

The Gardener's Column

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2001

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

A source for free perennials

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

Autumn is a great time to plant perennials. The farm markets and garden centers have this season's pots discounted for sale. And, if you have already purchased plants but they are still in pots, now is a great time to get them into the garden.

But those cost money, some gardeners are able to get free perennials every spring and fall from a reliable source — their own garden. Fall division of plants is a great way to increase the volume of your garden, maintain the health of your plants and, if you have enough already, meet new people and make lasting friendships.

The first thing most people ask me is "Why would I want more of the same thing?" The simple answer is 'design impact.' One plant in a garden doesn't have the same impact as five of the same forming a repeating pattern, and five of the same plants spread out over a garden area don't have the same impact as those same five grouped. In a garden that is viewed from a distance or by moving vehicles, mass planting makes a world of difference. But, use caution when being critical about someone else's garden — beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

So, what do you do to get these free plants? Get out your shovel, pitchfork and trowel and we'll go to work.

Bearded Iris should be the first on the list if you haven't already done them in August. These beauties are somewhat high maintenance plants because they do best if they are deadheaded after blooming, get their leaves trimmed to 6-8 inches in July and are lifted and divided every 1-3 years.

After trimming back the leaves dig under the rhizomes with a pitchfork and lift the whole clump. Separate the group and inspect each. Rhizomes affected with soft rot should be discarded. If evidence of borers is found, dark streaks in the leaves and signs of holes or soft or mush rhizomes use a clean knife to cut away the affected part and replant the remaining healthy rhizome in another area. It is recommended to move the iris bed if you start to see a population of borers.

Avoid replanting the rhizomes in a circle with the fans on the outside since they grow outward and you will have a doughnut with a hole in the center. In any case you'll need to leave one fan of leaves per rhizome and you'll be rewarded with more flowers next season.

Remember to sterilize your tools with 'Lysol' or a 10% bleach solution before moving on to other plants.

Siberian Iris are much less maintenance. They will still benefit from deadheading but only require division every 6-10 years or when the centers become open and the blooming decreases.

For these plants you'll want two pitchforks. First, dig around the outside of the plant far enough away to get a large percentage of the roots and lift the entire plant. Second, place the two pitchforks back-to-back in the center of the plant (that is often a dead area) with the tines intersecting. Using a push-pull on the handles will separate the plant into two clumps.

Repeat the process to divide them into smaller clumps. Siberian Iris are best divided in the fall, you can do spring but must increase the water to the plants to help them settle in.

You have already read how much I like hosta plants. Part of that is due to how easy they are to divide. Technically you don't have to divide hosta more than every ten years or so but I split out a section from my favorites every year. In spring or fall remove a wedge from the clump. Just slice down with a clean spade into the clump making sure you have a portion with tops and roots and relocate the wedge to a new spot. I find it easier to see the shape of the overall plant to be divided in the spring and easier to space the newly divided plant wedges in the fall so take your pick. Refill the hole in the original clump with compost and you will be rewarded with a happy, healthy plant.

Your trowel is all you'll need for plants that form small plants-lets. This includes violets, foxglove and some astilbe. Just lift the whole little plant and replant it.

Those are the basic techniques you'll need to divide your garden and increase your plant volume. By sharing and exchanging with neighbors, friends and other gardeners you can have healthy plants and still increase your diversity.

My early gardening learning experiences were as a laborer with friends who needed the help and my reward was new plants.

To be sure of which method is best, whether spring or fall is better, and how frequently specific plants need division you're best to consult a book. My two favorite references are *Herbaceous Perennial Plants* by Allan Armitage of the University of Georgia, Stipes Publishing and *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, Timber Press.

Enjoy the fall, it is a great time to garden.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Extension, 4-H week announced

ALBION — The Orleans County Legislature declared the week of Oct. 6-13 as a tribute to the Cornell Cooperative Extension and National 4-H.

The Legislature this week issued the proclamation, praising the Extension for its working relationship with local governments. The Extension, an educational outgrowth of Cornell University, has 450 Extension educators and 50,000 volunteers who help 6 million New Yorkers annually, legislators said.

The 4-H Youth Development program serves about 1,000 county children and young adults.

The proclamation was presented to Deb Roberts, the Extension director in Orleans County.

Cooperative Extension to host series

A new cooking and nutrition series for parents and children is being offered by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County. "Little Cookers" is designed to help parents and children. The series will teach the importance of healthy eating habits, as well as proper serving sizes to coincide with both parents and children.

Parents are encouraged to bring children to the classes, and includes a lesson for children and a group activity at the end of each class.

Each class will be offered twice per day. The first class runs 9:30 to 11 a.m., and the second runs 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Extension building, 420 East Main St., Batavia.

Call Nutrition Educator Maryellen DeFeo at 343-3040 ext. 105 for more information. The series will include:

■ **FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID** — Adults will learn about the food guide pyramid through a series of activities.

■ **SAFETY** — Adults on Oct. 19 will learn about safety issues within their homes. Children will work on safety with Henry.

■ **"STRIVE FOR FIVE"** — Adults will learn why it's important to look at labels for key vitamins and nutrients. Children will listen to a veggie story and play the Food Guide Pyramid Twist.

■ **TABLE BEHAVIOR** — Adults will learn how to set and clear a table. Children will learn how to set and clear a table, and about appropriate dinnertime behavior.

■ **SHOPPING BEHAVIOR** — Adults will learn how to curb their child's behavior at a store. They will also learn how to teach children the value of money. Children will learn about commercials and how they take advantage of them.

Cooking, nutritional programs on menu for area children

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THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

4-H car wash will benefit NYC

ALBION — The Barn Buddies 4-H Club will offer car washes from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday at the Ames parking lot, West Avenue.

Half or more of the proceeds will benefit relief efforts in New York City.

The washes are by freewill donation.

Cider and doughnuts will be sold.

The Daily News • Thursday, September 20, 2001

Car wash aids NYC relief

ALBION — Proceeds from a car wash sponsored by the Barn Buddies 4-H Horse Club Saturday will benefit New York City relief efforts. The car wash is 2 to 6 p.m. in the Ames store lot, Route 31.

Donations will be accepted. Cider and donuts will also be for sale.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2001

The Gardener's Column

Just taking time to linger

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

It took 24 hours. By the end of that time we had talked with everyone of our family and friends that live or worked in or traveled out of Boston and New York City. Everyone of them was safe.

I don't need to go into the details from Sept. 11 for you, I'm sure you know them well by now. But, I'm also sure that such a cataclysmic event will make us think differently about many things. How we will look at people will change, as will how we look at our surroundings.

My very good friend, Brian, lives in Long Island and works in New York City - not at the World Trade Center but relatively nearby. His office looks at up-town Manhattan and his ride up the elevator views the twin towers. I think he summed it up best by saying "If I had known that was going to be the last time I would see them (the twin towers), I would have lingered."

I plan on lingering a little more now. I want to notice the little things that the pace of life makes me miss.

I saw a wild turkey along the road on the drive into work today. The sun was shining on its dark feathers and accenting the red in its tail and head.

My cat, MacGuyver, wakes up before dawn to move to the east window in our bedroom,

he watches for the bunny there. His whiskers and ears get all pointed forward and he is positively attentive. He's never gotten all that close to a bunny but that doesn't really matter.

I saw a shiny penny on the ground - heads up - I was going to pick it up but didn't, I'd only drop it into my bag or the penny jar. I could only think of the joy in a child's face as he or she found the treasure, far more valuable to him or her than to me.

I'm going to look closely at sunsets and try to watch for the change in colors. I want to drive along the lake during all types of seasons and weather just to see how it changes.

They feed the calves at about the same time as I drive by in the morning. I like to see the girls out and starting the day. Yesterday I saw the long line of cows heading back to the barn ... each one following the internal clock that told them it was time to go.

The geese are starting to congregate in the river, they know it's almost time to go too. Last spring I remember seeing and hearing more geese than ever before, maybe this fall will also be good for the flocks to migrate.

Linger over the things that you love. Find time to call a friend or relative you haven't talked to in a while. Watch the sun rise or set like it's the first time. We are very fortunate in all the beauty that surrounds us but we have to hurry so much that we miss it.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Farm & Garden

NOTES FROM ORLEANS COUNTY CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

It's that time of year: It's apple harvest time

By Deborah Roberts
The Journal-Register

Everywhere you look the early signs are there. The goldenrod and soybeans are turning yellow and here and there is a brilliant orange maple.

Fall is beginning here in Orleans County and for us that means we are in the middle of the apple harvest season.

Our county ranks third in New York state in apple acreage and New York state ranks second in apple production in the U.S. (based on the 1997 Census of Agriculture). That means we are blessed with such a

multitude of varieties of apples and apple products that other places can only dream about.

The most common question about apples you will hear is "Which apples are best for what?" People can be pretty opinionated about that. Some folks prefer the old variations such as Tydeman Reds, Rhode Island Greenings and Northern Spy. From an economic standpoint commercial growers don't grow these varieties any more, but there are a few individuals out there who do keep the past alive.

New varieties are continually being developed to increase keeping

quality, meet market preferences and to help economic efficiency. It takes many years to bring a new variety to the grow-able and marketable point. Then it often takes a few more years for a new variety to become popular. Some of the newer varieties you will find on shelves right now are the multi-purpose Ginger Gold, the crisp Gala and the juicy, crunchy Honeycrisp.

We are currently at about the midpoint of the apple harvest. Already widely available are Paula Reds, Jonamacs, MacIntosh and Cortlands. Some Twenty-Ounce are

ready and yet to come are the Empires, Delicious, Jonagolds, Romes, Mutsus and Fujis.

In general for cooking or baking most people will recommend Cortlands, Twenty Ounce, Ida Reds and Mutsus. My personal favorite for pie is Twenty Ounce, partly because it only takes a couple of apples for one pie.

For eating, everyone has their own special preference so my recommendation is to try different varieties until you find the one that you like best.

I would be remiss not to mention that special autumn drink that is

served hot and cold this time of year, apple cider. Cider presses in the county are up and running now that several varieties of apples are available. Multiple varieties give cider its depth of flavor and you will notice it change as the season passes. Because of concerns over the safety of cider, area cider makers use various means of treatment to ensure the healthiness of their product.

So, if you haven't yet, celebrate the changing season by taking a taste of an Orleans County apple!

Deborah Roberts is the director of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2001

HORSE Club news

*Submitted by
member Audrey Rath*

The past year has been a fun and exciting one for the 4-H HORSE Club. We were involved in a lot of different activities.

In October, we took part in achievement night, made pumpkin baskets and participated in the Star Kit sales.

In December, we participated in Holiday Faire and our club made wreaths for display.

In January, we took part in military mail-o-grams and made more than 225 cards.

In February, we all did Public Presentations, a nine-to-12-minute talk with posters showing how to or illustrating a horse-related area.

In March, we took part in five-star testing to test our knowledge of horses. Some of our members took part in Share the Fun, a learning experience involving all 4-H areas, crafts and small animals.

For Community Service, we supplied a meal for a needy family at Easter, cleaned the flower bed at the fairgrounds and bought canned goods every month and donated them to the needy of Orleans County.

In the spring, we participated in plant sales to raise money for our club. The plants were provided by Kirby's.

We also participated in the HPDC Leaders Show and the Orleans County Fair.

We are all looking forward to having another great year.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

Briefly

Diabetes support group to meet

Medina Hospital will host a diabetes support group from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in the hospital board room.

The topic of the meeting is "Keeping Life Sweet With Artificial Sweeteners." Presenters will be from Ontario Foods.

For more information, call Community Partners at 798-8430.

Lake Country Pennysaver September 9, 2001

More Garden Talks with Rochelle

at Swan Library

4 North Main St., Albion

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

* Refreshments - FREE Program

Sept. 12th

"Seasonal Balance" - Layering & Bulbs

Sept. 19th - "Try It" New & Different Plants

Sept. 26th - "Wildlife" - The Good, the Bad & the Slimy

The Journal-Register

Briefly

Barn Buddies say thanks

Thanks to the support of many people the Barn Buddies 4-H Club was able to reach our goal of \$250 to purchase a water buffalo.

It will get sent to an Indian or Filipino family in poverty. The water buffalo will help lead the family out of poverty and get them back on track to a normal life.

The buffalo will be used to plow fields to grow crops for food. The milk that the buffalo produces will be sent to market to bring in extra profits for the family.

The club would like to thank everyone who donated their receipts at Tops or sent in receipts or donations. Our club especially would like to thank Tops for letting us leave a bin for Tops customers to donate their receipts to us.

If it wasn't for the people who donated money or receipts we would probably still be saving for the buffalo. So thank-you to everyone who helped us reach our goal.

Stephanie Boyle,
Barn Buddies
president 2000-2001

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2001

Doesn't it just Burn You Up?

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



To say that we have had a hot, dry summer is to be just a little obvious. Everyone knows it. We felt it in the air temperatures. We saw it in the plants. We do have an advantage over the plants, however, since we can travel to cooler locations, go inside to air conditioned spaces, or go and get ourselves a drink. Because of that we can tolerate more and recuperate faster than the plants.

Western New York State through to the Genesee Valley has been labeled as a "drought" area by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Although, not all counties of the Western New York region have been "declared" as drought areas by the State or Federal Government. The August 6, 2001 New York Weekly Crop and Weather Report indicated that, "Persistent hot, dry weather continued to take its toll on New York's field crops. The only appreciable rain that many areas received came in the form of quick thundershowers. Most of the moisture was lost to evaporation and never made it to the roots of the plants. All areas are in need of rain, and it is "crunch time" for many crops. Field corn, dry beans, and hay fields were showing extreme stress. Plants have gone into premature tassle and blossom before they have been able to gain size. Some plants have stopped growing altogether. Soybeans, generally able to handle this type of weather a little better, were also looking weak."

By September 2, the Weekly Crop Report published by the New York Agricultural Statistics Service through the USDA reported that "significant rainfall was received in many areas helping to green up hay fields but having little effect on drought stricken corn and soybeans. Statewide, field crop conditions were extremely variable due to the summer long drought - some areas have actually fared relatively well while others, sometimes in the same county, report significant yield reductions to all crops... Monroe County reported the recent measurable rain showers over the last ten days have had a positive effect on sweet corn and other vegetable crops. Vegetables were coming out of the field at a steady rate."

In ornamental plants you may notice the symptom called 'Leaf Scorch.' Leaf scorch is a physiological problem which can occur in any kind of plant. It can be caused by a number of things including transplanting, soil compaction, nearby excavation, chemical injury, poor soil, or limited room for root growth, excessive reflected heat, or unfavorable weather conditions like drought. Combinations will also cause leaf scorch. You may notice trees in a city 'tree pit' environment that have leaf scorch even in summers where they get regular rain. In that case they could be suffering from limited root space, soil compaction, poor soil, and reflected heat from buildings, roads, and walks.

The symptoms of scorch include yellowing and/or darkening of tissues between the main leaf veins or along the leaf margins or edges. These are sometimes accompanied by dark angular spots in the discolored areas. Entire leaves may brown and wither when scorch is severe. Plants affected by scorch may lose many leaves during late summer and exhibit some twig dieback, however, they often recover if the cause of stress on the plant is not chronic.

Sometimes severely affected plants may be fertilized and watered to help overcome scorch. Fertilizer applications should be made in late fall or spring. Proper watering by thoroughly wetting the soil to a depth of six inches or by using a 'root needle' is especially important. Watering once every one to two weeks during dry periods is sufficient, in most cases, to reduce or eliminate the potential for or effects of scorch.

Take a few minutes to walk your property and inspect the trees and shrubs. By looking for those that show scorch symptoms after this hot, dry summer you will have a good idea of which are going into the winter with stress and can plan to give them a little extra care. Let's hope for a little more rain at nice even intervals!

Celebrating The Diversity

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension

The winter squash are being harvested! To that some would say "Ho-hum, butternut and acorn squash." But, when it comes to winter squash that is only the tip-of-the-iceberg. Winter squash is a large group of vining and bush plants that produce fruit that is both delicious and ornamental! The fruit from winter squash can range in size from one-pound 'Delicata' or sweet potato squash to nearly thirty-pound 'Hubbard'.

Most people are familiar with the typical acorn squash. They tend to average in the two-plus-pound range, be dark-green skinned and sometimes have orange spots. The meat is moist and nutty. Were you aware of the other varieties? The golden acorn resembles the green variety in its moist texture, but tends to be a bit sweeter. Choose those with a deep-golden color with green flecks.

Butternut is another old, traditional favorite with its creamy, butter-like flavor and soft, golden-yellow color. For optimum sweetness choose the smaller fruits! Butternut is one of the squash that is used extensively for processing. For the home gardener there are bush growing varieties. These won't take up so much garden space. In a squash trial project report filed by the Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County, the "bush butternut was quite dramatic at 5 feet tall by 5 feet in diameter. Its leaves were the size of the Elephant Ear ornamental." This plant tends toward high yields of three-plus-pound fruit with a relatively small seed cavity.

If you remember your grandmother's squash garden you probably remember 'Hubbard'. With its shape more similar to a warty football with extended tips and its color ranging from blue-green to blue-gray it forms the stuff of memories. My memory of hubbard squash is the effort required to break through the tough skin. My grandfather had the responsibility of preparing the hubbard for cooking. To do that he would spread newspapers on the basement floor and drop the squash until it broke open! The meat is dense and yellow. But, because this squash can grow quite large both in vine and in fruit, it may not be the best choice for the home gardener. This plant needs lots of space and water!

In addition to the traditional blue color of hubbard squash there are golden and red-orange varieties. But these are true hubbards with thick skin and should not be confused with 'Delicious'. Golden Delicious squash has red-orange, tender skin and thick orange-yellow meat. This is another squash that is used extensively for processing. The meat is sweeter and moister than hubbard is and the preparations needed to cook it are easier! The colors in this squash put it high on the table decoration list but the fruit can still be in the 15-plus-pound range. Personally, I choose slightly smaller golden delicious squash unless I have a large group to feed!

The Spaghetti squash is a fun squash that has a mild flavor. The firm, golden-yellow, oval fruit can be grown as both vine and bush varieties and have become popular and much more common in the marketplace recently. Clean the seeds and cook the meat as you would for other squash but don't scoop it out with a spoon. Instead, pull it out with a fork and you will be rewarded with fluffed up strands that justify the name of the plant. Spaghetti squash works well with sauce and makes a good pasta substitute.

Buttercup squash has sweet, smooth meat that is somewhat drier than other squashes. These are dark-green fruits in the 5-pound range that have skin slightly flecked with gray and dark-gold meat. The noticeable difference is the 'turban-like' top that buttercup has. This turban end looks similar to a naval orange and is typical of the fruit.

Moving into a fruit that is so ornamental that it can be mistaken for a gourd we come to 'Turk's Turban'. This green, orange, and white striped and flecked squash looks something like a cross between a flying saucer and an up-side-down cow's udder. There are three to four turban humps and the fruit can be an average of about 5-pounds. According to "The Independent" a London, England based newspaper, Turk's Turban Squash is a Victorian heritage variety that was nearly lost! Thank you, seed savers.

The diversity of this group is what makes it so very interesting since no one type can really describe winter squash as a whole. Old, traditionalists will think only of acorn and butternut and not consider the benefits that all of the others bring to the table. Orleans County is like that, in some ways. There are those that say you are "just a bunch of farmers" and everything done in the county should be just for farmers. When looking only at land use you may believe that statement, as most of the county is agricultural and not residential or industrial. But, our hearts and the census tell us that the county is more than just farmers. Of the 44,171 people living here 95% of employed persons 16 years and older list their primary occupation as something other than farming. In fact, this group is split out into 16 additional categories! It is this diversity that makes Orleans County so wonderful. Don't let anyone tell you that you are 'just a bunch of farmers' or that the available entertainment, education, and opportunities should only be for farmers.

I didn't have to look too far to find a great selection of winter squash to test for this article. Orleans County local farm stands have started displaying some varieties and Van Lieshouts in Barre Center has a terrific selection. Celebrate the diversity found in all things. Like the color, texture, and sweetness of winter squash!

