both locations, the dogs performed extremely well.

In Yates County, for example, a tree had been cut down in February, before spring when beetles can spread the fungus. The dogs each alerted on the positive tree stump and treated logs. In the same area, nine living oaks stood within a root zone where the fungus could spread infection underground. The trees were flagged and numbered, 1-9; both dogs independently showed great interest in trees 1, 7 and 8. Both dogs also alerted on another tree that had fallen the previous year, near the positive oak wilt stump.

Additional sites were visited and encouraging observations noted. All involved felt this was a very successful proof of concept and with support and additional training, Dia and Fagen can help us minimize the damage caused to our oaks by the oak wilt pathogen.

Snover-Clift hopes to secure funding to further train dogs to detect oak wilt and then hopefully branch out to other organisms.

“Knowing what the conservation dogs in Montana have done, I’m sure we can broaden Dia and Fagen’s targets.” Snover-Clift said. “And we have a long list of organisms that are harmful to our crops and natural systems here in New York state. The dogs have shown us that they can do this.”

Conservation dog handler Joshua Beese works with Fagen, a search-and-rescue Belgian Malinois, to detect oak wilt.

Photo: Jenn Thomas-Murphy/Cornell University

Assessing the Need for Masks in Our Agricultural Community

Please take 2 minutes to complete our needs assessment survey here: https://forms.gle/X2CRvq9oZu15WQmK6

CCE Tioga is assessing the need for masks in the Tioga County agricultural community. Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order on April 12, 2020 directing employers to provide essential workers with cloth or surgical masks free of charge to wear when directly interacting with the public. Farm employees are considered essential workers. Even if they are not interacting with the public, it is recommended that essential workers wear masks if their work requires them to be within 6 feet of other people.

Depending on the need and the availability of masks, CCE staff may be able to assist with distribution of masks to farms. If you are interested in receiving a delivery of masks, please use the survey to provide the name and phone number of a contact person on the farm, and instructions for safe delivery while maintaining social distance. A CCE staff person will contact you if we are able to coordinate a delivery.

You are not required to provide your contact information to complete the survey, however you must provide contact information if you would like us to add your business to our list for the distribution of masks.

Direct Support to Farmers and Ranchers: The program will provide $16 billion in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers where prices and market supply chains have been impacted and will assist producers with additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short-term oversupply for the 2020 marketing year caused by COVID-19.

Farm Commons will be providing information and guidance on the program for direct payments to farmers. We look forward to releasing a series of webinars on who is eligible, how to receive compensation, as well as supplemental materials to assist with documentation of actual losses.

USDA Purchase and Distribution: USDA will partner with regional and local distributors, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase $3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat. We will begin with the procurement of an estimated $100 million per month in fresh fruits and vegetables, $100 million per month in a variety of dairy products, and $100 million per month in meat products. The distributors and wholesalers will then provide a pre-approved box of fresh produce, dairy, and meat products to food banks, community and faith based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need.

There was a webinar yesterday hosted by United Fresh addressing the produce component of the program. A recording can be found here: https://youtu.be/Fa_eJIYafY

The following is from the New York Farm Bureau regarding connecting farmers with surplus to the Department of Ag and Markets:

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, in coordination with its partners, is reaching out to New York producers that have surplus agricultural products as a result of COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions. The Department is working to connect affected farmers to potential new purchasing opportunities through various institutions, such as food banks, retailers and more. Governor Cuomo has made a commitment to using local foods to support the emergency food system, and we are looking to connect producers to food banks and those in need. This information will be provided to the Department’s partners and posted on its website.

If you are a producer with surplus product, the Department asks that you send your name, contact information, and the type of product(s) you have in surplus to Lindsey McMah-on at lindsey.mcmahon@agriculture.ny.gov. Please provide this information by Monday, May 4th, 2020, if possible.
WHY A VEGETABLE GARDEN?

Steve Reiners, Professor and Chair, Horticulture Section, Cornell University, Cornell AgriTech

Over the last few weeks, Americans have been forced to deal with a terrible pandemic, often feeling frustrated as to what they can do. One of the best things you can do is take a break from the news and social media and get outside.

Research shows spending time in nature relieve stress and anxiety, improves your mood, and boosts feelings of happiness and wellbeing. Those are all things we need right now. Fortunately, it’s late March, days are getting longer, and we can get outside and start gardening.