Lake Country Pennysaver October 7, 2001

THE BOOK SHOPPE
519 Main Street Medina
798-3642

JEFF-JA TRUCKING
10515 Ridge Road Medina
735-9638

DON BECK, INC.
850 Main Road Corfu
599-4696

EATON INSURANCE AGENCY
11197 Maple Ridge Road Medina
798-2033

J.D. BUCKLEY & SON INC.
Rt. 237 Stafford, NY
343-5960

KLINO COLLISION
10406 Ridge Road Medina
735-7514

MAIN ST. TV & APPLIANCE
339 N. Main Medina
798-0494

BILL'S SUB SHOP
8 Main Street Lyndonville
765-2893

FLORISTRY BY TRUDY
530 Main Street Medina
798-2421

FROMAN REALTY
420 Main Street Medina
798-9980

MEDINA VETERINARY CLINIC
3144 N. Gravel Road Medina
798-0274

DONNA BUSHOVER INSURANCE
419 Main Street Medina
798-0220

OATKA MILK PRODUCTS COOPERATIVE
Batavia, NY

MIDDLEPORT TRACTOR
Route 31 Middleport
735-3200

PINEVIEW FEED DEPOT
8999 Pearson Road Middleport
735-7406

CANALSIDE REALTORS
228 W. Academy Street Albion
589-6000

ORLEANS VETERINARY SERVICES
3711 Tuthill Road Albion
589-6297

MARK'S PIZZERIA
549 Main Street Medina
798-5377

PHOTOS BY BRUCE
13382 Ridge Road Albion
589-9109

NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS
Medina - 798-3311
Albion - 589-9030

APOLLO FAMILY RESTAURANT
West Avenue Albion
589-4551

STOVROFF REALTY
510 Main Street Medina
798-1949

LAKE PLAINS AGRI-PARTS
10789 Ridge Road Medina
798-2800

SUSAN DEGNAN (Mary Kay)
344 W. Bank Street Albion
589-6849

PROGRESSIVE CAPITAL
206 Hamilton Street Suite B Albion
589-8592

SERVICE ON SITE
Route 31 Middleport, NY
735-3691

BATAVIA CYCLE, LAWN & GARDEN
Route 5 Batavia
343-7726

FERRELLGAS
655 Ellicott Street Batavia
343-9460

NEWBOULD GENERAL CONTRACTING
Barden Homes Albion
589-8873

GORDON-FISK
Rts. 63 & 18 Lyndonville
765-2880

FRONTIER HEATING & CHIMNEY
115 E. Bank Street Albion
589-2525

BLISSETT'S
447 Main Street Medina
798-1033

CASE-NIC COOKIES
439 Main Street Medina
798-3337

WOODROE REALTY
445 Main Street Medina
798-1934

CURVIN'S/DOWNTOWN VIDEO
Main Street Medina, NY

RICK & RON'S
11205 Ridge Road Medina
798-5540

DANNY'S EQUIPMENT INC.
122 W. Albion St. Holley
638-5793

BRAZZELL AUTOMOTIVE
11727 Million Dollar Hwy Medina
798-2818

BARNES METAL FINISHING INC.
10825 Maple Ridge Road Medina
798-4817

WATERPORT LAWN & GARDEN
2054 Eagle Harbor-Waterport Road
682-4613

BASHFORD'S FRUIT FARM
11074 Ridge Road Medina
798-6225

GAINES FAMILY RESTAURANT
14069 Ridge Road West Albion
589-2160

COOK'S LOCK & KEY
14069 W. County House Rd. Albion
589-6362

THE PIT STOP
130 West Avenue Albion
589-1975

NIXON AUTO
308 E. Center St. Medina
798-2156

STOCKHAM LUMBER
88 Geddes Street Holley
638-6311

DUNN AUTO SALES
Cor. Rts. 63 & 104 Medina
798-2525

HALSTEAD OIL
419 W. State St. Albion
589-5603

C.A. DRENNEN SERVICE
15549 E. Lee Road Clarendon
638-5388

KEDING AUTOMOTIVE
309 E. Ave Albion
589-7394

THE FLOWER STATION
33 West Ave. Albion
589-9846

FRANK'S AUTO CENTER
14040 West Ave. Albion
589-1929

ORLEANS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
101 N. Main St. Albion
589-7727

MARIA'S BERRY BARN
14877 Ridge Rd. Kent

PRINCE BUILDERS
2444 Oak Orchard Rd. Albion

ADECCO EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
534 Main St. Medina

COLONNA ELECTRIC & PLUMBING
130 West Avenue Albion
589-7478

ONTARIO HARVEST
3854 Taylor Hill Rd. Albion
798-5523

CHRISTOPHER-MITCHELL
21 West Ave. Albion
589-4471

DR. NEIL LEWIS
240 S. Main St. Albion

SUBURBAN ELECTRIC
225 E. Bank St. Albion
589-4254

KITCHEN WORLD
6348 Robinson Rd. Lockport
434-5606

THOMPSON'S
13968 Rt. 31W - Albion
589-4474

GREG'S BARBER SHOP
133 E. Bank St. Albion
589-0717

NAVARRA'S GREENHOUSE
3272 Eagle Harbor Rd. Albion
589-6788

LISSOW DEVELOPMENT
243 S. Main St. Albion
589-0125

BERTSCH'S GOOD EARTH MARKET
1582 Oak Orchard Rd. Albion
682-3604

THREE EYED CAT
10825 Maple Ridge Rd. Medina
798-5330

DALES-ALBION JUBILEE FOODS
134 So. Main St. Albion
589-6433

LIMINA'S JEWELRY STORE
812 Main St. Medina
798-0780

MUCHOW'S FLORAL SHOP
507 E. Center St. Medina
798-1200

DUNN & SCHOOLCRAFT TRANSPORTATION
140 Telegraph Rd. Middleport
735-3890

ONTRAC EQUIPMENT
8089 Ridge Road West Brockport
637-3700

LAKE PLAINS MEDICAL
100 Ohio St. Medina
798-3416

YATES CONSTRUCTION
Medina, NY
798-0531

MATTICE ELECTRIC
Albion, NY
589-9606

DR. EILEEN KOSIERACKI
3916 Long Bridge Rd. Albion
589-6247

HSBC
Main & Bank Sts. Albion
589-5555

ORLEANS AGENCIES
3150 Orchard Rd. Albion
589-5692

JP's MARKETS
Albion 589-9191
Holley 638-5100

FLEET BANK
156 So. Main St., Albion
589-4405

LOCKPORT OPTICAL
415 Main St., Medina
798-4671

Lake Country Pennysaver October 7, 2001

THE WOBBLE SHOP
7642 Rochester Rd. Gasport
772-7591

SPEEDWAY PARK
400 Corinthia St. Lockport
438-7223

BAILEY'S SEPTIC
589-9623 682-7756

**CENTRAL ORLEANS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**
239 S. Main St. Albion
589-5286

ALBANESE GREENHOUSE
317 W. Academy St. Albion
589-2567

WATERS AUTO BODY
411 West Ave. Albion
589-7100

BURGIO TIRE & SERVICE
160 N. Main Street Albion
589-1100

TRUCK OPTION PLUS
3871 Oak Orchard Rd. Albion
589-1153

CULHANE'S TREE FARM
15310 East Lee Rd. Albion
589-7546

SCHWAB'S FARM MARKET
Route 31 Gasport
735-7570

OASIS POOL SUPPLIES
525 E. Ave. Medina
798-0056

GLENSIDE AUTO
56 State St. Holley
638-6105

WINKLER SALES & SERVICE
2705 Norway Rd. Holley
659-8644

**THE SHOPS AT
TEAPOT HOLLOW**
Rt. 31 Middleport
735-7164

FOUR C'S MARINA
Point Breeze
682-4224

BENNETT'S FEED SERVICE
4779 Pine Hill Rd. Albion
589-4501

THE ARC OF ORLEANS
122 Caroline St. Albion
589-5516

TRAVEL HORIZONS
511 Main St. Medina
798-4153

RADIATORS PLUS
4641 N. Gravel Rd. Medina
798-3771

BOZARD'S VEGETABLES
Route 104 Medina
798-0579

LAKE BREEZE MARINA
990 Point Breeze Rd. Kent
682-3995

LAMAY'S GROCERY
13265 Roosevelt Hwy. Waterport
682-4302

COOPER'S SALES & SERVICE
1369 Oak Orchard Rd. Waterport
682-9707

NAYMAN'S
205 N. Main St. Albion
589-9197

Upcoming Events:

October 12, 13, 28, 19, 20

Haunted House

Orleans County Fairgrounds 7:30 - 10:00 pm
Public invited cost is \$3 per person

October 13

So Sew Saturday

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension
Basement, 20 South Main Street 2-4 pm

Make and take sewing project for beginners. Bring \$2 for materials.

October 20

Harvest Fest

Orleans County Fairgrounds 10 am- 10 pm

Bake sale, chili contest, antique appraisals, antique and classic car cruise, pumpkin contest, food, hayrides, Headless Horseman horse fun show, horse demonstrations and much much more

October 20

Grown in NY Contest

Orleans County Fairgrounds 1:00 pm
4-H Silent foods demonstration. Public is welcome to attend.

November 10

So Sew Saturday

Same as October 13, different project

December 1

Orleans County Fairgrounds

Holiday Faire 1 pm - 4 pm

Public invited to attend. Santa always makes an appearance!

Lake Country Pennysaver October 7, 2001

4-H CENTENNIAL - CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension Kicks Off Celebration of 4-H Centennial Year

4-H Youth Development in Orleans County is kicking off its celebration of the national 4-H Centennial year during National 4-H Week, October 7-14.

The 4-H movement did not start at any one place or time. 4-H is a combination of the efforts of people concerned about young people, and its characteristics are unique. From its inception, it tied both public and private resources together for the purpose of helping young people. At the turn of the century public schools led efforts in many areas of the country to help rural youth and encourage a greater interest in farming and rural life. Throughout the nineteenth century, rural America had set the social tone for the country, but as the century turned young people were moving to cities, drawn by the potential for jobs. Rural America began to lose its young people.

The concern for education in rural areas was an important force that generated the idea of 4-H work. The beginnings of the 4-H idea of practical or applied educational principles resulted from concern regarding the relevance of public schools to country life. The Morrill Act of 1862 created the land-grant university system dedicated to general education and the improvement of agriculture and mechanical arts, which was a principle not then being used in public schools.

Another concern that generated the idea of 4-H work was the interest in advancing agricultural technology. Agricultural production technology was being researched at Experiment Stations established as part of the land-grant system. While the farming community did not readily accept new ideas and techniques, young people were eager to try new ways.

The date selected to mark the centennial of 4-H is 1902, when a school superintendent in Ohio formed clubs of boys and girls with officers, projects, meetings, and record requirements (although 4-H identification wasn't yet used with these clubs). Club work for rural youth was organized many years before the term "4-H" or the four-leaf clover emblem was used. The idea for the four-leaf clover as an emblem came from a group of Iowa school children that presented four-leaf clovers to their visiting superintendent, O.H. Benson, in 1906. For Benson, the clovers represented a four-square education (representing educational, fellowship, physical, and moral development). The first emblem used nationally was designed by Benson as a three-leaf clover, which used head, heart, and hands as the three H's. In 1911 the design with four H's was adopted and the fourth H became "hustle". Later hustle was replaced with "health" as the fourth H. In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act provided federal funding to Cooperative Extension at the land-grant colleges and by 1915, over 300,000 youth were enrolled in clubs in 47 states. In 1918 the first use of the term "4-H Club" appeared in a federal bulletin and in 1927 the 4-H pledge and motto were adopted. During World War I more than 1,000,000 club members were enrolled, and devoted themselves to raising food, using the motto "food will win the war."

4-H in New York stems from the Junior Naturalist Clubs organized in rural schools in 1896 under the leadership of Liberty Hyde Bailey, John and Anna Comstock, John Spencer, and Martha Van Rensselaer. The Junior Naturalist Clubs had a membership of 75,000 in 1899, and also included clubs in large cities and several foreign countries. Van Rensselaer was the first State Club Leader in 1909 and later was director of the New York State College of Home Economics at Cornell University. W.J. Wright was the first State 4-H Club Leader in 1918. Early activity (around 1919) in Junior Extension in New York State took place in Allegany, Broome, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Erie, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Nassau, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Schoharie, Steuben, Westchester, and perhaps other counties associated with state schools of agriculture. School gardens were important war efforts and in 1919 in Troy Albert Hoefer became one of the first county club agent positions that was funded with federal, state, and county funds as a result of his work with school gardens. Rufus Stanley was appointed Chemung County 4-H Club Agent in 1919 also. Stanley had been working with a club of boys in Elmira since 1900. The New York State Department of Education financially supported 4-H club work until 1930.

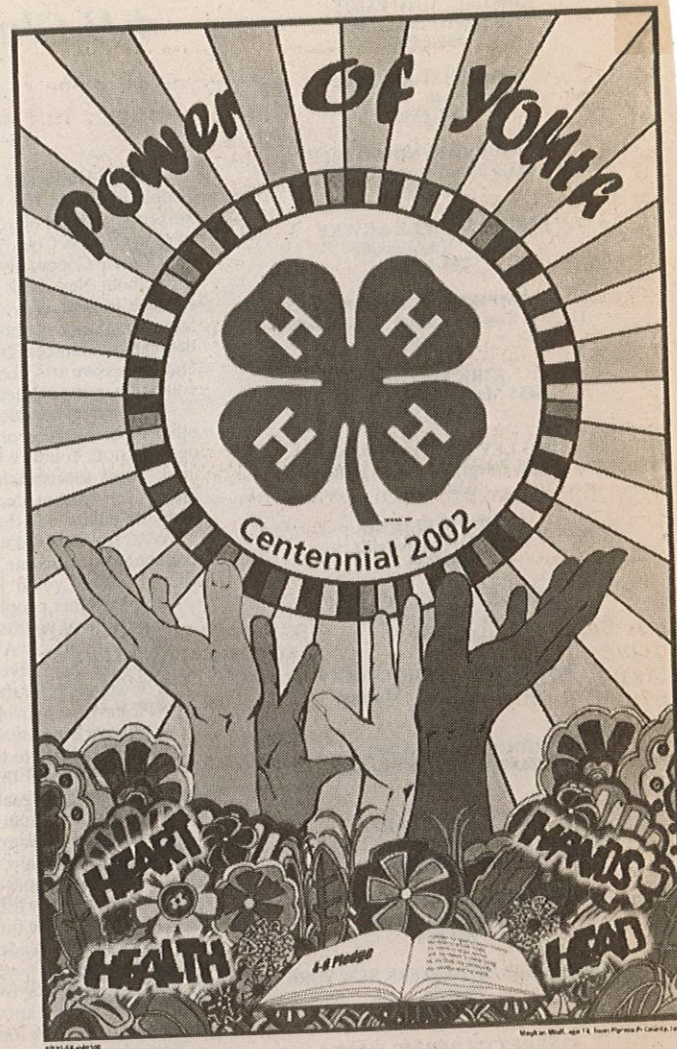
During World War II food production again gained uppermost importance in 4-H club work, with Victory Garden programs that included nearly 1,500,000 4-H gardens nationwide. The war efforts established a tradition of leadership and service that carries on today as a primary aspect of the 4-H program. 4-H goals established at the beginning of World War II were aimed primarily at helping young people define their responsibilities to the community. Reviews of 4-H Club work following the first 50 years of 4-H noted the encouragement of cooperative community effort for the common good, the opportunity for adults to work with young people, and the implanting of the concept of citizenship in young minds as key contributions of 4-H. 4-H Clubs and other 4-H Youth Development programs are now active in urban, suburban, and rural areas of New York State, and they still emphasize service to their communities as a key element of 4-H Youth Development.

Leadership and service are still emphasized today in 4-H programs throughout New York State as 4-H enters its second century. The opportunities are endless, not just in New York State, but right here in Orleans County.

I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service,
and my Health to better living
... for my Club, my community, my country, and my world.

For more information about 4-H in Orleans County, call 589-5561.

Sources: Iowa State University Extension website, USDA National 4-H Headquarters website, A Brief History of 4-H Clubs in New York State (unpublished), The 4-H Story by Franklin Reck, 4H: An American Idea 1900-1980 by Thomas and Marilyn Wessel, and 4-H Club Agents Story (unpublished).



4-H Prepares To Celebrate Centennial in 2002

Celebrating a Century of Leadership and Service

In 2002 the 4-H movement celebrates its centennial as America's premier youth development organization. Reflecting its historic vision, 4-H hopes to commemorate this event through conversations that will bring together our youth, youth leaders, and community to create youth development strategies for the future.

Beginning with conversations this October - with over 100,000 youth and adults in over 3,067 communities across the nation — we hope to identify the critical youth development strategies for the 21st century. This effort will build on 4-H's historic commitment to engagement and collaboration, and will result in a plan of action for families, youth leaders, and communities across the nation.

The proposed strategy will begin with local conversations that establish the foundation for statewide conversations - in every state and territory. The last week in February, 2002, a nationwide conversation will be convened in Washington, DC. The results of these conversations will be:

- ☐ A strength-based planning tool - reflecting the diversity of today's youth - available for use throughout the nation.
- ☐ A national curriculum for youth development professionals reflecting tools and strategies that yield the most successful outcomes.
- ☐ A compact for civic engagement among our nation's youth where communities understand and youth recognize that a commitment to civic participation is essential for our future.
- ☐ A nationwide "Power of Youth Pledge" by youth and adults to invest in revitalizing their communities through both immediate and long-term initiatives.

To learn more about centennial celebrations being planned in New York State, contact the 4-H Office in Orleans County at 589-5561 or visit the state website at:
<http://www.cce.comell.edu/4h/About4-H/NYCentennial/NYCentennial.htm>

4-H The Power of Youth



Facts about 4-H

The 4-H Pledge I pledge.... my Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service, my Health to better living. For my Club, my community, my country, and my world.

The 4-H Emblem and Pledge Explained

The first 4-H emblem was a three-leaf clover, introduced sometime between 1907 and 1908. The three "H"s represented head, heart and hands. In 1911, at a meeting of club leaders in Washington, a fourth "H" representing health was added and the current 4-H four-leaf clover emblem was approved. It is protected by the U.S. Congress. The 4-H pledge was worded by Otis Hall, Kansas state 4-H leader. It was approved at the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927 in Washington, D.C. The words "my world" were added to the pledge in 1973. Their addition is the only change ever made to the 4-H pledge.

Head—stands for clearer thinking and decision-making. Knowledge that is useful throughout life.

Heart stands for greater loyalty, strong personal values, positive self concept, concern for others.

Hands stands for larger service, workforce preparedness, useful skills, science and technology literacy.

Health stands for better living, healthy lifestyles.



4-H Motto

To make the best better.

History of 4-H

The 4-H program was founded in 1902 and will celebrate its centennial in 2002. It started as corn clubs for boys and canning tomato clubs for girls. While maintaining its strong agricultural tradition, 4-H has diversified into a wide range of subjects like computers, science, public speaking and many others.

Number of Youth Involved in 4-H

In 2000, 6.8 million youth ages 5-19 were involved in 4-H programs across the United States. More than 30% of youth involved in 4-H today represent minority populations.

4-H Program Focus

4-H is the Cooperative Extension System's dynamic, non-formal educational program for young people. Its mission is to create supportive environments for culturally diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential. The program combines the cooperative efforts of youth, volunteer leaders, state land-grant universities, federal, state, local governments and the CSREES of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Educational Programs

4-H participants are enrolled in projects every year. Many people are surprised to discover the variety of educational projects available through 4-H. Today 4-Hers can be found building model rockets, organizing canned food drives for the needy, raising guinea pigs, delivering a speech before local government officials on issues critical to youth, and much more. This information taken from www.fourhcouncil.edu.

4-H Myth Busters

Myth: You have to live on a farm to be a 4-H member. Truth: Not all 4-H members live on a farm. You don't even have to live in a rural area to be a 4-H member.

Myth: You can't have a livestock project if you don't live on a farm. Truth: 4-H members in Orleans County can raise animals in our non-ownership program.

Myth: 4-H is not cool.

Truth: There are lots of great projects, opportunities, you get to meet new friends and try things you haven't done in school or in other youth clubs. 4-H allows you to travel and meet new people.

Myth: 4-H is just about cows and cooking. Truth: 4-H is about computers and money management; conservation and theater arts; camping and photography; and many other topic areas as well as livestock and food and nutrition projects.

Myth: 4-Hers never amount to anything. Truth: Famous 4-H alumni include Vice Presidents Al Gore and Walter Mondale, as well as David Letterman and Johnny Carson. Recent research shows that 4-H alumni are more likely to be involved on school boards, PTA groups and in other areas than are alumni of other organizations.

Myth: All 4-Hers show cows at fairs. Truth: 4-H programs may include livestock competitions, but also include public speaking, fashion shows, dances, demonstrations or service projects.

Myth: The 4-H's stand for horses, hay, hogs and home. Truth: The 4-H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

Myth: 4-H is too much like school.

Truth: No way! 4-H is hands on learning, it provides a place to be with your friends, socialize, have fun! The 4-H motto is Learn by Doing.

Myth: 4-H is only for farm kids and people from small rural towns. Truth: 4-H is in 80 countries; there are city clubs, exchanges and great travel opportunities for 4-H members.

Bonus Truth: While 4-H prides itself on developing future leaders (some of whom may be farmers) it also gives people the skills they need to be anything they want to be business leaders, accountants, lawyers, doctors, athletes, entertainers, teachers, politicians the list is only limited by your imagination.

Mum's the Word

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension

How far back do we need to go to find the 'roots' of chrysanthemums? According to the National Chrysanthemum Society, we have to go pretty far back! The chrysanthemum was first cultivated in China as a flowering herb and is described in writings as early as the 15th Century B.C. As an herb, it was believed to have the power of life. Around the 8th century A.D., the chrysanthemum appeared in Japan. So taken were the Japanese with this flower that they adopted a single flowered chrysanthemum as the crest and official seal of the Emperor. The chrysanthemum was first introduced into the Western world during the 17th Century where a Swedish botanist combined the Greek words chrysos, meaning gold with anthemon, meaning flower.

Although some mums still resemble daisies, ancient growers would not recognize our modern mums. The earliest illustrations of mums show them as small, yellow daisy-like flowers. The rainbow of colors, shapes and sizes that are available for modern gardens display the enthusiasm of hybridizers from around the world!

When selecting a good location to grow chrysanthemums in the garden, a number of things should be considered. The chrysanthemum does best in full sun. In most places, five to six hours will be sufficient to produce a healthy plant. When a choice exists between early morning sun and afternoon sun, select the morning sun. There, early drying will help to avoid mildew and other diseases. Chrysanthemums require good drainage, a low, level site in which rain collects should be avoided. An undesirable influence is the presence of a street or other light source at night. Light at night serves to delay the bloom date. Adding light is a technique that is used by growers to increase plant size while delaying bloom until closer to shipping! Chrysanthemums do not like crowded roots. When possible, beds should be located at a sufficient distance from larger plants to avoid extensive root competition. When root competition cannot be avoided, a barrier may be considered. Finally, plants should be located away from walls or obstructions which would hinder airflow. Air movement helps to dry moist foliage and thus reduces development of mildew.

Chrysanthemum propagation as a crop production is another whole phase of growing these in-demand plants. A great deal of research is available including books and the internet on the production process. Last weekend I toured a 6-acre facility in Beamsville, Ontario. Here, state-of-the-art production methods use robotics and interior sensors to reduce repetitive and menial labor requirements, which, in turn, reduce human stress and costs. They produce thousands of potted chrysanthemums, miniature roses, and calla lilies each year. Most of these plants are sent to United States buyers. In addition to their production process, Niagara Under Glass hosts a large Discovery Center developed to educate all ages and aid agri-tourism! A truly interesting and worthwhile visit for anyone interested in horticulture in general or production propagation in specific!

Whether you are looking to diversify the colors in your garden or diversify your crop planting plan, chrysanthemums offer a proven track record for ease and beauty. Happy fall planting!

Extension has long partnership with Orleans

By Deb Roberts

For The Journal-Register

Since 1917, Cornell Cooperative Extension has partnered with the residents of Orleans County.

The first Agricultural Agent, Larry J. Steele, began working with the Orleans County Farm Bureau Association in April 1917.

In 1918, the Orleans County Home Economic Commission joined, establishing the Orleans County Farm and Home Bureau.

The 4-H Clubs were officially organized in 1938. Agents in all three areas provided the link between the New York State College of Agriculture.

In 1956, Farm Bureau became a private organization, while the Orleans

County Extension continues to serve as a catalyst of change through education. While the Association has been reorganized and renamed many times, it continues to bring research and experience together in ways that address the priority needs of Orleans County.

As a whole, Cornell Cooperative Extension embodies Cornell University's partnership with the people of New York State. It brings research and experience together in ways that help build strong, healthy and vibrant communities.