For those with kids at home, use gardening to teach science, biology, environmental studies and even math. (How many seeds do I need in a 10-foot row with seeds spaced 2 inches apart?) For some of our more experienced master gardeners, share your expertise, even if it’s a conversation over the fence. There’s no reason not to have some fresh produce even if space is limited. Over the next few months, we will cover lots of things you can do to be successful.

It seems simple enough. Throw a few seeds in the ground, wait two or three months, harvest and eat. Experienced gardeners would rightfully argue that there is a lot more to it, and of course there is. But if you plan well, start small with an optimum location, and are willing to spend a few minutes every day in your garden (getting exercise and breathing fresh air), there is no reason why you can’t be successful the first time out.

Benefits of gardening

First things first – why a vegetable garden?

First is the benefit of becoming more active. Getting outside and digging, planting and weeding will burn calories as well as a gym membership. And if we can get our kids involved and away from their video games and social media, we may create a fitter generation.

Second, how about better tasting vegetables? In the markets right now, you can still find some local produce. New York is a major producer of cabbage, onions, and potatoes and growers will store these in large warehouses and sell them through the winter. But most of the vegetables you see in the market right now are shipped from thousands of miles away. They are often picked at the best time for shipping but not at the peak of flavor or nutritional content. And the varieties they grow are not chosen because they taste great. That’s why our locally grown vegetables from nearby farms taste so much better. Think how good they will be when they are still warm from the garden.

Third, you will know exactly what has been applied to your garden. Using or not using chemicals or fertilizer will be your decision. And those decisions give you better insight into what our local growers go through every day – how to produce and market a crop and do so in a way that ensures a healthy product and sustains their farm and family.

Finally, in a more and more complex world where we rely on technology from cars to computers yet have no idea how they work, isn’t it great to do something as simple as planting a seed, nurturing it, enjoying its beauty and finally its taste.

Things you can do right now…

- Take inventory of your stored seeds. Do you need to order some new ones? Most vegetable seed would be fine for about three years if stored in your house. Make sure you have peas and spinach seed, as well as other greens, as some of those can be planted now.
- Make a list of the vegetables you would most like to grow.
- Clean up everything in your garden from last fall. I have bad news for you – all those old plants and weeds need to be taken out before the season starts.
- Put old plants in your compost or in another part of the yard. Don’t send the plants to the landfill!
- If the soil is dry enough, rake the soil to prepare for planting spinach and peas, which could start now.
- To help heat the soil to get faster germination, after planting spinach or pea seed, cover with clear plastic wrap and hold it down with some soil or rocks. The sun will heat the soil and seeds will jump out of the ground. Once they pop, take the plastic off, roll up and use in the future.
- Follow Steve’s vegetable garden blog at: https://sips.cals.cornell.edu/extension-outreach/gardening-spring-2020/ to learn more vegetable garden techniques
Optimizing Cole Crop Fertility

By Steve Reiners, Horticulture/School of Integrative Plant Science Cornell University, Cornell AgriTech

When it comes to a soil fertility plan for cole crops, there are a few complicating factors. First, cole crops include obvious commodities like cabbage, broccoli and kale but also radishes and turnips. They range from long season, heavy feeders to short season, light feeders. They respond to micronutrients like boron and molybdenum and are affected by drought induced deficiencies of calcium. They are also a group of crops in which soil pH can have an impact on diseases like Clubroot. As with any vegetable crop, let’s start with the optimum pH.

Like most vegetables, all the cole crops do best with a pH around 6.5, just slightly acid. There’s nothing magical about that pH, but it is the level where all the nutrients plants need have their maximum availability. In addition, microbes that feed on organic matter and make nitrogen available are happiest at that pH. Get the pH too low, close to 5.5, and calcium, magnesium, and molybdenum are less available. But some nutrients like manganese, iron and aluminum become too accessible and may become toxic. Get the pH above 7, and phosphorus, boron, zinc and manganese aren’t available.

Of course, a good soil fertility program starts with a soil test and you should try to test your soils at least every three years. And because of the reasons I mention above, the pH may be the single most important thing to know about your soil. Generally, in the northeast, our soils get a bit more acidic over time and limestone is needed. The amount is dependent on your soil type and starting pH with greater amounts needed on heavier soils. If limestone is needed, check your soil test for the calcium and magnesium levels. If magnesium is needed, use a dolomitic lime. If magnesium levels are fine, use a calcitic one. Since lime reacts very slowly with soil, the ideal time to apply is in the fall. But if spring applied, try to spread prior to working the soil. This will ensure that spring plowing/disking mixes the lime into the soil and changes the pH throughout the acre furrow slice.

Most conventional growers will use chemicals to manage Clubroot, a soil borne disease that can leave roots with large galls that eventually with and kills the plants. Organic growers can adjust the pH to 7 to 7.2 which will inhibit the disease. But if you do that, additional phosphorus, boron, zinc and manganese may be needed.

Cole crops need higher amounts of boron than many other vegetables, usually benefitting from an additional 1 to 2 pounds of actual boron on heavier soils and 2 to 3 pounds on lighter, sandy soils. Boron deficiency symptoms include brown, hollow stems in broccoli and cauliflower along with callused stems. Boron can be applied as a broadcast application with other fertilizers in the spring or as a foliar application later in the spring. If using foliar applications, rates should be reduced significantly to reduce toxicities, with rates of only 0.1 to 0.3 pounds per acre of actual boron applied.

Droughty conditions may induce boron deficiencies but are more likely to induce calcium deficiencies, as indicated by tip burn - dried, brown, papery looking areas on leaf edges. Most of our soils in the northeast have lots of calcium so the problem comes about when water uptake is limited as calcium moves with the water in plants. Maintaining uniform soil moisture will be much more effective than adding additional calcium with foliar sprays.

Molybdenum deficiency may be seen on cole crops on light soils where pH is low (perhaps in rotation with potatoes), resulting in a problem called “whiptail”. The leaves are thin and strap like and yields are significantly reduced. Maintaining the proper pH is the best way to minimize the problem but if that can’t be done, a foliar application of only 2 to 3 ounces of sodium molybdate per acre is enough for most crops.

Research is being conducted at Cornell on whether sulfur needs to be part of a fertility program in vegetable crops. For more than a century, high sulfur fuels were used in power plants in the Midwest, resulting in sulfur raining out of the sky in the northeast. The Clean Air Act has resulted in less sulfur deposition and we have seen some crops like alfalfa respond to additions of 30 to 40 pounds of sulfur per acre (often in the form of gypsum). Deficiencies would first be seen on lighter textured soils and fields with no manure history. If sidedressing nitrogen, use ammonium sulfate to provide both N and sulfur.

Recommendations for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are included below. Low soil potassium with high soil phosphorus may result in black petiole on cabbage, especially storage cabbage.
Table 1. Recommended nutrients based on soils tests – direct seeding

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcast and disk-in</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band place with planter if seeding; if transplanting broadcast immediately before planting</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidedress 4 weeks after seeding or 2-3 weeks after transplanting</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If phosphorus levels are high, high P starter solution may provide adequate P nutrition

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**Virtual Meeting Hours for Livestock Questions**

If you have questions or concerns, we have answers.

If you need assistance with any topic regarding livestock we are here to help. Meeting hours will start at 2pm on Wednesday April 15, 2020. If you are interested, you will need to contact Ashley McFarland, directly via email or phone, contact can be found in this email.

Please also have a topic idea that you are interested in learning more about or have a specific question we can address with the audience. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the call next week.

Ashley M. McFarland  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Central NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team  
Regional Livestock Specialist P.A.S.  
5657 State Route 5  
Herkimer, NY 13350  
https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/  
Office: 315 866 7920  
Cell: 315 604 2156
Check out the New York State Integrated Pest Management Pollinator page for two super webinars about establishing and monitoring a pollinator habitat. I especially recommend the second webinar—it was so helpful to identify the good guys working in your garden.

There is even a 360 degree pollinator garden webcam!

Here is the link to the website:  https://nysipm.cornell.edu/environment/pollinators/
Support Local Farms and Local Farmers

Some websites to explore:

**Buy Local Food**—a searchable website with farmers who sell direct to consumers. You can narrow your search for product and location: [https://buylocalfoodny.org/](https://buylocalfoodny.org/)

**Finger Lakes Farm Country**—an agritourism website, but includes maple, honey, and other products available for sale: [https://fingerlakesfarmcountry.com/](https://fingerlakesfarmcountry.com/)