Annually, a week is set aside to celebrate accomplishments and engage the public in learning more about the high-quality innovative educational programs and products that are based on the research of the university. Oct. 6-13 has been

designated CCE Week in conjunction with National 4-H Week.

This year's CCE Week theme, "Nutrition, Health and Safety" connects with people across the life course. Cornell Cooperative Extension contributes to improving the nutrition, health and safety in individuals, families, homes and communities by:

- Assuring a safe, nutritious and abundant food supply.
- Promoting healthy and safe behaviors, skills and environments.
- Developing capable, responsible and caring individuals, families and communities.
- Supporting informed decisions on nutrition, health and safety policies.

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension seeks to accomplish these goals through programs in

Agriculture and 4-H Youth Development.

Agriculture programs include regional specialists in fruit, vegetables, dairy, livestock and field crops; public policy work; horticulture training and service and pesticide training.

The 4-H Youth Development programs include club work in agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer science and public presentations; leadership training and the Orleans County 4-H Fair.

Resources are available in these areas and many others through Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell University.

Local 4-H youth will be participating in the "Grown in New York" program, practicing safe and healthy food preparation on Oct. 20 at the

Harvest Fest at the Fairgrounds.

Orleans County residents are invited to an informal Open House at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office, 20 South Main St., Albion during CCE Week. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Participants in Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension programs come from all walks of life and all ages.

For more information on how you can be a part of building a strong and healthy Orleans community, call Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Deb Roberts is executive director of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Orleans 4-H clubs to be spotlighted

By Paul Lane
The Journal-Register

The week of Oct. 7 has been declared 4-H and Cornell Cooperative Extension Week across New York State.

This year's theme is "Nutrition, Health and Safety."

As part of the annual celebration, the CCE of Orleans County will hold an open house from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, said Deb Roberts, executive director.

"We'll be trying to get people aware of what we do," said Roberts. "In our county, 4-H is probably the most visible thing that we do."

In Orleans, the CCE's programs include agriculture and 4-H, but the week will be mostly about the 4-H because "the agriculture people are a little busy right now," Roberts said.

The agriculture program involves regional specialists in various fields including fruit and livestock, horticulture training and public policy work.

Nationally, 4-H will celebrate its centennial in 2002. The core of 4-H has always been its members, and part of the celebration will be thanking those who are involved, said Margo Bowerman, a 4-H coordinator.

"Our strength ... lies in the volunteers," she said.

The American Red Cross in Medina has devoted one of its Main Street-side display windows to the 4-H, Bowerman said. The display features projects that 4-H members have completed.

During their last meeting, members of the Orleans County Legislature made a declaration designating CCE week throughout the county. A presentation will be made at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Legislative building on South Main Street in Albion, Roberts said.

The 4-H also will begin hosting a haunted house at the Orleans County Fairgrounds beginning next week. The haunted house will be in business from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Oct. 12-13 and Oct. 18-20.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2001

4-H preps for centennial celebration

By Margo A. Bowerman
For The Journal-Register

In 2002 the 4-H movement celebrates its centennial as America's premier youth development organization.

After a century of inclusion and collaboration, 4-H spans the nation from family farms to urban environments. 4-H brings together youth and adults to build a nation of strong communities.

More than 6.8 million youth, ages 5 to 19, are involved in 4-H programs from aerospace to zoology. 4-H is co-ed and family friendly. 4-H members are still rooted in the historic base of rural America but, to the surprise of many, more than 35% of today's 4-H youth live in our major urban centers and suburbs. In Orleans County, there are over 400 youth involved in 4-H.

4-H in New York is based on out land grant university,

Cornell. This long-standing relationship brings academic excellence to youth development as strategies and curriculum are created for the coming century. The unique capacity of 4-H to embrace both youth development experts and thousands of youth in our state makes possible the promise of youth who are confident, capable and caring citizens.

To kick off the centennial celebration, 4-H is initiating conversations that will bring together our youth, youth leaders and community to create youth development strategies for the future. Beginning this month - with over 100,000 youth and adults in over 3,067 communities across the nation - we hope to identify the critical youth development strategies for the 21st century. This effort will build on 4-H's historic commitment to engagement

and collaboration, and will result in a plan of action for families, youth leaders and communities across the nation.

The proposed strategy will begin with local conversations that establish the foundation for statewide conversations in every state and territory. During the last week in February 2002, a nationwide conversation will be convened in Washington, D.C.

To learn more about centennial celebrations being planned in New York State, contact the 4-H Office in Orleans County at 589-5561 or visit the state website at <http://www/cce/cornell.edu/4h/About4-HNYCentennial/NYCentennial.htm>

Margo A. Bowerman is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Oh, for the love of Tucker!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2001

The
Journal-Register



Vino Wong
The Journal-Register

A new group of students began dog obedience training with the Orleans County 4-H Hellers Dog Club recently. Above, Kristine Marcislewski, 8, leads "Tucker" through a tunnel in an agility training session this past Thursday at the county fairgrounds. At left, Bridget Allport, 13, does the same with "Molly."

• The Daily News • Saturday, October 13, 2001

FOR SALE

Cornell Cooperative Extension puts Albion building on market

By Tom Rivers

Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Cornell Cooperative Extension wants to sell its Albion headquarters with the hope of building a new complex at the fairgrounds in Knowlesville.

Stovroff and Potter is listing the 150-year-old Main Street building for \$124,900. The facility is too cramped, antiquated and energy inefficient for the Cooperative Extension, officials said Wednesday.

The Extension wants an "education center" at the fairgrounds. The facility would likely be an addition to the Trol-

ley Building, which already has a bathroom and satellite link for teleconferences, said Deb Roberts, the Extension's executive director.

Legislature Chairwoman Marcia Tuohy, R-Medina, praised the Extension for developing "a gorgeous complex" at the fairgrounds. The facility also hooked into a public water line this year.

Building the educational center would help the Extension better serve the agricultural community and 4-H youth, said Greg Dale, president of the Extension's board of directors.

The extension doesn't have a timeline on the project. It will seek state

and federal grants, and likely do fundraisers, Roberts said. First, the Extension wants to sell the 20 Main St. facility, she said.

The education center should boost the year-round use of the Knowlesville complex, Dale said. About 40,000 attend the week-long fair during July, but the facility is only occasionally used the other 51 weeks of the year, he said.

Roberts said she found a floor plan from 1967 calling for an addition to the Trolley Building.

"The idea has been around for a long time," she said. "We just need to bring it to fruition."

Plant Now To Ward Off Vampires Later

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension

You probably already know that garlic is the herb of choice for warding off vampires. And, you may also know of some of garlic's other myths like the potential for lowering cholesterol, reducing the risk of heart attack and stomach cancer or as an antibiotic! Garlic could be the wonder drug!

But, you can't eat it unless it's been grown and October is garlic planting time in cold climates. Most mass-produced, grocery store garlic is grown in the mild climate of Northern California but there are a number of varieties that are suited for our colder weather climates. These varieties often have better garlic flavor and comparable storage times to those varieties grown in mild climates.

Garlic falls into two broad categories: hardneck and softneck. The hardneck varieties grow a scape (a hard stalk) and put out a flower. These are thought to be closest to wild garlic. The scape is both ornamental and edible and must be removed from the plant to insure proper bulb production. From an ornamental point of view the scape can be two feet long or more and are often curlicue with a "Hershey's Kiss" shaped flower head on the end. Great for adding to summer flower arrangements! As an edible the tender portion of the scape can be diced and used as a green in salads, or sautéed, as you would green onions. The garlic flavor in the scape is much lighter than found in the cloves. Unfortunately, the hardneck varieties can not be easily braided due to their stiff nature. In addition, when stored at room temperature hardneck garlic usually starts to deteriorate after about three to four months. At 32° F, however, hardneck garlic can be stored for up to seven months without significant dehydration.

The University of Minnesota recommends the following varieties of hardneck garlic for cold climates. German Red - Often referred to as a "Rocambole" type, this is one of the most popular hardnecks for cold climates. It produces large cloves, 10 to 15 per bulb and is prone to double cloves. The flower stalk initially forms tight curls and then later straightens out. Merrifield Rocambole - A New York selection, is similar to German Red except bulbs tend to be slightly larger and prone to double cloves. Spanish Roja - A northwest U.S. selection that has good garlic taste and yield. Asian Tempest - Genetically more similar to softnecks, but has characteristics of a hardneck. It is not quite as productive as German Red with four to eight large cloves per bulb and flower stalks that do not curl.

Softneck varieties do not produce a flower stalk. These are considered to be the most domesticated and are among the varieties that are commonly used in California for commercial mass production. There are, however, some softneck varieties that are suitable for our cold climates. Because all of the plant's energy is focused on bulb production, not on flower production, softneck varieties tend to have higher yields per acre. This translates to larger bulbs with more cloves. Each bulb can contain between 10 to 40 cloves arranged in multiple layers. These are the varieties used in braiding due to their flexible nature. Softneck garlic typically can be stored for six to eight months at room temperature. Do not cold store bulbs planned for planting as seed stock! Garlic stored at 32° to 40° Fahrenheit and then used for planting will not bulb properly. The characteristics of softneck garlic varieties can vary tremendously from one location to another, which complicates variety selection. Climate can have a significant impact on garlic flower stalk formation as well as garlic taste. For example, a variety may be considered a softneck in one location, but in other locations it may produce a flower stalk! The University of Minnesota recommends that you 'try out several different varieties for a few years and select those that do best in your area'. The following varieties of softneck garlic have had good results in their cold climates. Incheilium Red - Produces large, vigorous bulbs and has a mild garlic taste. It is difficult to peel. New York White - Often has purple streaks. This variety may partially or completely bolt during very hot weather; when bolting occurs, bulb size is smaller. Susanville - Stores well and produces large size bulbs in mild climates, but it is usually smaller than New York White under cold climate conditions.

Garlic grows best on well-drained soils high in organic matter. Since the garlic plant does not produce true seeds, cloves of the bulb are used for propagation. Garlic seedcloves for first time growers can be purchased as bulbs from local nurseries, garden center, local garlic growers or garlic seed producers who distribute nationally. Established growers usually save about 15 to 20 percent of their crop for planting the subsequent year. Planting cloves from garlic purchased at the grocery store is not recommended; this garlic, primarily softneck varieties mainly adapted to mild climates, is usually stored at cold temperatures which will inhibit bulb formation.

Time of planting is critical since both optimum shoot and bulb development require a cold treatment. Garlic in cold climates should be planted in the fall - usually within one to two weeks after the first killing frost (32° F). Ideally, roots should be developing and shoots should be emerging from the clove but not above the soil at the time of the first hard freeze (28° F). Garlic shoots will emerge from the ground in late March or early April. Unless given a proper cold treatment prior to planting, garlic planted in the spring will often produce weak shoots and poorly developed bulbs. Lack of scape development in hardneck garlic and bulbing in all garlic is usually due to an inadequate cold treatment.

Plant the seed cloves with the pointed end up and space the plants 6-inches apart. Multiple rows of plants are quite acceptable even for commercial growing as long as the center plants have access to enough sun, moisture and nutrients. Mulch after planting with three to four inches of weed-free straw to reduce the effects of sudden temperature changes. This mulch needs to be removed in the spring after the threat of hard freeze is over.

Garlic has a relatively shallow root system and is sensitive to dry conditions so monitor your weather, consider your soil type, and irrigate as needed. Garlic is a poor competitor with weeds. Unless weeds are controlled early, they can easily overtake young garlic plants, causing significant yield losses. Planting of buckwheat as a green manure and tilling it into the soil in September before it goes to seed can reduce annual weed competition as can using weed-free straw mulch.

Harvesting starts in mid-July through early-August depending on the variety you have and the weather conditions. In general wait until the lower leaves start to brown. Harvest is usually optimum when half or slightly more than half of the leaves remain green. Also, pull a few bulbs and cut them in half; if the cloves fill the skins, then the bulbs are ready to harvest. There are conflicting reports as to the best process after harvest; some say to wash the bulbs immediately; others say to wait and brush the dried soil from the bulbs prior to shipping and/or storage. Neither point of view has firm research to prove their method is best so treat your bulbs in the method you are most comfortable with. The bulbs will need three to four weeks to cure after which the leaves, stems and roots will be brown. Cut these off and peel the outer layer of skin but don't expose the cloves! You're now ready to store your garlic.

As a side note, elephant garlic is not a true garlic, but is actually a type of leek. It can grow much larger than true garlic with each bulb of five to six cloves weighing as much as one pound. The taste of elephant garlic is much milder than true garlic, and can develop a sharp or bitter taste when grown in cold climates.

As for the health claims attributed to garlic? The Institute for Preventive Medicine has information on the internet that discusses research on all but the vampire claim. See www.methodisthealth.com/ipm/wellness/garlic. In brief, it says that most of garlic's benefits appear to come from daily consuming numerous raw rather than cooked cloves but goes on to say the "actual beneficial effects of garlic still remain controversial." So grab a clove, your breath mints, and a trowel, it's time to plant garlic!

• The Daily News • Tuesday, October 9, 2001

Car wash aids Red Cross

MEDINA — The Barn Buddies 4-H Horse Club sponsored a car wash Oct. 3 as an annual fund-raiser.

This year, because of the events in New York City and Washington, D.C., the club decided to donate half of its proceeds to the American Red Cross to help families in need. A total of \$75 was donated.

"Our club felt it was necessary to help those who had family or friends involved in the tragedy," club president Stephanie Boyle said.

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2001

Burr is named to Cornell office

Thomas Burr, a scientist who investigates diseases of fruit crops, has been appointed the chairman of the department of plant pathology at Cornell University at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

His projects include the biology and control of grape crown gall, development of genetically engineered grapes for disease resistance and description of the mechanisms of fungal-induced apple russet.

Burr, who has been a member of the department for 24 years, replaces Helene Dillard, who has accepted the position of associate director of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ithaca.

The
Journal-Register

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2001

Barn Buddies have Red Cross benefit

On Sept. 22, the Barn Buddies 4-H Horse Club held a car wash as an annual fund-raiser for the club.

Since the car wash was held after the tragedy that struck New York and Washington, D.C., the club felt it was necessary to help the families who had family or friends involved in the tragedy. The

club decided it was appropriate to donate one-half of the proceeds to the American Red Cross to help the families in need at this time.

The club members also would like to thank everyone who donated money to us so we could help in this time of need. Our club is proud to announce that we were able to

donate \$75 to help with the relief efforts.

We send our hearts out to those who had family involved in this terrible terrorist attack. We thank all who helped our club help out with the relief efforts.

— Submitted by Stephanie Boyle

The Gardener's Column

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 200

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Plant now to ward off vampires later

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

You probably already know that garlic is the herb of choice for warding off vampires. And, you may also know of some of garlic's other myths like the potential for lowering cholesterol, reducing the risk of heart attack and stomach cancer or as an antibiotic. Garlic could be the wonder drug.

But you can't eat it unless it's been grown and October is garlic planting time in cold climates. Most mass-produced, grocery store garlic is grown in the mild climate of Northern California but there are a number of varieties that are suited for our colder weather climates. These varieties often have better garlic flavor and comparable storage times to those varieties grown in mild climates.

Garlic falls into two broad categories: hardneck and softneck.

The hardneck varieties grow a scape (a hard stalk) and put out a flower. These are thought to be closest to wild garlic. The scape is both ornamental and edible and must be removed from the plant to insure proper bulb production. The scape is much lighter than found in the cloves. Unfortunately, the hardneck varieties can not be easily braided due to their stiff nature. In addition, when stored at room temperature hardneck usually starts to deteriorate after about three to four months. At 32 degrees, however, hardneck garlic can be stored for up to seven months without significant dehydration.

The University of Minnesota recommends the following varieties of hardneck garlic for cold climates.

German Red - Often referred to as a "Rocambole" type, this is one of the most popular hardnecks for cold

Asian Tempest - Genetically more similar to softnecks, but has characteristics of a hardneck

Softneck varieties do not produce a flower stalk. These are considered to be the most domesticated and are among the varieties that are commonly used in California for commercial mass production. There are, however, some softneck varieties that are suitable for our cold climates. Because all of the plant's energy is focused on bulb production, not on flower production, softneck varieties tend to have higher yields per acre. This translates to larger bulbs with more cloves. Each bulb can contain between 10 to 40 cloves arranged in multiple layers. These are the varieties used in braiding due to their flexible nature. Softneck garlic typically can be stored for six to eight months at room temperature. Do not cold store bulbs planned for planting as seed stock. Garlic stored at 32 to 40 degrees and then used for planting will not bulb properly.

The characteristics of softneck garlic varieties can vary tremendously from one location to another, which complicates variety selection. Climate can have a significant impact on garlic flower stalk formation as well as garlic taste. For example, a variety may be considered a softneck in one location but in other locations it may produce a flower stalk. The University of Minnesota recommends that you "try out several different varieties for a few years and select those that do best in your area."

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Inchellium Red - Produces large, vigorous bulbs and has a mild garlic taste. It is difficult to peel.

New York White - Often has purple streaks. This variety may partially or com-

matter. Since the garlic plant does not produce true seeds, cloves of the bulb are used for propagation. Garlic seed-cloves, for the first time growers, can be purchased as bulbs from local nurseries, garden center, local garlic growers or garlic seed producers who distribute nationally. Established growers usually save about 15 to 20 percent of their crop for planting the subsequent year. Planting cloves from garlic purchased at the grocery store is not recommended. This garlic, primarily softneck varieties mainly adapted to mild climates, is usually stored at cold temperatures which will inhibit bulb formation.

Time of planting is critical since both optimum shoot and bulb development require a cold treatment. Garlic in cold climates should be planted in the fall - usually within one to two weeks after the first killing frost (32 degrees). Ideally, roots should be developed and shoots should be emerging from the clove but not above the soil at the time of the first hard freeze (28 degrees). Garlic shoots will emerge from the ground in late March or early April. Unless given a proper cold treatment prior to planting, garlic planted in the spring will often produce weak shoots and poorly developed bulbs. Lack of scape development in hardneck garlic and bulbing in all garlic is usually due to an inadequate cold treatment.

Plant the seed cloves with the pointed end up and space the plants six inches apart. Mulch after planting with three to four inches of weed-free straw to reduce the effects of sudden temperature changes. This mulch needs to be removed in the spring after the threat of hard freeze is over.

Garlic has a relatively shallow root system and is sensitive to dry conditions so monitor your weather, consider your soil type, and irrigate as needed. Garlic is a poor com-

weed-free straw mulch.

Harvesting starts in July through early-August depending on the variety and the weather conditions. In general wait until lower leaves start to brown. Harvest is usually optimal when half or slightly more than half of the leaves are green. Also, pull a few bulbs and cut them in half. If the cloves fill the skins then the bulbs are ready to harvest. There are conflicting reports as to the best process at harvest. Some say to wait until bulbs are ready to harvest immediately. Others say to wait and brush the dirt from the bulbs prior to shipping and/or storage. Either point of view has found research to prove their method is best so treat your bulbs in the method you are most comfortable with. Bulbs will need three to four weeks to cure after which leaves, stems and roots should be brown. Cut these off and the outer layer of skin but don't expose the cloves. You're now ready to store your garlic.

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Rochelle Smith is a master gardener and horticulture consultant.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2001

4-H Myth Busters

The Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension has provided the following list of answers to some myths about the 4-H program.

Myth: You have to live on a farm to be a 4-H member.

Truth: Not all 4-H members live on a farm. You don't even have to live in a rural area to be a 4-H member.

Myth: You can't have a livestock project if you don't live on a farm.

Truth: 4-H members in Orleans County can raise animals in our non-ownership program.

Myth: 4-H is just about cows and cooking.

Truth: 4-H is about computers and money management, conservation and theater arts, camping and photography and many other topic areas as well as livestock and food and nutrition projects.

Myth: All 4-Hers show cows at fairs.

Truth: 4-H programs may include livestock competitions, but also include public speaking, fashion shows, dances, demonstrations or service projects.

Myth: the 4-H's stand for horses, hay, hogs and home.

Truth: The 4-H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health.

Myth: 4-H is too much like school.

Truth: No way! 4-H is hands on learning. It provides a place to be with your friends, socialize and have fun. The 4-H motto is "Learn by Doing."

Myth: 4-H is only for farm kids and people from small rural towns.

Truth: 4-H is in 80 countries. There are city clubs, exchanges and great travel opportunities for 4-H members.

Bonus Truth: While 4-H prides itself on developing future leaders (some of whom may be farmers) it also gives people the skills they need to be anything they want to be - business leaders, accountants, lawyers, doctors, athletes, entertainers, teachers and politicians - the list is only limited by your imagination.

Myth: I can't be a volunteer, I can't sew.

Truth: Volunteers in the Orleans County 4-H program come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences and fill many different roles.

Myth: I can't be a volunteer, I don't have any kids.

Truth: If you enjoy working with youth and would like to help them reach their full potential as capable, competent and caring citizens, become a 4-H Volunteer. Volunteers may be club leaders with groups of young people. These volunteers help to plan educational programs and organize community service projects to give the youth opportunities to gain life skills like responsibility, record keeping and leadership.

Myth: I would not know what to do, I was never in 4-H.

Truth: 4-H volunteers receive excellent training, guidance and ongoing supervision appropriate to the specific roles they assume. Some volunteers work with specific programs that are limited to a shorter term commitment. These programs might include teaching a class in an area of interest like woodworking, sewing, electric or etiquette. This might be a person who serves as a coach for young people preparing for public speaking contests or who serves as a judge for the competition. Learn more about 4-H volunteer opportunities and to obtain a volunteer application form by contacting Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Extension Gardener

By Dave Reville

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001

For The Journal-Register

Evergreens Lose Their Leaves Too

If you notice now that the old leaves or needles on your evergreens turn yellow and then brown, do not become alarmed. Evergreens remain green throughout the year because they do not lose all of their foliage at one time.

Leaf life ranges from one to six years depending on the species of plant. New leaves or needles are produced each year and some of the old inside ones die and fall to the ground. Usually annual leaf or needle drop goes unnoticed because the new leaves or needles conceal old inside foliage that has turned yellow or brown. It may be very noticeable, however, depending on the past and current growing seasons. If the following summer is dry there will be a light growth, which will not hide or camouflage old yellowing leaves.

Among evergreens that drop one year old leaves or needles are laurel, holly, white pine and arborvitae. Trees that retain needles from three to five years or more are spruce, fir, hemlock, yew (*Taxus*) and the pines, which have two or three needles in a cluster. On the pines, in fact, on most needle-bearing conifers, old needles drop off in the fall of the year. But holly leaves drop off in the spring or early summer about the time new foliage covers the ends of branches.

A year or two after evergreens are transplanted, effects of normal leaf or needle drop may be more striking. Those planted in wet or poorly drained soils will often show an abnormal amount of leaf yellowing on inside branches. If you do not water transplanted trees during a dry summer, leaf or needle drop may be earlier and more severe than normal.

Good housekeeping is good gardening

All summer long, you've been dying to tidy up your garden. Unfortunately, no matter how unattractive they look, some plants must keep all their leaves in order to survive. Now, it's finally time to roll up your sleeves and make a clean sweep. When you've taken in the final harvest, everything that remains in your vegetable garden is debris. Cucumber, squash vines, cabbages, tomato and bean plants are likely to harbor plant diseases, particularly fungi when left to overwinter. Spade these remains under to add richness and texture to the soil or add to compost heap.

As you clean up last year's vegetable garden, make a note of your successes and failures. Did some plants bear too little due to lack of sun and moisture? Were others attacked by preventable diseases? Plan to re-locate plants and purchase disease resistant varieties next year if necessary.

In your flower garden, you can really dig in. At last, you can cut back the straggly stems of dead flowers at three to four inches from the soil. Remove all old foliage from the garden. This is an important step to control diseases. Remove dying annuals. Add mulch if necessary.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

It's that time of year

By Deborah Roberts

For The Journal-Register

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001

The harvest season is in full swing in Orleans County for grain and cabbage growers but it is winding down for the apple growers. As we look ahead to the end of harvest, the government is gearing up to ask questions and collect agricultural data. The New York Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the primary collector of agricultural data in New York. They not only collect data, but verify and analyze it to come up with estimates of agriculture. The data is used by local, state and national policy makers, lenders, planners, farmers and many others in their decision making. The national estimates also play a big part in influencing prices on the commodity markets, such as the Chicago Board of Trade, which ultimately affect the prices Orleans County growers receive.

Here is a sampling of press releases from NASS and USDA on surveys they will be conducting in the next few months.

■ "To gather reliable, objective information about U.S. agriculture, NASS will conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Study on productions practices for corn. This study will gather information on corn production practices, chemical applications and pest management practices during the fall of 2001. In addition, cost of production data will be obtained. Fewer than 4,000 of the nation's two million farm operators will be asked to participate in the study, so every response is critical. In New York, 11 producers will be included. ... All study information will be merged and used by commodity analysts, producer organizations and others to benefit New York farmers and ranchers. This study gives participants an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides on corn. Results from this study will be used to develop agricultural production practices that improve productivity for farm operators and ensure a safer, cleaner working environment for producers, their families and communities..."

■ "Every New York fruit grower will be asked to participate in a statewide survey to provide detailed information on fruit acreages and tree counts by variety, age of planting and county and grapes by variety, rootstock and county. The survey will be conducted by NASS. ... At first glance, fruit production in the state has remained relatively stable over the past 25 years. However, many significant changes have taken place. For example, ... most tree fruit acreages declined from 1992 to 1996 except for sweet cherries. What are the current trends? This survey will answer these questions and many others. Growers will have up-to-date facts on which to base their plans for the future..."

■ "As the crops season winds down, NASS will begin surveying farmers to obtain final acreage and production data for 2001 crops. These year-end surveys will measure what farmers actually produced during the growing season. The upcoming surveys will include a mailing to 10,000 farmers throughout the state in late October. This large scale survey is needed to measure year-to-year changes at the county level..."

■ The USDA Forest Service is also seeking input for a national report on sustainable forests. It will lead a collaborative effort with 12 federal agencies to gather and analyze information for this historic report. ... Public input is being solicited to help ensure that the concerns and interests of non federal entities are considered. The report is available on the internet for comment at www.fs.fed.us/sustained/index.htm."

Estimates are only as good as the data that goes into them. The more participation there is, the more accurate the estimates. So if you are a grower, we encourage you to respond when you are asked to. Whether you are a grower or a consumer of agriculture, we encourage you to check out the "state" of agriculture, both in New York and in Orleans County, at the NASS website: www.usda.gov/nass. Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension also gets copies of many of the reports, which are available to all residents of Orleans County.

Deborah Roberts is with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Autumn Leaves

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension

Autumn is special. It has its own temperatures, colors, and smells that are distinctly different from the other seasons. These autumn effects can so easily take us back to the autumns of our youth if we take a few short minutes from our busy worlds to breathe deeply and remember.

Autumn temperatures are crisp. Sure there are the occasional damp, gray days but, in general, we think of the crisp ones with fondness. These days make you want to eat an apple or look for pumpkins on display or in a field or walk through leaves. To me it's the leaves that make up the distinction of autumn. The leaves can be as crisp as the day or dry leathery or slippery shiny. In any case the leaves of autumn are full of special autumn memories.

Color plays an important roll in the nostalgia surrounding autumn leaves. I'm sure you remember from eighth grade earth science classes that it's the chlorophyll in the leaves that make them appear green during the season. This is because the chlorophyll absorbs red and blue colors from the light spectrum but reflects green. But, chlorophyll is not a very stable compound and bright sunlight causes it to decompose. So, plants must continuously synthesize chlorophyll in order to maintain the amount needed in their leaves. Plants require sunlight and warm temperatures to synthesize chlorophyll. Therefore, during summer chlorophyll is continuously broken down and regenerated in the leaves of trees. But, the shorter days of sunlight and the cooler temperatures of autumn don't provide the right conditions so the chlorophyll is limited or not made at all. At this point we learned that trees then showed their true colors. That is only partially true as there are several chemical pigments found in leaves that cause the remaining colors and patterns in leaves.

If I asked you to close your eyes for a minute and remember a fall scene of trees in their autumn colors what would you see? Some people will remember autumn golden yellows backed by a clear blue sky. Others will remember a hillside dappled with colors in yellow, orange, red and still some lingering green. Others still will remember a single tree at the height of color. Another joy we had that European landscapers lust for is our huge variety of colors in the autumn. We are truly blessed in the color department.

That's great while the leaves are still on the trees but what happens when they drop and either spread all over the lawn or build up under shrubs and on the lee-side of buildings? Time to take another deep breath and remember back to the time before labor and landscape responsibility. It's time to make a pile. Raking leaves on a crisp day was a duty as a child that became a fond memory. Ignore the blisters, and remember when you could stand waist deep in a pile of crisp brown leaves because you were supposed to! I was the oldest and my youngest brother was eleven years my junior. I had the best excuse in the world. The call "Come on, kids, lets rake the leaves!" would result in a flurry of gloves and jackets. The yard would explode into a gaggle of kids, rakes and leaves. We had a small front yard so leaves from the surrounding front yards would be raked over to form the "largest leaf pile ever!" - at least for that season. By the end of the day the job would be done but in the mean time a lot of energy would be burned off and good fun would be had.

You can still have the excuse of raking into that huge pile and feel constructive for your yard and garden too! One of the best options for dealing with the accumulation of autumn leaves is composting. Composted leaves can be a valuable resource for adding nutrients and organic matter to garden soil. Make your piles large, no less than one cubic yard or three feet by three feet by three feet. Any smaller and the pile won't heat up properly and begin to actively decompose. If you're using bins or containers keep this in mind!

Mix some nitrogen with the leaves as you add them to the pile. The nitrogen can come from fertilizer or green organic matter. Fallen leaves are high in carbon, which is necessary for compost, but are relatively low in nitrogen. Nitrogen is necessary to feed the decomposing bacteria. You can add one-third cup of a 34-0-0 or 21-0-0 fertilizer for every 25 square feet of surface area. The fertilizer should not contain any herbicides. Another option is to add one part leaves to two parts fresh grass clippings or similar green garden debris. Moisten leaves as they go on the pile. Rains will be slow to penetrate a leaf pile, and moisture is essential for decomposition.

Once the pile is initially constructed the heating and decomposition process will begin. After a couple of weeks, turn the pile, working the outer edges into the middle of the pile where they will begin to decompose. You can continue to turn the pile during the fall until it is covered with snow and/or temperatures cause the outer edges to freeze. Resume turning the pile in the spring once it has completely thawed. This will help oxygenate the pile again and speed up the decomposition process. A lawn mower can be used to pick up leaves. However, shredded leaves may over-pack in the compost bin, restricting the infiltration of oxygen necessary for decomposition.

Starting the leaf composting process like this in the autumn can produce compost that's ready to use by late in the following spring. Left on its own, a pile of leaves may take two to three years to decompose! For those of you that are dealing with sandy or clay soils this is an easy, economical way to add organic material to your gardens!

We had purpose when we learned the children's joy of autumn leaves. If we can tap into those memories and adapt the jobs to today's responsibilities maybe we can touch that joy again! Come on, it's time to rake the leaves!

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001

Autumn leaves

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

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Starting the leaf composting process like this in the autumn can produce compost that's ready to use by later the following spring. A pile of leaves may take two or three years to decompose if just left on its own. If you are dealing with sandy or clay soils this is an easy, economical way to add organic material to your gardens.

We had purpose when we learned the children's joy of autumn leaves. If we can tap into those memories and adapt the jobs to today's responsibilities maybe we can touch that joy again. Come on, it's time to rake the leaves!

Rochelle Smith is a master gardener and horticultural consultant.

AGRICULTURE BRIEFS

Orleans 4-H honors its members

KNOWLESVILLE — Numerous 4-H members were honored Oct. 23 as Orleans County 4-H members, parents and volunteers gathered for an Achievement Night at the Trolley Building on the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Among the many honorees were the 2001 Orleans County 4-H Project Champions. The honorees in their respective areas were:

Horse: Julianne Watts, Stephanie Boyle

Horseless horse: Nick Underwood, Laura Underwood

Rabbits: Julianne Watts

Dogs: Kristen Ophardt, Jacklyan Gingerich, Kayla Sucy

Cats: Julianne Watts, Kerrie Walker

Food and Nutrition: Julianne Watts

Food — Yeast Breads: Julianne Watts, Amanda Vreeland, Michelle Sands

Food Preservation: Chelsie Cliff

Clothing and Textiles: Julianne Watts, Amanda Vreeland, Michelle Sands, Kasandra Cliff

Arts and Crafts: Julianne Watts, Amanda Vreeland

Vegetable Garden: Kasandra Cliff, Kerrie Walker, Chelsie Cliff

Natural Resources: Dan Dodson

Citizenship — Parliamentary Procedure: Keli Collazo

Performing Arts: Vincent Flow

Also recognized were the 4-H clubs that participated in the "Super Club" challenge. Clubs compile points throughout the year based on the participation of their members in various 4-H and community events.

The Orleans County Rabbit Raisers, led by Neil, Joan and Sarah Johnson, were the 2000-01 Orleans County Super Club. Other clubs participating in the Super Club challenge were Hindsburg Hilltop and Towpath, Barn Buddies, HORSE CXclub, Goatherders and Dreamcatchers.

Winners of "I Dare You" Leadership Awards were Kerrie Walker of Kendall, Ben Flansburg of Barre, Lyanne Fousse of Albion and Stephanie Boyle of Medina.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ANNUAL MEETING

4-H official: Children benefit from solid human relationships

By Matt Surtel

Daily News Staff Writer

A child's development is not necessarily a matter of school curriculum or intervention.

Thirty years of research shows the quality of human relationships are more influential in building positive development, said Cathann Kress, state 4-H assistant director.

"Every child needs an adult who is crazy about him or her, and we think one may not be enough," she said. "We must also create opportunities for meaningful achievement, skills and confidence so they can develop a sense of 'I can.'"

Kress gave the keynote address Thursday night at the 2001 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Dinner of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County.

An upcoming series of discussions at local and higher levels will allow people to talk about what resources they want for young people in the community, she said.

Kress said about one of every eight young people statewide have some sort of 4-H experience. She said that makes 4-H the largest youth development organization in the state.

Communities have done a very good

Rudolph named Friend of Extension

Genesee County Legislator Richard Rudolph of Pembroke has received the 2001 Friend of Extension award.

The annual award from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County recognizes a community member whose work has been especially helpful to agriculture.

"I feel honored to receive this and I just feel I was doing what I was sup-

posed to do," he said.

In other matters, five people were elected to the Extension board of directors. They include Tom Felton of Byron; Debra Hill of Corfu; La Verne Lamkin of Basom; Diane Starowitz of Byron; and Jonathan Lamb of Corfu.

Leslie A. Groves-Marino of Batavia was elected treasurer.

— By Matt Surtel

job of organizing school time, Kress said. But they need to pay more attention to the people, places and possibilities available out of school.

Beyond younger children, communities must make sure they consider the needs of children up to age 20, she said. They must consider pathways — instead of programming — as children develop into adults.

The nation's social capital was at a low point 100 years ago, she said. Educators realized it's more effective to address such problems by working with children than adults.

Kress said the state 4-H program provides a cooperative structure between

members, leaders and experts. She said it is also one of the only youth development programs with direct access to changing technology.

Kress said a person must first be a learner before becoming a leader and then a decision-maker. She said generosity is about recognizing a purpose beyond oneself.

"Mounting evidence shows that through those relationships with adults in the community, (youth) come to be more involved, stay involved and believe they matter," she said.

"Positive human attachment is the most important factor of education. Relationships are key."

Tips for protecting your evergreens for the winter

By Dave Reville
The Journal-Register

Water and mulch all evergreens before the ground freezes

Give your evergreen plantings a thorough soaking as cold weather approaches, because these plants must go into winter with a good supply of water. This is essential because such plants are subject to considerable drying out by hard winds during the winter months.

In fact, evergreens that go into winter in a dry condition are often subject to winter killing.

Make soil moist to a depth of six to eight inches. This will require considerable amounts of water, about a washtub full or mashing machine full per plant, depending on current soil moisture conditions.

Protect mountain laurel, rhododendron and other broadleaf evergreens that carry their leaves all winter. They constantly are giving up water to the air. If these plants are exposed to strong winter winds, this loss of water may proceed faster than the roots can replace it. This results in shriveled wood and dried leaves.

To prevent such difficulties do four things:

1. Plant broadleaf evergreens in protected spots. Avoid southern exposures.

2. Make sure plants have an ample supply of moisture near the roots before the ground freezes. In dry situations, water the ground near the plants.

3. Mulch your broadleaf shallow rooted evergreens when growth has hardened in the fall. This will be after non-evergreen plants have dropped their leaves. Mulching primarily insulates the soil from violent temperature changes. It reduces the depth to which freezing takes place. Plant roots are virtually inactive or unable to take up water from frozen soil. Hence water loss from evergreen foliage is more readily replaced when roots are active in moist, frozen soil.

4. Lastly, protect the plants by a windbreak or sunshade. Back up the plants with evergreen trees to break the wind, or put up a shield of lath or other material to break the sun's rays.

Save your spring garden with sanitation this fall

A simple garden clean up at this time of year can prevent thousands of insect eggs and disease spores from ever reaching their winter destinations.

Spores of apple scab, cherry leaf spot disease, powdery mildew, brown rot and other garden disease over-winter in the fallen leaves and fruits of trees and shrubs. Make sure to rake up leaves and fruit debris and discard them in a working compost pile.

Use leaves as mulch only if you are certain they are not carrying disease.

Fallen fruit from fruit trees and fruiting ornamentals are host to a number of severely damaging insects, including apple maggot, leaf miners, raspberry fruit worm and plum curcu-

lio. Aphids, mites, tarnished plant bug, grape berry moths, oriental fruit moths, strawberry weevils and spittle bugs over-winter in the fruit and leaf debris left to rot on the orchard or garden floor.

These insects transfer from the fruits and burrow into the ground, where they over-winter, then hatch in the spring. You can prevent this cycle by picking up and destroying drops as soon as they fall.

Tops of shrubs that die back over the winter should be removed now. Peony tops, for example, serve no useful purpose anymore, and are particularly susceptible to harboring the dreaded botryis fungi, which will destroy flower buds next year. For this reason, the peony tops should not be used for mulch either.

In addition to sanitation, garden clean up provides a neat and tidy appearance for the winter. Simple design, not color, is your best asset for an attractive winter garden.

Time to start a compost pile

Fall is a perfect time to start a backyard composting program because the raw material for compost is abundant. Fallen leaves, grass clippings, weeds, spent vines, other semi-rotted garden refuse, including all of those green tomatoes, and all of the annual crops that are finished, provide the main component of compost. The other ingredients are soil, air and water.

For many people the compost pile is never finished because we keep adding kitchen scraps and other refuse as it accumulates in the home environment.

This is fine if the objective is to simply get rid of biodegradable garbage in an environmentally sound manner. If the object is to produce some high quality finished compost for use in the garden and landscape, then the compost pile should be constructed in a slightly different fashion or multiple piles should be created.

The basic principle of composting is to combine six to eight inch layers of organic matter with one inch layers of soil in between, plus some sort of fertilizer such as manure or even a few handfuls of 5-10-5 every other layer or so. It is not necessary to be precise. Essentially, all organic matter will eventually rot. The trick is to accelerate the process in order to provide finished compost in a reasonable amount of time.

The secret to quick composting is to shred the materials as finely as possible and keep the pile slightly wet and constantly aerated. Bulky or coarse organic residues, such as corn or sunflower stalks, may take years to compost if left intact, but the same cornstalks will break down in weeks if they are first shredded.

Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension for information on constructing your own compost bin and for more information on garden topics.

—
Dave Reville is an educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

4-H project champions named

—
KNOWLESVILLE
Orleans County 4-H members, parents and volunteers gathered at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds to celebrate the past year's achievements.

New to this year's Achievement Night were the "I Dare You" Leadership Awards, won by Kerrie Walker of Kendall, Ben Flansburg of Barre, Lyanne Fousse of Albion and Stephanie Boyle of Medina.

The I Dare You awards are part of a national program identifying high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who display leadership and exemplary character.

2001 Orleans County 4-H Project Champions recognized at Achievement Night were:

Horseless Horse: Nick and Laura Underwood.

Rabbits: Julianne Watts.

Dogs: Kristen Ophardt, Jacklyn, Gingerich and Kayla Lucy.

Cats: Julianne Watts and Kerrie Walker.

Food and Nutrition: Julianne Watts.

Food/Yeast Breads: Julianne Watts, Amanda Vreeland and Michelle Sands.

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The Orleans County Rabbit Raisers, led by Neil, Joanne and Sarah Johnson, were named the 2000-2001 Orleans County Super Club of the year. Clubs compiled points throughout the year based on

the participation of their members in various 4-H and community events. Other clubs participating in the Super Club challenge were Hindsburg Hilltop and Towpath, Barn Buddies, H.O.R.S.E. Club, Goatherders and Dreamcatchers.

Briefly

4-H banquet slated for Saturday

The Orleans County 4-H Leaders' Association will have their annual banquet Saturday at the Apple Grove Inn.

4-H leaders will be recognized and presentation of the Friend of 4-H and 4-H Leaders' awards will be done.

After dinner at 7 p.m., Cathann Kress, the assistant director of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H Youth Development, will kick off the evening's program.

Kress, who has worked for the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension since August 2000, formerly was the Iowa statewide 4-H specialist for youth development. She has a bachelor's degree in social work and master's and doctoral degrees in counseling education/college student development, all from Iowa school, and has worked in a variety of youth counseling capacities.

Orleans 4-H group schedules banquet

The Orleans County 4-H Leaders' Association will have its annual banquet on Saturday at the Apple Grove Inn, Medina.

Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., followed by the evening's program featuring Cathann Kress, assistant director of Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development, as guest speaker.

Included in the program will be recognition of the leadership and presentation of the Friend of 4-H and the 4-H Leaders' Award for Outstanding Service.

Kress is a former 4-H specialist for youth development for all of Iowa and began her position in New York state in August 2000.

She has a bachelor of science in social work from Iowa State University and earned her master's and doctoral degrees in counseling education-college student development from the University of Iowa.

Other positions in which she has served include youth and family violence prevention specialist, assistant professor, staff counselor at a student center and director of a counseling laboratory for career development. She has also done academic counseling for women's college athletes, and alcohol and drug education programming.

The Daily News • Tuesday, November 13, 2001

4-H club making fund-raising plans

ALBION — The H.O.R.S.E. 4-H club met Sept. 23. Members talked about fund-raisers and major events for the year and ideas for the upcoming holiday fair.

Plans include the Kirby plant sale in April.

Other major events that will occur this year are the mail-o-gram in January, public presentations in February, and the 5-star test in March.

Members talked about what they can use to study with and topics for their presentations.

For the holiday fair, club members will make wreaths or swags and other crafts.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2001

Orleans 4-H H.O.R.S.E. club gearing up for holiday fair

The H.O.R.S.E. Club's first 4-H meeting of the new year took place Sept. 23. We talked about fund-raisers we will do this year, major events of the year and ideas for the upcoming holiday fair.

The first thing we discussed was the candy bar

sale. We did very well with the sale this year. The next thing we talked about was the Kirby plant sale that will be taking place in April.

After that, we discussed some of the major events that will be taking place this year and some of the preparations

to help us get ready for them. These events include the mailogram, which will be held in January; our public presentations, which will be held in February; and the five-star test, which will be held in March.

At the meeting, we all

contributed by sharing some craft ideas for the holiday fair, and we will all participate in making wreaths or swags as well. Another meeting was held Oct. 28.

— By Jessica Arno, H.O.R.S.E. Club member

It's that time of year

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2001

For dealing with deer problems

By Deborah Roberts
The Journal-Register

Do you know the animal that kills the most people in the United States? You probably have seen them and may even have had a close call with them if you were out driving at night recently. Yes, it is those Whitetail deer that are everywhere these days.

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, a conservative estimate is that more than one million of these creatures are roaming New York State. It may be a hunter's dream, but the large number of deer has created a direct conflict with humans. Not only are they a major cause of accidents, they create a problem for homeowners when they eat their ornamental shrubs and trees and they create a huge problem for farmers by damaging their crops.

The damage caused to farmers is widespread. One orchard owner in the Hudson Valley had 100 deer in one of his orchards. The National Agricultural Statistical Service reports that in 1998 wildlife caused \$1,619,000 in damage to New York's apple crop and \$1,143,000 in damage to the grape crop. Some unofficial estimates for 2001 are as much as double that figure. NYSDEC does issue some special permits to allow farmers to hunt the deer doing damage in orchards. Some growers use deer fence and some use electric fence to keep dogs in the orchard to scare away the deer.