**Meat Suite**: buy quantities of meat from local suppliers: [https://www.meatsuite.com/](https://www.meatsuite.com/)

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### Tioga County Local Farm Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Food Available</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engelbert's Farm Store</td>
<td>263 West River Road, Nichols</td>
<td>A Variety of Organic Meats, eggs, and vegetables</td>
<td>check their Facebook @ Engelbert Farms Store and Creamery for daily updates of available products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Bird Farm</td>
<td>9398 W Creek Rd, Berkshire</td>
<td>24/7 Self serve farm store-chicken, beef, pork, lamb and eggs</td>
<td>kingbirdfarm.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Five Acre Homestead</td>
<td></td>
<td>homemade soaps and lotions</td>
<td>ourfiveacrehomestead.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottomland Farm</td>
<td>838 Prentice Hill Rd, Newark Valley</td>
<td><strong>Now offering Home Delivery to Broome, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties, farm raised pork and chicken</strong></td>
<td>bottomlandfarm.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spook Hill Farms</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beef, pork</td>
<td>spookhillfarms.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hortsmann Hills Farm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>hortsmannahillsfarm.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side Hill Acres</td>
<td>79 Spencer Rd Candor, Berkshire</td>
<td>Farm Store offering goat milk, cheese, eggs, beef, pork, chicken, jams, jellies, variety of gluten free products</td>
<td>sidehillacres.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marz Farms</td>
<td>3624 Wilson Creek Rd, Berkshire</td>
<td>pork</td>
<td>marzfarm.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Haus Farm</td>
<td>1042 Brown Rd Berkshire</td>
<td>online ordering of beef and pork</td>
<td>heritagehausfarm.com</td>
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With new barley variety, Cornell leads way for brewers

By Krishna Ramanujan Cornell Chronicle March 26, 2020

Cornell researchers have just released a new variety of New York-adapted spring barley, to meet needs created by a 2012 Farm Brewery Bill that expects New York’s craft brewers to steadily increase the amount of state-sourced ingredients used in their beer.

As of last year, the bill required that New York’s brewers source 60% of their ingredients from New York growers. By 2024, brewers will need to acquire 90% of their ingredients from state sources. The law aims to revitalize the upstate economy by supporting economic development for farmers as well as brewers.

Demand for barley and hops used to make beer is high: The Empire State has the second-highest number of breweries of any state in the U.S., with a total economic impact of $5.4 billion in 2018, according to New York state statistics.

“What the New York State Legislature didn’t realize [when they passed the 2012 law] was that there was no malting barley being grown in New York,” said Mark Sorrells, professor of plant breeding and genetics. While barley for animal feed has been grown in New York state, malting barley had not been since Prohibition, which went into effect 100 years ago.

As a result, farmers scrambled to grow varieties found in western states and plant breeders began working on New York-adapted varieties that are resistant to local fungal pathogens and pre-harvest sprouting in the state’s wet climate. Dormancy while the grain is on the plant is important because Western barley varieties grown in New York often sprout on the plant prior to harvest, making it unacceptable for malting.

Now, Sorrells, his graduate student Daniel Sweeney, and colleagues, have developed, in record time, a locally adapted variety of malting barley.

“I made our first [breeding] crosses in 2016,” Sorrells said, in reference to mating two parent barley varieties to combine favorable traits.

Sorrells and colleagues sped up their breeding program by using advanced molecular marker techniques to identify favorable genes and then raising nurseries of breeding lines in New Zealand, during winters in the U.S. The team also has more varieties in the pipeline, including winter barley.

“We really need both kinds of varieties,” said Gary Bergstrom, professor of plant pathology, and the project’s other co-principal investigator. Winter barley is planted in the fall, harvested in early July and often yields up to 30% more than spring barley, which is planted in April and is harvested in late July.

“We recommend that farmers plant some of each to spread out their risk,” Sorrells said.

The New York-adapted spring malting barley has just been released to a handful of pre-selected farmers, who will grow a stockpile of certified seeds. Next year, the new seed will be distributed to up to 30 farmers around the state who have learned to grow barley, with the help of Cornell Cooperative Extension educators. Malt made from

CCE extension educator Kevin Ganoe, left, inspects a barley field with grower Corey Mosher. Photo by Gary Bergstrom
the first New York-adapted barley should be available for brewers to purchase by fall 2021.

In 2014, Cornell led efforts to educate New York farmers to grow malting barley.

Grain from the available varieties, adapted to the climates of Western states and Canada, was not well adapted to for New York’s wet climate, and the plants were susceptible to pathogenic fungi, one of which creates a toxin called deoxynivalenol.

“That’s one of the biggest restrictions, we need to control the level of toxin below one part per million,” Bergstrom said. “If it goes above, it won’t be salable to a malt house.”

In 2014, Bergstrom and Sorrells teamed up with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) educators to inform farmers about best growing practices for malting barley. That year, less than half the grain grown in New York met quality standards for use in malt houses; by 2017, more than 70% of the grain met standards, thanks to the team’s efforts.