There are many ways homeowners try to deal with the deer problem. Some have tried mothballs. Some have tried motion detectors that start a radio or some other loud noise. Dogs can be a pretty good deterrent as they are for the farmers. Some use netting on their bushes. Some use fragrant bars of soap to deter the deer. Suburban areas particularly have trouble. Hunting where there are so many people is not a viable option. Contraceptive pellets are used in some areas, but the cost can be

prohibitive. While Orleans County is relatively rural now, as development of housing continues, the same problems may be facing us in the future.

So what can you do?

If you are a hunter, hunt responsibly and talk about it responsibly so that hunting continues to have a good reputation. Be courteous and most importantly, be SAFE.

As a homeowner, there are certain plants that deer are supposed to not be fond of, however, deer will eat almost anything as their population increases and starvation levels increase. Most importantly, don't feed the deer. They are wild and you are only encouraging them to become more of a pest by feeding them. You can actually increase the concentration of deer which increases the level of disease and the chance of dangerous interaction with humans.

As a driver, watch carefully, especially at this time of year, so you don't become one of the 70,000 plus car-deer collisions in New York (Associated Press).

One unique use of all these deer is offered by the Venison Donation Coalition. The Coalition processes and distributes ground venison to those in need in Western New York. This year they expect to process a minimum of 20,000 pounds of venison which will serve 80,000 meals. Working with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier (Elmira) and FOODLINK (Rochester), the Coalition will provide over 900 member agencies in 16 counties with the ground venison. For more information call 607-765-80721 or visit the website through the link at www.FHFH.org.

For more information on dealing with deer around your home, garden or farm, contact Orleans Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Deborah Roberts is with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Extension Educator offers gardening tips for November

By Dave Reville

The Journal-Register

Several gardening chores need to be completed before the ground freezes. Among these chores are preparing the site for a living Christmas tree, wrapping tree trunks for winter and pruning grapes.

Living Christmas trees

Dig a hole at least three feet wide by two feet deep and place the soil from the hole on a large sheet of plastic or tarp. Bring the edges of the tarp over the soil and place the "bundle" back in the hole. Mulch the area heavily with straw or hay to prevent the ground from freezing, and mark the site with a long stake so that it can be identified in case of a heavy snowfall.

Wrap your tree for winter

A newly purchased fall planted tree seldom comes with the trunk wrapped from the nursery. Wrapping is a recommended practice that should be accomplished before extreme winter temperatures arrive. It retards transpiration and consequent drying out, as well as protects the bark from splitting on cold, sunny winter days. Such splitting results from the intense rays of the sun striking the trunk and extensively warming one side of the tree, while the opposite side remains much colder. The

shaded side contracts, while the sunny side splits.

a specially prepared brown crepe paper or burlap strips are the principle materials used for this wrapping. Wrap as you would a spiral bandage from the highest practical point on the trunk (just below the lowest branches) to the ground. Secure the wrap at the top and to the bottom by folding the loose ends under the wrap. Twine may be used to fasten the ends, but be sure that it is removed with the wrap next spring.

Pruning grapes

You may have read or heard some place that grapes can be pruned anytime after the leaves have fallen in early November. It is much easier and faster to prune during the warm days in November than on cold, windy and snowy days in January. Prune the hardier varieties first and the tender varieties last. If one has only a few vines, or enough time and help, the ideal time to prune is late March or early April.

A garden clean up

Always remember that garden sanitation is critical. Care should be taken in the fall to prevent insect, disease and weed infestations next year.

A simple garden clean up can prevent thousands of insect eggs and disease spores from ever reaching their win-

ter destinations.

Spores of diseases like apple scab, cherry leaf spore, anthracnose, powdery mildew, brown rot and other garden diseases overwinter in the fallen leaves and fruits of trees and shrubs. Make sure to rake up leaves and fruit debris and discard them in a hot compost pile or bury them deeply.

Use leaves as mulch only if you are certain they are not carrying disease such as black knot of plum, fire blight and valsa canker which can be pruned out, but should not be done until late March or early April.

Fallen fruit from fruit trees and fruiting ornamentals are host to a number of severely damaging insects, including apple maggot, leaf miners, raspberry fruit worm and plum carculio. Aphids, mites, tarnished plant bugs, grape berry moths, oriental fruit moths, strawberry weevils and spittle bugs overwinter in the fruit and leaf debris left to rot on the orchard or garden floor.

These insects transfer from the fruits and burrow into the ground where they overwinter, then hatch in the spring. You can prevent this cycle by picking up and destroying drops as soon as they fall.

Tops of plants that die back over the winter should be removed now.

In addition to sanitation, garden clean up provides a neat and tidy appearance for the winter. Simple design, not color, is your best asset for an attractive winter garden.

Winter protection of tender plants

The winter can be truly devastating to the ornamental and fruiting plants that we tend in our landscapes. Luckily, there are some things that you can do to guard your favorite plants from the threat of winter damage.

First, of course, you must have a basic understanding of what can happen to your plants over a New York winter. Evergreen plants, both broad leaves and deciduous, are very vulnerable to drying out over the winter. The reason for this is that evergreen plants continue to transpire (lose moisture) even when the roots are less likely to experience desiccation injury, but some have tender bark and are prone to frost cracking that can expose the cambium and lead to invasion by insects and pathogens.

Gardeners seem to be more willing to push the envelope by planting marginally hardy herbaceous plants and should know how to protect these plants. Typically with herbaceous ornamentals we are most interested in protecting the root systems, since the

tops of these plants tend to die back during the winter months. One typical scenario is a herbaceous plant in a poorly drained soil getting heaved up as the ground freezes and thaws over the winter months. This problem can be especially troublesome in the event of a snow-less winter. Once the roots are heaved out of the ground, they are exposed to wide extremes in temperature and moisture levels, usually resulting in loss of the plant.

All of the damage that can happen in our gardens though is not necessarily a direct result of bad weather. Deer, rabbits and moles are responsible for a significant amount of destruction in the garden as well. So how does one go about minimizing these problems in the garden?

First, site your broadleaf evergreens in such a way that they are protected from windy locations and from bright, western or southern exposures. Tender, needle-leaf evergreens such as dwarf Alberta spruce should be treated in the same way. If one wants to put in the extra effort, one could also protect these tender plants with screens constructed of burlap attached to wooden stakes or fence posts. Anti-desiccant sprays, which temporarily seal the stomata, may also be a

useful tool in this problem.

Deciduous plants are immune from either. Some, such as some way maple, having tendency very prone. These can be protected with burlap to shield them from damage.

Gardeners frequently intend to plant perennials. In this case, give great thought to simple rules. First, don't plant after the first frost. You are exposed until the ground next rule is to ensure to remove them early in the spring so that your plants don't flower late.

Finally, plants are covered with repellents barriers such as mesh barriers to protect trunks to prevent damage.

Dave Reville
with the Cornell Cooperative Extension

Coat drive among 4-H club's activities

ALBION — The Barn Buddies 4-H Club planned many things for the month of October. There was a Headless Horseman Horse Show Oct. 20 at the Orleans County Fairgrounds. The show was run completely by 4-H'ers.

The group also visited Becker Farms in Gasport, where they went through the corn maze and went on a haunted hayride.

Many of the club members attended "Achievement Night" and also received awards. A special prize was a third-place overall in Orleans County for Super Club points, based on the club's activities.

During November the club is planning a coat drive to benefit the Medina Area Association of Churches. Anyone with coats to donate can drop them off at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Albion.

November Gardening Tips

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Several gardening chores need to be completed before the ground freezes, suggests Dave Reville, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County. Among these chores are preparing the site for a living Christmas tree, wrapping tree trunks for winter and pruning grapes.

Living Christmas Trees

November is the time to prepare an outdoor site for a living Christmas tree before the ground freezes, suggests Dave Reville, Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator, Orleans County. Dig a hole at least 3 feet wide by 2 feet deep and place the soil from the hole on a large sheet of plastic or tarp. Bring the edges of the tarp over the soil and place the "bundle" back in the hole. Mulch the area heavily with straw or hay to prevent the ground from freezing, and mark the site with a long stake so that it can be identified in case of a heavy snowfall.

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Winter Protection of Tender Plants

The winter can be truly devastating to the ornamental and fruiting plants that we tend in our landscapes. Luckily, there are some things that you can do to guard your favorite plants from the threat of winter damage.

First, of course you must have a basic understanding of what can happen to your plants over a New York winter. Evergreen plants, both broad-leaves and deciduous, are very vulnerable to drying out over the winter. The reason for this is that evergreen plants continue to transpire (lose moisture) even when the roots are less likely to experience desiccation injury, but some have tender bark and are prone to frost cracking that can expose the cambium and lead to invasion by insects and pathogens.

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Reville reminds that all of the damage that can happen in our gardens is not necessarily a direct result of bad weather. Deer, rabbits, and voles are responsible for a significant amount of destruction in the garden as well. So how does one go about minimizing these problems in the garden?

First, site your broadleaf evergreens in such a way that they are protected from windy locations and from bright, western or southern exposures. Tender, needle-leaf evergreens such as dwarf Alberta spruce should be treated in the same way. If one wants to put in the extra effort, one could also protect these tender plants with screens constructed of burlap attached to wooden stakes or fence posts. Anti-desiccant sprays, which temporarily seal the stomata, may also be a useful tool in managing this problem.

Deciduous plants are not immune from problems either. Some woody plants such as some cultivars of Norway maple are described as having tender bark, which is very prone to frost cracking. These can also be protected with burlap or other materials to shield the trunk of the tree from damage.

Gardeners are most frequently interested in protecting perennials over the winter. In this case, mulching can give great benefits if a few simple rules are followed. First, don't apply mulch until after the first killing frost; if you are extra cautious you may want to consider waiting until the ground freezes. The next rule of thumb is to be sure to remove the mulch early in the spring to be sure that your plants do not rot or flower later than normal.

Finally, if deer or other animals are causing trouble in your garden, try using baits, repellants, and/or physical barriers such as fences or mesh barriers around tree trunks to deter or prevent damage.

**The
Journal-Register**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2001

Briefly

4-H honoring achievers Friday

KNOWLESVILLE —
Orleans County 4-H
Achievement Night will be
held at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the
Trolley Building of the county
fairgrounds on Route 31.

Members, parents and
volunteers will gather to
celebrate achievements of the
2000-01 programming year,
according to extension
educator Margo Bowerman.

4-H fair winners, project
champions, Super Club
winners and Award Trip
winners will be recognized in
a "tropical" setting befitting
the event's Hawaiian theme.

Achievement Night is
sponsored by the Orleans
County 4-H Senior Council, a
group of 4-H members who
are 13 and older.

For more information, call
589-5561.

• The Daily News • Saturday, October 27, 2001

Most popular Halloween costumes still run gamut from ghoulish to fun

Patriotic themes and Renaissance clothing a big hit; creativity reigns

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

Some Halloween retailers say they've heard trick-or-treaters may be leaning toward a patriotic theme this year in light of Sept. 11 events, but many stores still offer a range of ghoulish and fun offerings that meet customers' needs.

Kathy Reeb, owner of Tickle Your Fancy at 10324 Harper Rd., Darien Center, says she hears customers saying 'everybody is going as Uncle Sam.'

But the funny thing is that no one seems to be buying that outfit because they think others are, Reeb said.

"Uncle Sam is a cool outfit," she said, adding that her shop caters mostly to adults with character themes such as Popeye and Olive Oyl, and not much "blood and gore."

"Renaissance (clothing) seems to be big this year," she said.

The outfits range from \$15 to \$60

and can be reserved in advance or purchased, along with accessories, the day of the event.

For those who may be looking for a bewitching costume on the cheap, Wendy Kelly thinks she's got the perfect answer.

Kelly owns The Place to Go Consignment Shoppe, at 39 North Main St., Albion, and 416 Main St., Medina.

Halloween is a big season for sales because people can find inexpensive apparel and accessories, Kelly said.

"Merchandise is marked down 50 to 70 percent," she said.

Women make up 90 percent of her sales, and Kelly sees a lot of old-fashioned clothing, wedding dresses, black dresses and shawls going quickly for costumes.

"There are even some men who want to dress up as old women," she said.

Kelly estimated that an entire outfit would cost about \$12, including shoes and jewelry.

"We have shoes galore, in a wide range of sizes," she said.

Most retailers — from grocery to discount to drug stores — offer a variety of costumes, masks, accessories and decorations.

Batavia's Wal-Mart, 4133 Veterans

Memorial Dr., offers adult costumes such as disco daddy or a medieval sorceress for about \$15 to \$20, children's outfits are a few dollars less, and infants can be a devil, Tigger or a clown for about \$13.

Wal-Mart's accessories of hats, fluorescent fingernails, fake skin, blood and more range from a dollar to \$10 or more.

Oakfield-Alabama High School junior Melissa Morton, 16, was recently searching the aisles of Wal-Mart for something to wear to school Wednesday.

"I'm looking for anything scary," she said, holding a creepy rubber face mask.

Medina's Tops Friendly Markets on Route 31A has a seasonal merchandise section offering everything from Halloween CDs for \$4.99 to blood, glitter and greasepaint for about \$2. And black hairy spiders for \$1.49.

Dollar discount stores, available in most towns and villages, and Salvation Army Thrift Store, 96-98 Jackson St., Batavia are another source for inexpensive clothing and accessory items.

While many people want a quick and easy costume, Jaime Beattie, of Jo-Ann Fabrics, 4152 West Main St., Batavia, said she sees many who sew their own.

"They started in September," she said.

Beattie said the theme for children seems to be Harry Potter characters such as a wizard or a boy with large round glasses, and she is seeing the renaissance theme for adults.

The store also sells pre-made costumes, but more people make their own by purchasing sale patterns for one to two dollars, and materials and accessories that range from \$8 to \$20, she said.

Accessories at the store are rhinestones, sequins, appliques and feather boas.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Associate Marlene Seielstad says "making your own" doesn't have to be complicated if you have some choice materials.

"My theory is, if you have duct and masking tape, safety pins, Heat 'n Bond and string (or elastic), you can make anything," she said from her office at 20 South Main St., Albion.

Heat 'n Bond and Stitch Witchery are two items found in most store's craft section, and they work very well for quick hems and for bonding materials together, Seielstad said.

Some of Seielstad's examples:

■ Take a black one-piece pajama and add a red pillowcase on top. After

stuffing the pillowcase with tissue, paper or plastic bags, slip shoestring through the case's hem and pull until it's snug. Glue round pieces of black material to the case and you've got a ladybug costume.

■ Blow up purple balloons and glue to a bodysuit or shirt, and you've got a bunch of grapes.

■ Use a cardboard box as the foundation for a candy box or similar items, and glue the product's label on. Or cut into shapes to use as a knight's sword (use foil for the blade), a cone-shaped medieval hat (with a piece of material flowing from the pointy top), or a clown's shoe (affixed to the top of a child's sneaker).

■ A yellow or red raincoat, black boots and store-bought plastic helmet make a fireman's outfit. Paint a cardboard ax red and use foil for the blade tip.

Seielstad says the library is a great source to see different costumes and get suggestions for how to make them, or check out the Internet site of www.allhallowseve.com for makeup tips, ghost stories, safety tips and more.

"You can do anything if you just think for a minute," she said. "Everyone has creativity, you just have to find it."

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001

Cornell grows special squash

ITHACA — A cream-colored striped squash developed at Cornell University has been named a 2002 All-America Selection squash. The prestigious seed industry award went to a breed named Cornell's Bush Delicata.

The award from the non-profit AAS is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a vegetable variety in North America.

Cornell last won such a plant breeding award in 1963 for a type of lettuce. □

Master Gardener

From Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension
For The Journal-Register

Garden chores for late October

1. Plant or transplant deciduous trees and shrubs once their leaves have fallen (through November). Plant at the same level, mulch and water thoroughly. Large trees need to be staked.
2. Deciduous shrubs can be pruned once the leaves have fallen and the plant is in a dormant condition.
3. Continue mowing lawn as long as there is grass to cut.
4. After chrysanthemums are killed by frost, cut them down in preparation for winter.
5. Apply dolomitic limestone to the lawn so that fall rain and winter snow can wash it into the soil. A soil pH test of the lawn will give guidelines for the amount needed.
6. Plant garlic and shallots for harvest next August. Plant in a sunny spot in well-drained soil, place tips two inches beneath the soil surface.
7. Rhubarb plants which are four or five years old can be divided now. Careful preparation of the new site will pay off with a good yield in subsequent year.
8. Trim dead, broken and diseased branches from trees and shrubs.
9. Cut back ground covers that have grown onto walks, drives or patios.
10. Mulch raspberries and strawberries.
11. Mulch young trees and shrubs with well-rotted manure, leaves, wood chips or compost.
12. Clean up all dead iris foliage. Remove and destroy iris plants severely damaged

by insects or diseases.

Fall is a good time to start perennials

A perennial flower border can provide color and interest in your garden from early spring until late fall, even wintertime if you have selected the right plants for your border.

Fall is a good time to start a perennial border. The soil is in good condition for planting and the plants should be well established before colder weather sets in. Most perennials grow well in full sun. Some will tolerate light shade.

Plant the smaller perennial in-groups to provide plenty of color when they are in bloom. Iris, corbells, poppies and garden pinks are examples of plants which are better in groups.

Peonies, chrysanthemums and New England asters can be planted separately since each plant produces a large clump with many flowers. Transplant peonies this month. Chrysanthemums can also be purchased now in bud or bloom. Select varieties that bloom at different times to ensure a colorful garden from September to frost time.

Daylilies can also be planted now as well as spring-flowering bulbs and true lilies. Add ornamental grasses to your perennial border. It will increase the contrast of texture and form all year round as well as winter interest to your border.

Store summer flowering bulbs

Most summer flowering bulbs should be dug and stored when the leaves on the plants turn yellow. Use a spading fork to lift the bulbs from the ground. Wash off any soil that clings to the bulbs, except for bulbs that are

stored in pots or with the soil around them.

Dig gladiolus after foliage yellows but before a hard freeze. Trim, leaving only about one inch of foliage. Leave them for about three weeks at 80 to 85 degrees F in a well ventilated room. Dust lightly with a general purpose fungicide, such as Captan. Store at 35 to 45 degrees F, never freeze.

Break off one-inch growth after curing and store corms in old nylon stockings or onion bags. Cut dahlia back to four to six inches above soil after a slight frost. Dig carefully. Hose off and dry slightly in a shady area. Label, then store in boxes packed with a "medium" of peat moss or sawdust at 34 to 45 degrees F.

Dig tuberous begonia before frost is possible. Leave four inches on top attached. Dry several days in sun until tops detach easily. Store in peat moss or sawdust at 45 to 60 degrees F.

Cut canna tops to within 14 inches of soil after first killing frost. Dust individual clumps with a fungicide, storing stem side up at 40 to 50 degrees F. Keep roots dry.

It's corn time in Orleans

By Deborah Roberts
For The Journal-Register

Cornstalks are popping up all over! But how much do you know about the corn that is grown in Orleans County? Commercially, Orleans County producers grow sweet corn, corn for grain and corn for silage. You will also find decorative Indian corn and some popcorn grown locally.

Sweet corn is grown for either processing into frozen and canned corn or for the fresh market.

In 2000, New York ranked fourth in the country in fresh market sweet corn production and fifth in processing sweet corn (all statistics from New York State Agricultural Statistics Service).

Based on 1997 sales, one-third of Orleans County's agricultural sales were vegetables, including sweet corn, making us the third ranked county in New York in vegetables.

Fresh sweet corn, as we all know, is a seasonal treat found in July, August and September at all our local markets.

There are two area processors, where the harvested sweet corn is taken to be mechanically husked, cut and packaged. So there is a chance that the corn you buy at the grocery store could be Orleans County sweet corn!

Sweet corn stores most of the energy produced by photosynthesis as sugar in the kernels. This makes it tasty and palatable for human consumption. In field corn, most of the energy is stored as starch. This is not tasty to humans, but very palatable for ruminant animals like dairy or beef cattle.

Most of the corn produced here is field corn. New York ranks 20th in the nation in corn for grain production (2000). Orleans County ranks third in the state in corn for grain sales (1997). Corn for grain is our third largest agricultural product in Orleans County. Corn for grain is primarily produced for animal feed and is exported all over the world by rail and ship.

Harvesting has just begun in Orleans County using combines that cut the corn stalk and shell the corn, throwing the waste stalks out the back. Some growers will use a corn picker to pick the corn whole, which they will use locally for feed. Corn for storage may be cleaned and dried before it is put in bins, to prevent it from spoiling. It will be marketed later in the year as needed.

When you see a "clean" field of harvested corn with a foot or so of even stalks, you will know that corn silage was cut there. New York ranks fourth in the country in corn silage production (2000). Corn silage is made up of the entire corn plant and is cut while the plant is still somewhat green. The corn plant including the ears is chopped up by machine and then stored in a bunk, silo or bag. The corn must be cut moist so that the silage will ferment allowing it to keep over the winter. Silage is used for feeding both dairy and beef cows.

So as you eat that other seasonal corn, candy corn, think of the many varieties of corn right here in our backyard.

Thanks to Nate Herendeen, area extension specialist, NWNYS Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team for assistance.

Deborah Roberts is with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Is Halloween the fifth 'H'?

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001



Paul Lane/The Journal-Register

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County was full of Halloween spirit. Pictured are, from left: Kim Hazel, Margo Bowerman, Deb Roberts, Peggy Mager and Sandy Cox.

Flirting with Fritillaria

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension

If I described a plant for you that comes in its own perfect package, gets planted in the fall, likes well drained soil and full sun or to be planted around deciduous trees that don't have early spring leaves, and form the most amazing spring flowers, what would you think of? If you were leaning toward a bulb you'd be on the right track! But the bulbs I'm describing aren't the run-of-the-mill tulips or crocus, not even the narcissus family with its large variety of trumpets and petals. I'm thinking of fritillaria, a fabulous group of bulbs that are excellent as individual accents and group focal points and are under used in the United States!

There are a couple of factors that make these bulbs great for our gardens. First, they are unusual; not every house has 3 to 4-foot tall fritillaria in their spring garden. Second, their height, there are some small varieties that grow in the 9 to 10-inch range but many fritillaria grow 2-foot plus! Third, their flowers, fritillaria flowers hang drooping from the stem in a large selection of colors and patterns. And 'patterns' is the correct word since several form a checkerboard in the colors of their flower petals. Most are hardy in zones 4-7 but be cautious about your source as species from the western United States do not do well in our cold, wet winters.

Fritillaria imperialis, the crown imperial fritillaria, is a tall plant. It forms a stout stem 3 to 4-feet tall. The leaves are long and narrow and grow at both the base of the plant as well as above the flowers at the top of the stem. The flowers are red, yellow, orange, or purplish groups of 2-inch bells that hang from the top of the stem under the whorl of upright leaves forming the crown. This is truly an impressive plant that is hardy to zone 5. It has a bit of an unpleasant scent so plant it away from windows that would be opened in the early spring.

Fritillaria verticillata is a much more delicate plant. Although its stems will grow to 2-feet, the overall plant is not stout as the crown imperial is. Instead, it has narrow, lance-shaped leaves that are either opposite or whorled along the stem with a few upper leaves whose tips draw out into short tendrils. The flowers are somewhat smaller – in the 1-inch range – and are single at the end of the stems. They form purplish, green and white flecked nodding cups in the early spring garden. Hardy to zone 6 these bulbs may need to be placed in a protected spot for those of you who get winter extremes.

Both *Fritillaria Meleagris* and *F. lanceolata* are called the checkered lily for some of their color variations. But, *Fritillaria lanceolata* prefers dry winters and does not do well in our cold, wet, eastern gardens. Choose instead *F. Meleagris* for unusual flower pattern and colors. This is a 12 to 18-inch plant that has relatively few long, narrow leaves along its upright stems but the solitary, bell shaped flowers are worth it. The 1-inch long petals are truly checkered in shades of purplish and maroon. They are wonderful interplanted with the smaller mono-color narcissus and in rock garden settings. They are happily hardy to zone 4 and come in solid yellow or white colors as well.

Fritillaria palidiflora is a bit smaller standing in the 6 to 14 inch range but it again is a stouter plant with almost blue-green leaves and 1 - inch long flowers that are yellow-white tinged with green on the outside and purplish dots on the inside. It has single flowers that form at the upper leaf joints so it will display multiple flowers for each stem. This plant is native to southern Siberia and is hardy to zone 5.

Another beauty is *Fritillaria pudica*. It is a small plant growing to about 9-inches and holds its bell shaped-inch flowers in small clusters of 1-3 blooms. The petals are yellow or orange often tinged with purple. It is hardy to zone 4 but is native to Western North America. Texts indicate that it will grow in the East, but "requires full sun, perfect drainage, and very little humus." Perhaps a plant to try in a special place in you garden.

These plants are special because they are unusual, so, you will not find them at bargain basement outlets. Look instead at quality nurseries, garden centers and catalog resources for top quality bulbs that will develop and thrive in your garden. Plant your bulbs as soon as you have them as they will dry out quickly. Divide dormant bulbs in autumn and replant immediately. The bulbs produce offshoots, which can be planted into the garden. Some will produce viable seed that may be sown in pans of sandy soil as soon as they are ripe. Lightly cover the seeds with the soil. Cover the pans with a pane of glass until they sprout. The seedlings should be transplanted to individual containers as soon as they are large enough to handle safely. Seedlings take four to six years to produce flowers.

Lastly, one of the nicest things about fritillaria is that the critters tend to avoid them! I haven't found any research yet but several sources confirm my observations, the voles, moles, and field mice do not devour them like they do tulips and crocus! That point alone merits trying fritillaria but let the colors and patterns help you put unusual flowers in your spring garden!

Orleans County 4-H honors local leaders

ALBION — On Saturday, Nov. 10, the Orleans County 4-H Leaders Association held their annual banquet at the Apple Grove Inn in Medina.

Orleans County Legislator Richard Bennett thanked the 4-H leaders for their efforts on behalf of the county's youth. He also indicated that the projected budget cuts were not a reflection on the quality of the 4-H program nor a disapproval by the Legislature, but an unfortunate necessity for all county-funded organizations.

Dr. Cathann Kress, director of 4-H for New York state, was the guest speaker. In recognition of 4-H's centennial celebration in 2002, she spoke about the principles on which 4-H was created that are still relevant today.

According to Kress, over 400,000 young people participated in New York state 4-H programs — approximately one in eight young people in the state. This makes it New York's largest youth development organization, she said.

Kress also discussed the impetus that started the 4-H youth development movement 100 years ago, which still holds true today.

"From its inception, this

American idea — the 4-H youth development movement — was about creating opportunities for young people to learn about the natural world, about technology, about themselves and their communities," she said. "The 4-H, with its emphasis on 'learning by doing,' began to impress upon school children the importance of becoming lifelong learners."

Kress also pointed out that as part of the land grant university system, 4-H is unique from other youth programs in that it has "direct access to technological advances in agriculture and life sciences, home economics, human development and related areas, which result from land-grant university research."

According to Kress, "The core of 4-H — meeting youth needs and building life skills — is timeless and unchangeable ... but how we meet youth needs and build life skills continually changes. Adaptability in our programs, our rules and our delivery methods ensures that 4-H programs will continue to be important experiences for young people."

Kress encouraged those in attendance to honor the traditions of 4-H by continuing to

provide opportunities for youth to experience belonging, mastery, independence and generosity; opportunities which "create stronger, more self-confident, caring and mature youth."

Kress capped off her presentation with a salute to 4-H's centennial: "4-H - 100 years, thousands of young people, millions of opportunities, one great idea."

All leaders in attendance were recognized for their many years of service, with special awards going to first-year leaders and leaders with five, 10, 15, 30 and 35 years of service.

First-year leaders recognized with the Award of the Bronze Clover were Lisa Heidemann of Kent (Dreamcatchers 4-H Club) and Virginia Cobb of Rochester (Orleans County Heelers 4-H Club).

Receiving the Award of the Silver Clover for five years of service were Theresa Brooks of Kent (Mozaics 4-H Club), Dona Scharping of Lyndonville (the H.O.R.S.E. Club) and Rebekah Green of Albion.

For 10 years of service, the award of Gold Clover was presented to Michele Batt of Albion (Back to Basics, Goats

and More 4-H Club).

The Award of the Pearl Clover for 15 years of service was presented to Jean Webster of Albion (Country Crafters 4-H Club) and Norene Higgins of Albion (Country Crafters 4-H Club).

Receiving the Award of the Ruby Clover for 30 years of service was Janice Giltner of Medina (Sunflowers 4-H Club).

Receiving the award of the Sapphire Clover for 35 years of service was Pauline Lanning of Albion (Riches Corners Revelers 4-H Club).

Michelle Batt and Linda Doherty were presented with the Outstanding Service to 4-H Leaders Award for their endless leadership, energy, positive attitude, determination and effort and responsiveness to the Orleans County 4-H.

Keeler Construction and Bill Gerling were presented with the Friend of 4-H Award for their dedication to the program as demonstrated by their willingness to assist various components of 4-H as needs arose.

4-H groups spread holiday cheer, sell variety of wares at annual faire

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

KNOWLESVILLE — There's no snow on the ground yet, but signs of Christmas are everywhere, from brightly lit outdoor decorations to holiday open houses and store bargain advertisements.

And there's the annual 4-H Holiday Faire Saturday at the fairground's Trolley Building on Route 31.

About 15 4-H clubs were selling holiday goodies that included caramel popcorn, homemade crafts and even some goat's milk fudge.

"It's creamier with goat's milk. We've been doing this for about 10 years," longtime 4-H supporter Michele Batt said, adding that she used her two goats and treated and pasturized the milk before 4-H members made the sweets.

Peanut butter was a big seller, followed by white chocolate, chocolate and butterscotch, said Lyanne Fousse, of the Back To Basics group.

Fousse, 17, of Albion, said she thinks people are into the holidays a bit more this year.

"I think people want to come together," she said.

Watt said she has the perfect way to bring people together in the Albion and Gaines areas.

"I would like to see a holiday parade ... we used to have one," Batt said. "But it would take a sponsor, that's the hard part. That's a challenge we'd like to give to the community."

Cornell Cooperative Extension Associate Marlene Seielstad said there were 400 4-H exhibits displayed throughout the room, and the faire was a



Joanne Beck/Daily News

CRAFTY ANGELS: Katie Benson, 11, of Medina, concentrates on making her angel craft at the annual 4-H Holiday Faire Saturday at the fairgrounds.

fund-raiser for many of the clubs.

Exhibits were one source of holiday gift and decoration ideas that included a red and green gumdrop tree, a tree with peppermints glued to a round ball and a candycane stick for its trunk, a small log adorned with pine cones and dried flowers that held red taper candles, and two differ-

ent-sized flowerpots tipped upside down, with the larger one being a painted Santa's face and the smaller one his hat.

"This is a good turnout," Seielstad said of the room filled with adults and children.

Shoppers also got crafty ideas from items made out of evergreen pieces to make a

wreath or wall hanging, and white chocolate-covered pretzel rods with candy faces and fruit leather scarves for tasty snowmen.

Katie Benson, 11, of Medina, used a hot glue gun to make small angel ornaments at a "do-it-yourself" craft table.

Benson was instructed to glue two pasta bowtie shells (painted white) to form a cross for the angel's body, and then she decorated it with glitter and small pieces of material for a face.

"This gives me ideas," she said.

Kathy Meden and her mother, Gerry Ostolski of Lockport, were resting for awhile after doing some faire shopping.

"This is very nice," Ostolski said. "I bought some fudge, it's very good."

The women said they'd miss the outdoor lights of Christmas this year because they're taking a long-awaited vacation to Florida.

"My husband and I haven't taken a vacation in 17 years," said Meden, 56.

Ostolski would be boarding a plane for the first time in her 80 years, but she had only excitement for the trip.

"I'm going to Disney World," she smiled.

No holiday fair would be complete without a visit from jolly old St. Nick, and Santa sat in his big red sleigh in the corner taking requests from children and an adult or two.

Three-year-old Alyssa Shortridge had her picture taken with Santa and whispered into his ear.

"I want an ash (Pokemon) toy," she said.

Lake Country Pennysaver December 2, 2001

Recipe for Success - Growing Youth in to Successful Adults

More About the Ingredients

The Search Institute, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the well being of youth through research and dissemination of information, has identified 40 developmental assets that are the main ingredients in developing youth in to successful adults. These 40 assets are divided into external and internal assets. The external assets are the positive experiences youth have with the people and institutions surrounding them and can be categorized into 4 groups: Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, and Constructive Use of Time. The internal assets include the youth's sense of self that they acquire from their surroundings and are also categorized into 4 groups: Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies, and Positive Identities. Research by the Search Institute has shown that the more assets a youth acquires, the less likely he or she is to engage in harmful activities such as problem alcohol use, illicit drug use, sexual activity and violence. Conversely, the more positive assets a youth acquires the more likely he or she is to engage in positive behaviors, such as succeeding in school, valuing diversity, maintaining good health and delaying gratification. The responsibility for providing the external and internal assets does not simply fall on the family of the youth, rather it is the responsibility of the entire community to provide the ingredients for growing a successful adult.

For more information on the 40 developmental assets the Search Institute has identified, visit their website at: <http://www.search-institute.org/assets/>

To inquire Cornell Cooperative Extension programs that provide opportunities for youth to gain these assets, call the Orleans County office at 589-5561.

Houseplants May Not Need Fertilizer

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Unless you are growing your houseplants under lights, they're probably growing little, if at all. So chances are they don't need as much water now as they needed in the summer and they probably need no fertilizer states Dave

Reville, Extension Educator, Orleans County.

Low light levels in winter limit plants' ability to grow and reduce their need for fertilizer and water. Overwatering them can kill their roots, and overfertilizing can cause soluble salts to build up in the soil and on the pot. Plants may wilt or suffer burned roots, stems and leaves.

Plant pots watered from below are more likely to develop salt buildup. Water applied to the surface of the soil takes some salts with it when it runs out the drainage hole. Leaching the soil occasionally—running sizable quantities of water through it from top to bottom—will reduce the salt content. When a salt crust forms on pots and the soil surface, removing it will prevent damage to plant tissues. Though most actively growing plants benefit from occasional fertilization, lush, rampant growth is not always desirable, Reville points out.

Plants will outgrow a terrarium more quickly if you fertilize them regularly, large plants that are reaching their maximum size for their location should be fertilized only often enough to prevent nutrient deficiencies. The alternative is to fertilize plants regularly and then prune them to keep them within bounds.

Several methods of fertilizer application are available. Fertilizers come in dry and soluble forms, as well as granular slow-release and solid types. Each type has its pros and cons. Mixing the slow-release types with potting soil eliminates the need to fertilize for weeks or months. Inserting the solid fertilizer spikes likewise means you don't need to remember to fertilize. The dry or soluble types are easy to use and generally cost less than some of the more specialized products, Reville observes. They also give you good control of how much and how often fertilizer is applied.

An important thing to remember is that dormant plants need no fertilizer and may even be harmed by it. Most houseplants growing in natural light in the winter are essentially dormant, so they won't benefit from and may even be harmed by being fertilized now.

If plants look sick and are growing poorly, a dose of fertilizer probably isn't going to perk them up, he predicts. The problem is more likely low light. If you can provide them 12-16 hours of light from fluorescent tubes each day, try that and see if they respond and if you can't, water them only when the soil feels dry and otherwise leave them alone. Hold off on fertilizing and don't repot them now until spring, March, when you begin a feeding program.

It's That Time of Year Growing Christmas trees

By Deborah Roberts

The Journal-Register

The smell of pine is moving indoors as we begin to decorate our homes with wreaths, swags and most importantly the Christmas tree.

At one time putting up a tree meant a trip to the snowy woods to find and cut the perfect tree. Most of us today go to the local Christmas tree lot or Christmas tree farm to cut our own.

Either way, the trees we use today are not just wild trees grown in rows, but the result of much time and effort. There are many Christmas tree farms and stands in every corner of Orleans County so getting to the source is not difficult for us.

While Christmas tree farming has been seen as an easy way to supplement income, it really takes proper planning, good cultural practices and patience to have a successful operation. It takes patience because most trees take about 12 to 16 years from planting to harvest.

Marketable trees take care through that whole time to have the quality that is desired by consumers. In addition to site location, planning involves deciding what type of trees will be popular and grow well for the location.

The three groups of conifers used commonly as Christmas trees are pines, spruces and firs, all of which have their individual characteristics.

Pines hold their needles well and grow faster than the other two. Their downfall is that they can have an open, scraggly appearance.

Scotch pine is a popular, versatile tree with hundreds of varieties. Spruces have compact bushy growth and the popular conical shape. Their downfall is that they drop their needles more easily once they are indoors.

The popular white spruce is a native of the Adirondacks. Firs are often considered the best species for Christmas trees. They are the "perfect" shape and hold their needles well, however, they are the most finicky about their growing conditions. Balsam firs are native to the Adirondacks and Catskills.

A Christmas tree grower must locate their

trees where they can most efficiently plant, prune and harvest in difficult weather. Other factors the grower must take into consideration are soil properties, natural vegetation, wind, snow and growing season.

Trees must be properly placed when planting so that they will grow straight and they must be spaced so that they will have plenty of room for access as well as growth. Fertilizers are used to improve the growth and color of the trees at certain times in their growth cycle. Competing weeds must be controlled. Christmas trees are mowed around, as well as hoed when small.

There are a wide variety of insect pests and disease organisms that may attack Christmas trees in their 10 to 20 year life, frequent and thorough checks are critical to keeping these in check.

Probably the biggest and most critical job is producing a quality Christmas tree is the pruning, which shapes the tree over the course of its life. Shearing creates the symmetrical shape and density that consumers demand. The timing of the shearing depends on the variety of tree. Because of the way they grow, pines are best sheared in the late spring or early summer while spruces and firs can be sheared any time. Without shaping, only 10 to 30 percent of trees on a Christmas tree farm would be marketable.

Of course the final job of a Christmas tree grower is to harvest and sell the trees. There are numerous "U-cut" tree farms in Orleans County and many of the stands sell locally grown trees, though some are trucked in to meet the demand.

As you enjoy your Christmas tree this year, think of the time, work and care that someone put into its production.

For more information on growing Christmas trees, contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Much of the information in this article is from the Cornell Extension Fact Sheet "Christmas Tree Farming."

Deborah Roberts is with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

It's that time of the year

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2001

Celebrating our shared agricultural history

By Deborah Roberts

The Journal-Register

As we each celebrate Thanksgiving in our own family's way, we are also celebrating our shared agricultural heritage.

We all know that the original Thanksgiving was a feast to celebrate an incredible harvest that meant survival to the Pilgrims.

In this day and age, plentiful, safe, healthy food is so readily available that we often take it for granted. Our forefathers would be amazed at the easy availability of food that we enjoy. They would also be amazed at how many people do not really know where their food comes from. There are an awful lot of folks out there who think that food originates in the grocery store!

You may not realize it, but most of what you eat this Thanksgiving could come from Western New York, if not from Orleans County farms themselves.

Let's start with the turkey. There are several turkey farms in the Western New York area. Some farms grow the turkeys just for Thanksgiving, some for year round markets. Several growers raise the turkeys "naturally", which generally means without hormones or other chemicals. "Naturally" can also mean raised in open pasture, as they would live in the wild. "Organically grown" is another label, which requires even more stringent requirements. Personal preference will determine the type of turkey you should

buy.

The various vegetables on the table could easily be from Orleans County.

Potatoes, onions and squash grown locally are all available in the many area farm markets and stands. White and sweet potatoes are grown on the special muck soils found in the far south of the county.

New York ranked sixth in the United States in onion production in 2000 (New York Agricultural Statistics Service).

Squash and pumpkins grow well here in many varieties, which is why New York ranks third in pumpkin production and fourth in squash production in the United States.

If cabbage salad is on your table, the cabbage most likely came from here, as New York is the number one producer of fresh market cabbage in the United States. One just has to take a drive around to see how much cabbage we produce right here.

Green beans and peas are widely grown here, even though this time of year you will have to settle for the frozen types.

As for the rolls, bread and pies, wheat is one of our longtime field crops.

Orleans County holds the number three spot in New York based on bushels of wheat produced. Much of the wheat grown here is white winter wheat, which is not used for breads but rather for crackers. However, more red wheat is being grown in the county, which is used

for pastries because of the higher protein content.

The flour you buy in the grocery store is a blend of varieties that will produce the best results for the home baker.

Of course the apples you have in apple sauce, pie or drinks, we hope have come from Orleans County!

New York is the second largest producer of apples in the United States and Orleans County ranks third in the state.

If your pies are cherry or peach, those fruits too are grown in Orleans County.

Unfortunately, cranberries are not a product of the county. But they are a product of the Northeast and the upper Midwestern states.

Milk, cream, butter and eggs are produced by local dairy and poultry farmers, if not in Orleans County, than in our neighboring counties of Western New York.

Sugar comes from sugar cane and sugar beets, which are also not grown in our area, however we do have local producers of maple syrup and honey.

So as you prepare for your Thanksgiving feast, think about buying local and think of your neighbors who produce this wonderful variety of delicious food.

For more information on Buy Local programs, contact Orleans County Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Deborah Roberts is with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

November gardening tips

By Dave Reville

The Journal-Register

Wildlife experts at Cooperative Extension recommend waiting to fill bird feeders until the truly cold weather sets in, or better yet, until the first snow cover. Offering bird food early in the fall may interrupt the birds' normal migration schedule, as they delay flying south in order to feast at your feeder.

Protect trees and shrubs from rabbits and rodents by encircling bases with hardware cloth up to six inches above the expected snow line.

Remove sail from gardening tools. Wire brush metal parts to remove loose rust spots, if necessary. Then wipe the tools with an oily rag. Treat wooden handles with a preservative to keep wood from drying out and cracking. Drain the fuel and change the oil in your lawn mower before putting it away for the winter.

Boxwood, broad-leaved evergreens and other surface-rooted shrubs suffer less winter injury when a heavy mulch is placed around them after several good frosts and before the ground freezes.

Hardwood cuttings of many kinds of deciduous trees and shrubs can be made the latter part of this month. Tie in bundles and bury in sand in a cold frame or outdoors. Remove from sand in early spring and plant in bed outdoors.

Perform a general garden cleanup to reduce disease incidence next spring. Make notes on this year's garden to improve on next year's performance. Contact Cooperative Extension for a list of recommended vegetable varieties.

Last chance to plant spring flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, crocus and tulips. Stores often have sales this time of year.

A light covering of leaves scattered inside the cold frame over biennials and perennials gives and added protection from low temperatures. Remember to continue opening the frame on sunny days.

Clean up borders and perennial beds. Tops of perennials and annuals can be added to the compost pile if they are free of insects and diseases.

If you plant to use ball and burlap or containerized live Christmas trees for planting outdoors you should prepare now for their planting. Dig now while it is a practical possibility. You can remove the soil from the hole and bring it indoors somewhere to keep it from freezing and fill the hole with mulch to delay the soil freezing.

Examine houseplants that were recently brought indoors for insects and diseases. Also check for stress from the change in environment such as excessive leaf drop. Remember indoor plants transpire less during winter months and will require less moisture and fertilizer. Remember to check plants for water needs.

Add extra soil and a handful of fertilizer to

the compost pile. This will help stimulate the decomposition process.

Discard remaining vegetables from the garden to prevent diseases from overwintering.

Mulch protects landscape plants

One of the last fall lawn and garden tasks is applying a winter mulch to wood ornamentals, bulb beds, strawberry plantings, perennials and roses.

The primary purpose of the winter mulch is not to keep the ground from freezing, but rather to keep it from alternately freezing and thawing and injuring plant roots.

When frost heaving is severe, it can actually push roots or bulbs right out of the ground.

Winter mulching of roses has another purpose: to protect from freezing the graft union, the place where the named variety was grafted onto the root-stock. Without protection, the desirable top portion may be winter killed.

Wait to apply a winter mulch until the ground is frozen. Mulching too early may prevent the soil from freezing and keep plants growing when they should be going dormant. The result may be increased likelihood of winter-kill. Mulching strawberry plants before the ground has frozen and all growth has stopped may smother them.

Straw or spoiled hay is probably the most popular mulch for strawberries, even though it may contain large numbers of weed seeds. For landscape plants, bark chips are often used around trees and shrubs and chopped leaves or compost in flower beds.

Caution is urged against allowing mulch to lap up against the trunks or stems of woody plants, particularly fruit trees. The mulch may provide cover for mice and enable them to gnaw on the bark and girdle the trees.