The team, including CCE crop educators Aaron Gabriel, Kevin Ganoe, Christian Malsatzki, and Mike Stanyard, has since led educational field days, consultations with growers and created a webpage full of useful information for growing barley. It also hosts an Empire State Barley and Malt Summit each December.

“That’s been a terrific meeting that gathers the whole [New York craft beer] industry,” Bergstrom said.

John Hanchar, a CCE farm business management specialist, has developed budgets for both active and prospective barley growers, while Cheryl Thayer, a CCE local food distribution and marketing specialist, developed supply chain surveys to measure industry needs.

“Not only is this [Born, Bred, and Brewed] program important for the research and developing a barley variety that is suitable for New York’s climate, but it’s also been funding a series of extension experts throughout the state,” said Julie Suarez, associate dean of government and community relations in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “So everything that we do at the college is translated right from the minds of our faculty members, right through extension into the farm community.”

Suarez has facilitated acquiring state funding for the project through New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the New York State Legislature and the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority.

Office Hours for Commercial Vegetable Growers

Got Commercial Vegetable Questions? Get live answers every **Thursday Night, 7pm to 8pm**, starting April 16!

CCE Vegetable Specialists across the state are teaming up to host a digital office hour every Thursday from via Zoom and/or phone. Growers can email or text pictures to specialists for discussion during the office hours. It’s also an opportunity for growers to speak with each other about challenges and opportunities.

**What to expect?**

- Dynamic troubleshooting with CCE Specialists
- Quality, farmer-driven production conversations
- Photo diagnostics/ID lessons

Join us each week at: [https://cornell.zoom.us/j/450507028](https://cornell.zoom.us/j/450507028) or by calling 1-646-518-9805, meeting ID: 450 507 028

Accepting pre-submitted photos and questions at [vegofficehours@gmail.com](mailto:vegofficehours@gmail.com)
USDA’s New CRP Pilot Program Offers Longer-Term Conservation Benefits

WASHINGTON, April 29, 2020 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will open signup this summer for CLEAR30, a new pilot program that offers farmers and landowners an opportunity to enroll in a 30-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract. This pilot is available to farmers and landowners with expiring water-quality practice CRP contracts in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay regions. The program signup period is July 6 to Aug. 21, 2020.

For more information, click here.

Disinfectants Information

Be careful with disinfectants! There is a lot of inaccurate information out there and it can be dangerous. NYS IPM’s blog has a post with lots of information from Cornell’s Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP)

http://blogs.cornell.edu/nysipm/2020/04/25/the-pesticide-management-education-program-warns-of-unregistered-or-off-label-claims-for-disinfectant-use/

Selling your Farm Produce Online—A webinar


Are there Herbicide-resistant super weeds in NY? You can be part of finding out.

Are they in New York State? Yes! Where are they? We're going to find out! A statewide weed herbicide resistance screening project will start this year. Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie, specialty crop weed science, Dr. Bryan Brown, IPM weed management specialist, and Dr. Toni DiTommaso, soil and crop sciences, will find out. Help them to help you!

Webinars:

Keep Forests Healthy While Social Distancing May 5 1-2:20 ET

This webinar highlights the Keep Forests Healthy Assessment and Scorecard. A tool to help landowners identify risks and strengths to the long term health of their woodlands. We will explore what makes a healthy forest and how to assess that in your woods. To do this, we will learn key concepts and share the Keep Forests Healthy Assessment and Scorecard. This is a great tool for landowners, stewards and forest professionals.

Sprucing up your knowledge of IPM for Spruce tree, May 5, 2-3:30 ET

Like all trees, spruces are susceptible to pests, chemical exposure, and general stress which can make them vulnerable to disease and decline. This webinar will review spruce tree biology and the pests that compromise them. Attending this webinar will help you to gain a better understanding of the types of damage spruces may encounter.

A Restoration Strategy for Future New York Woodlands, May 20, 12 noon and 7pm

In 2017, Cornell Cooperative Extension developed a novel and innovative approach known as “slash walls” to address the two greatest barriers to successful forest regeneration: deer impacts and competing vegetation. This strategy has since been utilized successfully on over 400 acres at Cornell’s Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. The webinar will focus on slash wall costs, construction methods, effectiveness, suitable applications, benefits, outcomes, and if/how to use on your property or property that you manage. If prompted, use the password “Cornell”.

Farm Auction Update

The auction at Our Green Acres is scheduled for May 9th, but may need to be postponed again due to COVID-19 restrictions. Check the website to learn of date changes and to see the equipment to be sold.

For more information, see the listing at: https://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/3408688.html
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