Maintaining a mulch around landscape plants all year round has other benefits also. A mulched area around trees and shrubs eliminates the need to mow up to them and so prevents mechanical damage to trunks and stems. Mulching also helps control weeds and conserves soil moisture by slowing the evaporation of water from the soil. This is especially important around newly transplanted trees and shrubs, which often have limited root systems for the first year or two after planting and so are very susceptible to drought.

Mulching in the strawberry bed and bulb and perennial gardens likewise helps reduce weed problems and conserve water.

Cooperative Extension advises against using whole leaves for mulch in bulb and perennial beds - they may mat and make it very difficult for spring growth to push up through them. Using a loose mulch that the plants can poke through eliminates the need to remove the mulch in the spring and possible injury to the plants in the process.

David Reville is an educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Orleans 4-H gives awards

MEDINA — The Orleans County 4-H Leaders' Association conducted its annual banquet Nov. 10 at the Apple Grove Inn. Among the speakers were Orleans County Legislator Richard Bennett and Cathann Kress, state director of 4-H.

Leaders were honored for their many years of service, with special awards to first-year leaders and those with five, 10, 15, 30 and 35 years of service. Among winners of Silver Clover Awards:

— **First-year leaders:** Lisa Heideman of Kent (Dreamcatchers 4-H Club) and Virginia Cobb of Rochester (Orleans County Heelers 4-H Club).

— **Five years of service:** Theresa Brooks of Kent (Mozaics 4-H Club), Dona Scharping of Lyndonville (The HORSE Club) and Rebekah Green of Albion.

— **Ten years of service:**

Michele Batt of Albion (Back to Basics, Goats and More 4-H Club).

— **Fifteen years of service:** Jean Webster of Albion (Country Crafter 4-H Club) and Norene Higgins of Albion (Country Crafters 4-H Club).

— **Thirty years of service:** Janice Giltner of Medina (Sunflowers 4-H Club).

— **Thirty-five years of service:** Pauline Lanning of Albion (Riches Corners Revelers 4-H Club).

Michele Batt and Linda Doherty were presented with Outstanding Service to 4-H Leaders Awards for their leadership, energy, positive attitude, determination, effort and responsiveness to Orleans County 4-H. Keeler Construction and Bill Gerling were presented with a Friend of 4-H Award for their dedication to Orleans County 4-H as demonstrated by their willingness to assist various components of 4-H as needs arose.

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Barn Buddies aiding MAAC coat drive

The Barn Buddies 4-H Club participated in a variety of activities during October, including the Headless Horsemen Show at the county fairgrounds.

The 4-H'ers also tried out the corn maze and haunted hayride at Becker Farms in Gasport, then enjoyed a private Halloween party.

Club members were proud to be among those receiving awards at the annual Orleans

County 4-H Achievement Night. The club earned third place overall in Orleans for the number of Super Club points it earned.

This month, the club is having a coat drive on behalf of the Medina Area Association of Churches. Anyone who would like to donate to the cause may drop off coats at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Albion.

— Information provided
Amanda Mryzwka

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2001

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

H.O.R.S.E. Club has good 4-H showing

The H.O.R.S.E. Club tied with the Barn Buddies for third place in the annual Super Club points competition. The club made 357 mail-o-grams, helping Orleans County to place third in the nation.

At 4-H Achievement Night, Carly Wells was honored with the Elaine Stirk Memorial Award and Lindsey Voak won the Junior Well-Rounded Rider Award.

Krystal Thornsby was named the Senior Well-Rounded Rider.

The H.O.R.S.E. Club was one of 14 clubs to earn the 100 percent enrollment award for the year.

Recently, club officers were elected. They are: Jessica Arno, president; Carly Wells, vice-president; Kelly Walsh, secretary and news reporter; and Amber Dodson, treasurer.

Extension Gardener

It's time to protect your home orchards for winter

By Dave Reville

The Journal-Register

Avoid girdling by rodents

Now is the time to protect your flowering crab-apples, flowering dogwood, cotoneaster, fruit trees, juniper and arborvitae. Pull out grass from the base of the trees. Put up guards using $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mesh wire cloth. Make a cylinder two or three inches larger than the diameter of the tree trunk and about 10 to 18 inches long. Set the wire three to four inches into the soil and pack soil around the base of the wire cylinder.

Home orchard sanitation

After the leaves have fallen from most fruit trees and before the ground is covered with snow, take care of any necessary sanitation in the home orchard to prevent the overwintering of diseases.

Apple scab is always a potential disease and most backyard orchards now have an abundance of infected leaves on the ground. To prevent an overwhelming supply of primary spores next spring from ruining your crops, rake leaves and dispose of them in addition to picking up drops.

Disposal of fallen leaves will also help control Cherry Leafspot and/or Shothole. Any rotted fruit on the ground or left hanging in the trees should also be collected and disposed of. This is absolutely essential for the control of Brown Rot on peaches, plums and cherries.

Sanitation by pruning is the recommended procedure for such diseases as: Fire Blight (apple and pear), Black Knot (plums and cherries) and Valsa Canker (peach). It should not be done until late March or early April when the danger of a severe freeze is past and healing of the pruning would be more rapid.

Garden soil management

Gardeners often wonder whether to do their plowing or tilling in the spring or fall. Working the soil in the fall has several advantages over the traditional spring planing. It allows for earlier planting, since the basic soil preparation is already done when spring arrives. The turning under of a large amount of organic matter is likely to result in better decomposition when done in the fall, since autumn soil

temperatures are higher than those in early spring, and there is more time for the process to take place.

Insects, disease organisms and perennial weeds may be reduced by fall plowing or exposure to harsh winter weather. The physical condition of heavy clay soil may be improved by the alternate freezing and thawing, which breaks apart tightly aggregated particles.

When snow is trapped between the hills of roughly plowed soil, more moisture is retained than on flat, bare ground. Incorporation of limestone in the fall gives the mineral time to become integrated into the soil and influence spring plant growth. To prepare for fall tilling, you should check soil fertility and pH by having your soil analyzed through a local Cooperative Extension office. A simple pH test can be done with one cup of dry soil.

Soil pH measures the degree of acidity or alkalinity of the soil. The correct soil pH is essential for optimum plant growth. Vegetables vary some in their requirements, but most garden crops do well with a soil pH of 6.2 to 6.8. This is a little below neutral or slightly acid (sour). If soil pH is too high or low, poor crop growth will result, largely due to the effects of pH on the availability of nutrients to plants. A soil test will also give you an idea of the nutrient level in your soil.

Holiday gift ideas

With the Christmas holidays just around the corner, now is a good time to consider the gardening needs of that "hard to buy for" person on your holiday gift list.

Most gardeners will appreciate gifts that they normally would not purchase for themselves. Like most people, they appreciate high quality tools, but are often unwilling to spend the money, therefore,

any quality tool will be a welcome gift. Some suggestions are spades, hoes, trowels, pruning shears, rakes, a good pocket knife, large watering can, leather work gloves, bulb planters or expensive bulbs like amaryllis.

More expensive gifts include shredders, chippers, lawn spreaders or rototillers. Books, horticultural magazine subscriptions or soil test kits would also make fine gifts and help prepare the avid gardener for springtime.

Also, why not consider enrolling a friend in the Home Gardening Program of your local county Cornell Cooperative Extension Association, which will provide a newsletter subscription for you to give. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County at 20 North Main St., P.O. Box 150, Albion, NY 14411 or call 589-5561.

It's That Time of Year

Shopping for holiday gifts made, grown locally

By Deborah Roberts
The Journal-Register

Everywhere you look the Christmas lights are up, which means that holiday shopping time is here.

There is always a push to buy locally from the retailers in Orleans County, but have you thought about making a point of buying locally produced holiday gifts? Orleans County is teeming with creative folks as well as those who grow and process agricultural products. Local shops and farm markets have more local items than you may realize.

You probably know or have seen some of the local artisans and crafters from the county. Their work is available in many local shops and craft fairs.

Part of our 4-H Youth Development program involves teaching our youth how to use their hands and creativity to develop new skills and self-esteem while having fun, which is what crafting is all about. In addition to sewing and cooking projects 4-Hers learn woodworking, drawing, painting and carving.

The Holiday Faire being held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Orleans County Fairgrounds gives them a chance to display their work and receive feedback on it through judging. Part of the joy of learning a skill is the chance to help someone else learn it too, so also at the Holiday Faire 4-Hers will be providing an opportunity for children from the public to create gift

items themselves. Stop and see what our young people can do!

Orleans County also boasts many locally produced food products. Area farm markets will ship gift boxes or baskets of Orleans County apples and other produce grown here to anywhere in the United States. Empire apples are a favorite of many to sent to out of state recipients since they are only grown in New York State.

Several area markets and shops produce or sell jams and jellies made here in the county from locally grown fruits. Quince is one of those hard to find old-fashioned fruits that are used locally to make jellies.

Honey comes in several different forms and is produced by a number of local beekeepers.

Another local sweet that can't be found everywhere is maple syrup. It comes in many sizes and actually comes in cream and as sugar for something new and different.

Of course, fresh wreaths and greenery can be found all over, made from the many different varieties of pine trees we grow here.

So as you start your holiday shopping, think of some of the unique items produced right here in Orleans County by your neighbors and let those out of the county know what we have to offer.

Deborah Roberts is with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2001

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Extension Gardner

Houseplants may not need fertilizer during winter time

By Dave Reville
The Journal-Register

Unless you are growing your houseplants under lights, they're probably growing little, if at all. So chances are they don't need as much water as they needed in the summer and they probably need no fertilizer.

Low light levels in winter limit plants' ability to grow and reduce their need for fertilizer and water. Overwatering them can kill their roots and overfertilizing can cause soluble salts to build up in the soil and on the pot. Plants may wilt or suffer burned roots, stems and leaves.

Plant pots watered from below are more likely to develop salt buildup. Water applied to the surface of the soil takes some salts with it when it runs out the drainage hole. Leaching the soil occasionally -- running sizable quantities of water through it from top to bottom -- will reduce the salt content. When a salt crust forms on pots and the soil surface, removing it will prevent damage to plant tissues. Though most actively growing plants benefit from occasional fertilization, lush, rampant growth is not always desirable.

Plants will outgrow a terrarium more quickly if you fertilize them regularly, large plants that are reaching their maximum size for their location should be fertilized only often enough to prevent nutrient deficiencies. The alternative is to fertilize plants regularly and then prune them to keep them within bounds.

Several methods of fertilizer application are available. Fertilizers come in dry and soluble forms, as well as granular slow-release and solid types. Each type has its pros and cons. Mixing the slow-release types with potting soil eliminates the need to fertilize for weeks or months. Inserting the solid fertilizer spikes likewise means you don't need to remember to fertilize. The dry or soluble types are easy to use and generally cost less than some of the more specialized products. They also give you good control of how much and how often fertilizer is applied.

An important thing to remember is that dormant plants need no fertilizer and may even be harmed by it. Most houseplants growing in natural light in the winter are essentially dormant, so they won't benefit from and may even be harmed by being fertilized now.

If plants look sick and are growing poorly, a dose of fertilizer probably isn't going to perk them up. The problem is more likely low light. If you can provide them 12 to 16 hours of light from fluorescent tubes each day, try that and see if they respond and if you don't, water them only when the soil feels dry and otherwise leave them alone. Hold off on fertilizing and don't repot them now until spring, March, when you begin a feeding program.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2001

Entrepreneurship group offers Value-added agriculture workshop

The Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship (NECFE) is offering an in-depth regional workshop for people who are searching for innovative ideas and enhanced marketing opportunities in the area of value-added agriculture.

Scheduled for Jan. 8, 9, 22, 23 and Feb. 19 and 20, the sessions will be held at First

Pioneer Farm Credit, 4059 West Road, Cortland.

The series is entitled "Tilling the Soil of Opportunity" and provides an insightful guidance for developing and assessing a business plan for agriculture-based ventures from traditional farm operations to alternative agriculture and food-based businesses. At each session, guest speakers

such as small business attorneys, bankers, insurance agents and marketing consultants with experience serving the agriculture community, will be available for consultation.

NECFE is a regional program, funded by the USDA and The Fund for Rural America. Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cornell University Entrepreneurship Education and Outreach Program, along with NECFE and First Pioneer Farm Credit, are the sponsors of the program.

For more information, contact Cheryl Leach at 1-888-624-6785 (ext. 3) or e-mail her at cal35@nysaes.cornell.edu. The registration deadline is Dec. 21 and scholarships are available on a limited basis.

Barn Buddies 4-H Club has clothing drive

KNOWLESVILLE — November was a busy month for the Barn Buddies 4-H Club.

The club donated a Thanksgiving meal to a family and also donated clothes to The Salvation Army.

They are also conducting a coat drive until Dec. 31. Anyone having coats they don't want or need is asked to take them to the Orleans County Fair Office in Albion.

Winners of the club's Chinese auction were Karen Neal, Dorothy Grimes, Stephanie Boyle, Miranda Feller, Kay Sucy, Ashley Boyle, Courtney Kujewa, Shirley Kaetz and Ann Preston.

ACHIEVERS



From left, Michael Blake, Ray Toenniessen and Kyle Heuer.

ALBION — Albion High School seniors Michael Blake, Ray Toenniessen and Kyle Heuer recently received jackets and certificates from American Legion Sheret Post No. 35 for their participation in Boy's State earlier this year.

Some of the qualities Boys State candidates should possess are leadership abilities, enthusiasm, good citizenship and a vigorous attitude, according to American Legion requirements, and the students completed their junior year in the upper 50 percent of their class.

The students joined six other Orleans County winners who were part of 1,100 boys from counties throughout New York State during their stay at Morrisville State University in June.

'Cream of the crop' honored after annual Holiday Faire

The Orleans County 4-H Holiday Faire, an annual event that offers the public an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities alongside youths who are judged on their work, was a success, according to organizer Marlene J. Seiselstad.

About 700 people came out to the county fairgrounds to review the handiwork of 4-H members, Seiselstad said. Roughly 400 entries were submitted by 150 4-H members; about 93 of them were Cloverbud entries made by 5- to 7-year-old 4-H'ers.

The entries, which ranged from evergreen wreaths to candy cane wall decorations, hand-made scarves and toys to food and fresh centerpieces, were judged using the Danish system. Award ribbons were blue for excellent, red for good and white for worthy.

The top 4-H participants, the "cream of the crop" according to Seiselstad, were given a "court of honor" award.

Faire-goers were given magnets decorated with the logo the marks the 100th year of 4-H.

Participating 4-H clubs were the Barn Buddies, Homeschool Co-op, Almost Anything Goes, Back to Basics, Beef Club, Barre Bunch, Rabbit Raisers, Rainbow Specials, Senior Council, Clarendon Rascals, Clarendon Mini Rascals, Lyndonville Mongrels and Heelers.

Individual 4-H participants and award winners are listed below.

Cloverbuds: Amanda Mitchell, Noah Preston, Leah Baker, Molly Murphy, David Murphy, Makaila Harmer, Kristina Kuellert, Ryan Fannin, Janie Schutz, Courtney Strickland, David Case, Adam Vanderwalker, Cassie Hoy, Jason Hoy, Maria Ostafew, Nicholas Ostafew, Mandy Armer, Rachel Penders, Deanna Piccarreto, Nicole Piccarreto, Samantha Gardner, Courtney Hansler, Derek Dingman, Katarina Tripodi and Ian Penders.

Smith; and Bre'an Rylander

Centerpiece: Shirley Armer; Deborah Shortridge; Crystal Gerken; Rebecca Feller; William Gabalski; Miranda Feller; Bethany Coon; Charity Beeman; Sheena Coon; Rachel Preston; Kim Eick; Star Graning; Michelle Smith; Kasandra Cliff; Paul Beeman; Amanda Smith; Amber Dodson; Allison Gerken; Terra Giltner; Bre'an Rylander; Dan Dodson; Emily Culbertson; Rachael Phillips; Alexandra Gudonis; Stacey Miller; Kealy Hargreaves; Kagney Bieniek; Kelly Walsh; Kerrie Walker; Audrey Rath; Chelsea Cliff; and Aimee Shortridge.

Door Decorations: Heather Carr; Tiffany Snyder; Adriana Harmer; Terra Giltner; Shane Harmer; Leia Fannin; Bethany Coon; Amanda Smith; Samantha Neal; Kealy Hargreaves; Rachel Preston; Jacob Preston; Staci Tranello; Keli Collazo; David Armer; Zachary Claus; Michelle Smith; Amie Collazo; Stryker Ostafew; and Brie Olsen.

Wall Hangings: Aaron Claus; Sarah Collier; Allison Gerken; Alexandra Gudonis; Bethany Coon; Brittany Murphy; Amanda Smith; Rachel Preston; Miranda Feller; Terra Giltner; Trevor Schutz; Sheena Coon; Rebekah Feller; Heather Carr; Amber Dodson; Scott Carr; Anita Snyder; Matt Watts; Dan Dodson; Dana Phillips; Stryker Ostafew; Ashton Watts; Rachel Phillips; Gina Tranello; Emily Culbertson; Star Graning; Nicole Brown; Tiffany Snyder; and Paul Beeman.

Toy: Kelly Walsh and Kealy Hargreaves.

Tree Ornament: Amie Collazo; Keli Collazo; Sheena Coon; Michael Cook; Adriana Harmer; Terra Giltner; Leia Fannin; Nicole Bennett; Nicole Brown; Susan Cook; Clarissa Steier; Chelsie Cliff; Shane Harmer; Kagney Bieniek; Alina Morales; Lyanne Fousse; Katelyn Armes; Christine Pittman; Erica Callahan; Bre'an Rylander; Aimee Shortridge; Kasandra Cliff; Katie Schlehuder; Rachel Preston; Rebekah Feller; Jacob Preston; Rachael Phillips; Bethany Coon; Mitchell Fannin; Dana Phillips; Amber Dodson; Trevor Schutz; Star Graning; Holly Squires; Miranda Feller; Stryker Ostafew; Stephanie Boyle; Michelle Smith; Allyson Doherty; Brendan Doherty; Samantha Neal; Charity Beeman; Kealy Hargreaves; Dean Graning; Mitchell Hansler; and Heather Brooks.

Gift Wrapped Package: Dean

Bennett; Alina Morales; and Stryker Ostafew.

Fresh Cut Evergreens: Allison Gerken; Chelsie Cliff; Kerrie Walker; Stacy Miller; Kasandra Cliff; Kelly Walsh; Jessica Arno; Rachel Preston; Jacob Preston; Crystal Gerken; Heather Carr; Mitchell Hansler; Alexandra Gudonis; Amber Dodson; Emily Culbertson; Carly Wells; and Audrey Rath.

Miscellaneous: Aimee Shortridge; Sheena Coon; Charity Beeman; Amanda Smith; Kagney Bieniek; Bre'an Rylander; Amie Collazo; Susan Cook; Mitchell Hansler; Keli Collazo; Toya Torrance; Rachel Preston; Jacob Preston; Michael Cook; Audrey Rath; Ashley Boyle; Katie Rich; Bethany Coon; Amanda Vreeland; Sarah Collier; Shirley Armer; and Michelle Smith.

Court of honor

Handmade Gift: Bethany Coon; Shane Harmer, Robert Carr, Leia Fannin, Jacob Preston, Sheena Coon, Dean Graning, Star Graning, Emily Vreeland and Anita Snyder.

Holiday food: Dean Graning.

Centerpiece: Star Graning, Charity Beeman, Chelsie Cliff, Deborah Shortridge, Bethany Coon, William Gabalski and Kerrie Walker.

Door decorations: Heather Carr.

Wall hanging: Bethany Coon, Amanda Smith, Rachel Preston, Trevor Schutz, Sheena Coon, Scott Carr, Anita Snyder, Stryker Ostafew and Tiffany Snyder.

Tree ornament: Rachael Phillips, Tiffany Agugliaro, Clarissa Steier, Christine Pittman, Kasandra Cliff, Charity Beeman and Trevor Schutz.

Gift-wrapped package: Kasandra Cliff, Natalie Bokman, Allison Gerken, Audrey Rath, Stacy Miller and Charity Beeman.

Holiday card: Chad Kirby, Lyanne Fousse, Nicole Bennett, Kasandra Cliff, Chelsie Cliff and Stryker Ostafew.

Fresh cut evergreens: Audrey Rath and Jessica Arno.

Miscellaneous: Sheena Coon, Audrey Rath, Bethany Coon, Amanda Vreeland and Shirley Armer.

Don't treat patriotic display as a passing fad

After the tragic events of Sept. 11, the country seemed to take on a new sense of pride and patriotism. Candlelight services were held, flags were waved proudly and people showed their support for a nation that needed just that. Within a month and a half after the event, this newfound patriotism seemed to disappear.

Why is it that it takes a tragedy where lives are lost for people to develop a love for their country? if this is true, why is it gone shortly after the event took place? Patriotism is not a thing that should come and go; it should always be with us no matter whether we are at peace or war.

If you were to look around even in a small town such as Albion, immediately after the Sept. 11 events, anyone should see that the community came together to fight terrorism

and show support for their country. Now, it seems as if the flags are coming down, and the support is fading.

The country needs encouragement and pride now just as much as it did during the events of September. We are at war — a war against terrorism — and Albion, Orleans County, New York state and the United States of America need to see support.

George William Curtis said, "A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle; and patriotism is loyalty to that principle." We need to follow this and get back that feeling of pride and love for America that we had.

Anita Snyder
Albion

Care of Holiday Plants

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



More people receive gift plants at holiday time than any other time of the year, suggests Dave Reville, Cooperative Extension Educator. Among the most popular gift plants are azalea, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, Jerusalem

cherry, kalanchoe and poinsettia. These plants require a cool sunny window and adequate soil moisture. Kalanchoe, the one exception, thrives at room temperatures of 65-70 F, and actually does better if it dries out a bit between waterings. The decorative foil should be removed from the drain hole in the bottom of the pot by poking your finger through the foil. Never let the plant sit in water. Pour off excess water that drains through.

Florist Azalea-The Florist azalea is more of an Easter plant than a Christmas plant, but is often available at this season of the year. Do not allow the soil to dry out, as the unopened flower buds will easily shrivel and fail to open. The azalea should have a rich acid humus to grow in, and usually is at a peak of bloom shortly after January and February. Try to keep the florist azalea at a room temperature of 60 F if possible, with moderate sunlight. Always snip off the faded blooms to insure continued bloom. When spring comes, plunge the azalea into the flower bed outdoors in partial shade. It is somewhat dormant in early fall, so hold back water somewhat until the plant is brought indoors. Place the azaleas in a cool sunny window, and fertilize. Buds should again form by mid-January to February.

Christmas Cactus-The Christmas cactus is grown quite unlike most cacti we are familiar with. In nature it grows as an epiphyte, or tree dweller, perching in a crotch of a tree or on one of its limbs. Instead of gritty sandy soil, the Christmas cactus prefers a rich organic soil that is moderately watered while it is in bloom. After bloom, keep the soil on the dry side for a period of time. One of the main reasons Christmas cactus fails to bloom each season is that it desires a temperature of 50-55 or 60-65 F and short days to set buds. This can be accomplished by bringing it indoors as late in the growing season as possible, or putting the plant on a cool sunny porch in early fall. Christmas cactus also needs a complete rest with little water during October and November in order to bloom well. With a temperature of 70 F or warmer, Christmas cactus will not bloom at all.

Cyclamen-The cyclamen, a relative of the spring flowering primrose, is a favorite that comes our way via Greece and Asia Minor. It, too, needs a high humidity and a very cool 45-50 F temperature in order to bring all of the 35-50 individual flower buds to full bloom. Water the cyclamen generally during its flowering period and fertilize it with a weak liquid fertilizer every other week. Avoid saturating the corm from which the leaves and flowers arise, as they easily rot. When the flowers and leaves do finally die down, place the plant and pot on its side in a cool frost-free place and water infrequently. Repot the plant in August in a rich soil.

Kalanchoe-The kalanchoe is not as popular as other Christmas plants, but some of the new dwarf forms of kalanchoe are quite desirable. This is due to the kalanchoes ability to be somewhat neglected, and to tolerate the warm arid atmosphere of our contemporary homes and apartments. Kalanchoe can stand temperatures of 72 F and infrequent waterings.

Jerusalem Cherry-The Jerusalem cherry is actually a perennial, but is best treated as an annual. Jerusalem cherry prefers a cool 50-60 F sunny position, with plenty of water and an occasional fertilization with a weakened liquid fertilizer. Daily misting is one of the secrets of success with Jerusalem cherry, as with a dry humidity the berries soon fall. With care, the plant may even reach its mature height and width of 2 feet.

Poinsettia-The poinsettia, a native of Mexico, is the most popular Christmas plant we have. USDA researchers have paid particular attention to this plant because it is quite susceptible to air pollution. In the house poinsettias prefer a sunny 60-70 F exposure. Overwatering will easily be the death of poinsettias.

For more information on holiday plants, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County at 585-589-5561

^{The}
Journal-Register

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2001

4-H club coat drive ongoing

KNOWLESVILLE — The 4-H Barn Buddies are continuing to hold a coat drive through Dec. 31 for needy area residents.

Coats can be dropped off at the Orleans County Fairgrounds office.

The Barn Buddies recently donated a Thanksgiving meal to a family and clothes to the Salvation Army as its November projects.

Winners of the club's recent Chinese auction were Karen Neal, Dorothy Grimes, Stephanie Boyle, Miranda Feller, Kay Sacy, Ashley Boyle, Courtney Kujewa, Shirley Kaetz and Ann Preston.

Taking care of holiday plants

By Dave Reville

The Journal-Register

More people receive gift plants at holiday time than any other time of the year. Among the most popular gift plants are the azalea, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, Jerusalem cherry, kalanchoe and poinsettia.

These plants require a cool sunny window and adequate soil moisture. Kalanchoe, the one exception, thrives at room temperatures of 65 to 70 degrees, and actually does better if it dries out a bit between waterings.

The decorative foil should be removed from the drain hole in the bottom of the pot by poking your finger through the foil. Never let the plant sit in water. Pour off excess water that drains through.

Florist azalea

The florist azalea is more of an Easter plant than a Christmas plant, but is often available at this season of the year.

Do not allow the soil to dry out, as the unopened flower buds will easily shrivel and fail to open.

The azalea should have a rich acid humus to grow in, and usually is at peak of bloom by February.

Try to keep the florist azalea at a room temperature of 60 degrees if possible with moderate sunlight.

Always snip off the faded blooms to insure continued bloom.

When spring comes, plunge the azalea into the flower bed outdoors in partial shade. It is somewhat dormant in early fall, so hold back water somewhat until the plant is brought indoors. Place the azaleas in a cool sunny window and fertilize. Buds should again form by mid-January to February.

Christmas cactus

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In nature it grows as an epiphyte, or tree dweller, perching in a crotch of a tree or on one of its limbs. Instead of gritty sandy soil, the Christmas cactus prefers a rich organic soil that is moderately watered while it is in bloom.

After bloom, keep the soil on the dry side for a period of time.

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Christmas cacti also need a complete rest with little water during October and November in order to bloom well. With a temperature of 70 degrees or warmer, Christmas cacti will not bloom at all.

Cyclamen

The cyclamen, a relative of the spring flowering primrose, is a favorite that comes our way via Greece and Asia Minor.

It needs a high humidity and a very cool 45 to 50 degrees temperature in order to bring all of the 35 to 50 individual flower buds to fully blossom.

Water the cyclamen generally during its flowering period and fertilize it with a weak liquid fertilizer every other week. Avoid saturating the corm from which the leaves and flowers arise, as they easily rot.

When the flowers and leaves do finally die down, place the plant and pot on its side in a cool, frost-free place and water infrequently. Repot the plant in August in a rich

soil.

Kalanchoe

The kalanchoe is not as popular as other Christmas plants, but some of the new dwarf forms of kalanchoe are quite desirable. This is due to the kalanchoe's ability to be somewhat neglected, and to tolerate the warm arid atmosphere of our contemporary homes and apartments. Kalanchoe can stand temperatures of 72 degrees and infrequent waterings.

Jerusalem cherry

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Jerusalem cherries prefer a cool 50 to 60 degrees sunny position, with plenty of water and an occasional fertilization with a weakened liquid fertilizer. Daily misting is one of the secrets of success with Jerusalem cherry, as with a dry humidity the berries soon fall.

With care, the plant may even reach its mature height and width of two feet.

Poinsettia

The poinsettia, a native of Mexico, is the most popular Christmas plant we have. USDA researchers have paid particular attention to this plant because it is quite susceptible to air pollution.

In the house poinsettias prefer a sunny 60 to 70 degrees exposure. Overwatering will easily be the death of poinsettias.

For more information on holiday plants, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County at 589-5561.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County.

It's that time of year ...

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2001

Orleans farmers offer a Christmas wish list

By Deborah Roberts

The Journal-Register

The gift-giving holidays are here and that means Christmas lists are being composed by young and old. So here is what some of the farmers in Orleans County have on their wish list this year (in no particular order):

Higher grain, milk, apple, livestock

and vegetable prices

To get an honest wage for an honest day's work

Less government regulation

More effective, safer and cheaper

chemicals

Cheaper energy costs

Lower taxes

Lower fertilizer prices

Higher yielding cows

Healthy animals

Less insect pests

Weeds that will die and not come back

More rain

Less rain

Less apple imports

Less plant diseases

More ladybugs

Higher crop yields

New and more efficient equipment

Lower equipment prices

New pickup truck

New work boots and coveralls

Warm socks and gloves

More young people going into farming

To be understood as stewards of the land

To leave a profitable business for

future generations

And like most residents of Orleans County, they want healthy families, peace and prosperity for all.

Happy holidays from the staff of Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Deborah Roberts is with Orleans Cornell Cooperative Extension.

4-H to conduct youth conversation

ALBION — Youths and adults who want to contribute to an effort to collect ideas in youth development can join the Orleans County Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 5 at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds.

As part of the 4-H national centennial, the club is leading conversations such as this in every one of the nation's 3,067 counties. The local conversation will lead to a state conversation in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and five territories.

In February, 2,000 youths and adults will meet in Washington, D.C. for the National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century.

"This may be the largest single undertaking in the first 100 years of 4-H,"

Margo Bowerman, extension educator of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, said. "We're creating a blueprint for youth programs in every community in America. It's personally exciting to be involved in something that will have a dramatic impact on the young people of this community, state, and nation."

Patterned after successful national conferences on small business and aging, the National Conversation will capture the best ideas and programs for youth development in this century and present them in a report to the president, his cabinet and Congress.

The 4-H intends to engage the nation in positive youth development programs, addressing youth problems, building youth skills, generating civic involvement

and creating better communities.

"All of us have a stake in how youth develop in the future," Donald T. Floyd, president and CEO of the National 4-H Council, said. "We're looking for involvement by youth, parents and professionals from all sectors of the community."

The conversation will use discussion guides developed by a design team of youths and adults representing the Cooperative Extension System, 4-H, other youth development organizations and academia.

In Orleans County, over 400 youths and 90 volunteers are involved in the 4-H program. More than 6.8 million youths are involved in 4-H annually.

For more information, contact Bowerman at 589-5561.

Prevent tree, shrub damage from heavy snow

By Dave Reville

The Journal-Register

Heavy, wet snow can damage the branches of ornamental trees and shrubs. What can be done to help protect trees and shrubs from this possible damage? Some of the more helpful practices that can be used are correct pruning techniques, various types of devices to "break" or lessen the amount of snow falling on plant branches and quick removal of snow from branches before any damage occurs.

When a tree is old it may be hard to remove these weak branches because they contribute too much to the overall ornamental value of the tree. In the case of young, newly planted trees, correct pruning techniques can insure a tree will have strong lateral branches.

Most low-to-medium height shrubs can be protected from heavy snow damage by constructing protective devices over them to lessen the amount of snow reaching their branches.

You have probably seen various covers over plants made of plywood, snow fence, etc. The design or shape of the cover should be like an A-frame so the snow will slide off easily.

Some people wrap shrubs with chicken wire or plastic snow fence to keep the branches together and supported. The fencing should be tight enough to give support, but in the case of evergreens, it should also be loose enough to allow the inside of the shrub to "breathe." On the top of the "wrapped" shrub you can secure a piece of burlap. This will keep snow from getting inside the center of the shrub.

Obviously, if no protection has been provided you can remove the snow from the branches before too much accumulates. You can use a broom or bamboo rake to help remove the snow. If you use this method of prevention, be sure you don't allow too much snow to accumulate at one time. Also, branches are brittle during the winter so care must be taken to prevent breaking them.

Deicing salt can damage plants

The salt that takes some of the hazard out of driving and walking in winter is bad for plant material.

Salty slush pushed off roads and sidewalks and flying salt spray can damage or even kill landscape plants. Damage can occur when salt comes into direct contact

moved.

Studies have shown that white and red pine are among the most salt-sensitive landscape plants. Others include barberry, dogwood and common privet. Austrian pine and spruce, on the other hand, were more tolerant. Other less sensitive plants include red cedar, horse chestnut, Russian olive, honey locust and black locust.

Damage from salt spray is usually visible before the winter is over and takes the form of dead buds and twig tips. Damage from salt accumulation in the soil appears during the growing season. Symptoms may include stunting, poor growth, dieback of growing tips, leaf burn or leaf drop.

To keep airborne salt off plants near roadways, fasten burlap, canvas or durable plastic screens to sturdy stakes to shield the plants. If you use salt around the home, avoid shoveling salty residue onto nearby plants or the soil beneath them.

To lessen salt damage, wash salt from the plants if you can. Heavy watering in the spring after the ground has thawed can leach the salt out of the root zones of the plants growing in well drained areas. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County at 716-589-5561 for more information.

Protect plants against cold weather

Whether you grow it yourself or buy it, a living plant is often the perfect solution to the holiday gift dilemma.

To get the plant to the recipient in good shape, you may need to take special measures to protect it against cold temperatures.

Try to move plants on a calm, sunny, relatively warm day if you can and wrap it in several layers of paper with some dead air space between the layers before you take it outdoors. Make the final layer a heavy paper grocery bag or cardboard box. Then rush the plant to your heated car and take it directly to the lucky person.

Most houseplants and florist's plants originated in warm climates and won't tolerate much exposure to cold wind or temperatures below 50 degrees.

Limiting exposure to winter weather during transport is an important first step in ensuring that a gift plant will do well in its new home. Another is to help the recipient select an appropriate place for

where their leaves won't touch cold window glass and their roots won't be chilled. A table near a window is usually a better choice than the chilly windowsill.

Florist's plants generally come with a tag of care instructions. Consider making up similar tips for homegrown plants, so the recipient can give them proper care and enjoy them for months or years to come. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension for your plant care needs.

Care of live balled and burlapped Christmas trees

Today many home gardeners live to have live Christmas trees, a growing tree with roots to be used indoors for Christmas and later planted outdoors. In order to get the best results and pleasure from your live balled and burlapped trees here are some steps to follow:

1. Before the ground is frozen, dig a hole where you anticipate planting the tree. Fill the hole with leaves or wood chips and cover to prevent filling from rainfall and freezing too deep. Keep some soil in the basement or garage so it will not freeze and can be used when you plant your live tree.

2. Keep the tree indoors for as short a time as possible. Make the change gradually, perhaps one day in the garage, one day in a cool basement and then into the room where you plan to set it up and decorate it. Repeat this same process in reverse when you take it outdoors.

3. It is usually better if the garden supply dealer pots it for you. A balled and burlapped evergreen tree should be placed in a porous pot and then in a bigger, waterproof pot but keep the pots small so that they will be inconspicuous.

4. Water the tree as you would a house plant. Water frequently and thoroughly but never let the soil get either dried out or muddy.

5. Indoor temperatures should be kept as cool as possible especially at night. Never place the tree near a fireplace or against an operating radiator or other source of heat.

6. Soon after Christmas plant outdoors in the hole previously dug for it. Use unfrozen soil in order to get it firm around the roots of the trees. If you like you can add a very little phosphate or an organic fertilizer. Be sure to add two to four inches of mulch, then take and tie the tree to support it during heavy winds.

7. Be sure to water after planting and every 20 to 30 days after that if there is

PREVENTING INJURY FROM HEAVY SNOW

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Heavy, wet snow can damage the branches of ornamental trees and shrubs. What can be done to help protect trees and shrubs from this possible damage? Some of the more helpful practices that can be used are correct pruning techniques, various types of devices to

"break" or lessen the amount of snow falling on plant branches and quick removal of snow from branches before any damage occurs, suggest Dave Reville, Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator.

When a tree is old it may be hard to remove these weak branches because they contribute too much to the overall ornamental value of the tree. In the case of young, newly planted trees, correct pruning techniques can insure a tree will have strong lateral branches.

Most low-to-medium height shrubs can be protected from heavy snow damage by constructing protective devices over them to lessen the amount of snow reaching their branches. You have probably seen various covers over plants made of plywood, snow fence, etc. The design or shape of the cover should be like an A-frame so the snow will slide off easily. Some people wrap shrubs with chicken wire or plastic snow fence to keep the branches together and supported. The fencing should be tight enough to give support, but in the case of evergreens it should also be loose enough to allow the inside of the shrub to "breathe." On the top of the "wrapped" shrub you can secure a piece of burlap. This will keep snow from getting inside the center of the shrub.

Obviously, if no protection has been provided you can remove the snow from the branches before too much accumulates. You can use a broom or bamboo rake to help remove the snow. If you use this method of prevention, be sure you don't allow too much snow to accumulate at one time. Also, branches are brittle during the winter so care must be taken to prevent breaking them.

DEICING SALT CAN DAMAGE PLANTS

The salt that takes some of the hazard out of driving and walking in winter is bad for plant material, advises Dave Reville, Extension Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County.

Salty slush pushed off of roads and sidewalks and flying salt spray can damage or even kill landscape plants. Damage can occur when salt comes into direct contact with the foliage and stems or when salt builds up in the soil. There it can burn the roots or be taken up by plants and accumulate to toxic levels.

Homeowners can reduce the chance of salt damage to plants by minimizing their use of deicing salt, planting trees and shrubs that are the most tolerant of salt, and protecting sensitive plants that can't be moved.

Studies have shown that white and red pine are among the most salt-sensitive landscape plants. Others include barberry, dogwood and common privet. Austrian pine and spruce, on the other hand, were more tolerant. Other less sensitive plants include red cedar, horse chestnut, Russian olive, honey locust and black locust.

Damage from salt spray is usually visible before the winter is over and takes the form of dead buds and twig tips. Damage from salt accumulation in the soil appears during the growing season. Symptoms may include stunting, poor growth, dieback of growing tips, leaf burn or leaf drop.

To keep airborne salt off of plants near roadways, fasten burlap, canvas or durable plastic screens to sturdy stakes to shield the plant. If you use salt around the home, avoid shoveling salty residue onto nearby plants or the soil beneath them.

To lessen salt damage, wash salt from the plants if you can. Heavy watering in the spring after the ground has thawed can leach the salt out of the root zones of the plants growing in well drained areas. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County at 585-589-5561 for more information.

PROTECT GIFT PLANTS AGAINST COLD WEATHER

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To get the plant to the recipient in good shape, you may need to take special measures to protect it against cold temperature suggests Dave Reville, Extension Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County.

Try to move plants on a calm, sunny, relatively warm day, if you can and wrap it in several layers of paper with some dead air space between the layers before you take it outdoors. Make the final layer a heavy paper grocery bag or cardboard box. Then rush the plant to your heated car and take it directly to the lucky person.

Most houseplants and florist's plants originated in warm climates and won't tolerate much exposure to cold wind or temperatures below 50 degrees.

Limiting exposure to winter weather during transport is an important first step in ensuring that a gift plant will do well in its new home. Another is to help the recipient select an appropriate place for the plant, one that provides the proper combination of light, temperature and humidity.

Flowering plants generally need bright light, cool temperatures (especially at night), and protection against warm and cold drafts. Foliage plants vary in their light, humidity and temperature requirements, but all plants need to be located where their leaves won't touch cold window glass and their roots won't be chilled. A table near a window is usually a better choice than the chilly windowsill.

Florist's plants generally come with a tag with care instructions. Consider making up similar tips for homegrown plants, so the recipient can give them proper care and enjoy them for months or years to come. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension for your plant care needs.

CARE OF LIVE BALLED AND BURLAPPED CHRISTMAS TREES

Today, many home gardeners like to have live Christmas trees—a growing tree with roots to be used indoors for Christmas and later planted outdoors, says Dave Reville, Extension Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension.

In order to get the best results and pleasure from your live balled and burlapped trees, here are some steps to follow:

1. Before the ground is frozen, dig the hole where you anticipate planting the tree. Fill the hole with leaves or wood chips and cover to prevent filling from rainfall and freezing too deep. Keep some soil in the basement or garage so it will not freeze and can be used when you plant your live tree.
2. Keep the tree indoors for as short a time as possible. Make the change gradually, perhaps one day in the garage, one day in a cool basement and then into the room where you plan to set it up and decorate it. Repeat this same process in reverse when you take it outdoors.
3. It is usually better if the garden supply dealer pots it for you. A balled and burlapped evergreen tree should be placed in a porous pot and then in a bigger, waterproof pot, but keep the pots small so that they will be inconspicuous.
4. Water the tree as you would a house plant. Water frequently and thoroughly but never let the soil get either dried out or muddy.
5. Indoor temperatures should be kept as cool as possible, especially at night. Be sure that it does not receive direct sunlight, even through a window. Never place the tree near a fireplace or against an operating radiator or other source of heat.
6. Soon after Christmas, plant outdoors in the hole previously dug for it. Use unfrozen soil in order to get it firm around the roots of the tree. If the soil is heavy and lumpy, one part peat moss to two parts of soil before back-filling should be used. If you like, you can use a very little phosphate or an organic fertilizer, or wait till spring and apply a complete fertilizer then. Be sure to add 2-4 inches of mulch, then stake and tie the tree to support it during heavy winds.
7. Be sure to water after planting and every 20 to 30 days after that if there is insufficient rain or snowfall. Naturally, water in between freezings and thaws in winter, especially if there is little or no snow during each winter month.
8. If all of this sounds complicated, why not purchase a fresh cut tree or "U-Cut" from one of Orleans County Christmas tree farms.

BRIEFLY

New York State Fair ranks 14th in North America, tops in state

SYRACUSE (AP) — The New York State Fair still has a lot of catching up to be included among North America's largest fairs but for the first time it can at least boast that it is the biggest in the state.

By topping the million mark in attendance for the first time last summer, New York's fair became the 14th largest in North America, moving up three places from its 2000 ranking, according to Amusement Business, a trade magazine.

"We're happy about it," State Fair Director Peter Cappuccilli Monday told *The Post-Standard of Syracuse*. "The numbers are great. It shows the fairgoer is truly enjoying the fair."

The fair's draw of 1,011,248 people last summer also surpassed for the first time the attendance at the Erie County Fair, held outside Buffalo. The Erie County Fair said its 2001 attendance dropped by 4 percent to 965,283, making it the 18th largest fair in North America.

Cappuccilli noted that the Amusement Business rankings compare attendance at New York's 12-day fair with fairs elsewhere that last much longer.

For example, the State Fair of Texas, which is ranked No. 1 in attendance with 3 million visitors, runs for 24 days, he said.

Of the fairs that last 12 days or less, New York's finished fifth in attendance, according to the Amusement Business figures.

TOP 15 FAIRS

The 15 largest fairs in North America with attendance given in millions:

1. State Fair of Texas, 3.00.
2. Minnesota State Fair, 1.76.
3. Canadian National Exhibition, 1.40.
4. Houston Livestock Show, 1.38.
5. Calgary Stampede, 1.20.
6. Western Washington Fair, 1.20.
7. Los Angeles County Fair, 1.17.
8. Eastern States Expo, 1.13.
9. Illinois State Fair, 1.13.
10. Del Mar (Calif.) Fair, 1.12.
11. Arizona State Fair, 1.07.
12. California State Fair, 1.04.
13. Tulsa State Fair, 1.04.
14. New York State Fair, 1.01.
15. Oklahoma State Fair, 1.00.

Source: Amusement Business magazine

Bits and Pieces laying out horse disaster plan

ALBION — The Bits and Pieces 4-H Club is participating in efforts to organize a county-wide disaster plan for horses in the event a natural or accidental disaster occurs.

The club, led by Marilyn Munzert, is working with Paul Wagner, Orleans County's emergency management coordinator, and veterinarian Dr. Carol Pepper to devise a plan that would assist horse owners in the event of a fire, storm, traffic accident or other disaster.

The club will help lead a hands-on training clinic Feb. 9 at the Wild Rose Farm that will teach emergency personnel how to catch, lead and secure frightened, lost or injured horses.

After the training, the 4-H members will conduct a county-wide survey to research and map the location of all horses, their water sources and any possible temporary emergency shelters for them.

Munzert laid out a variety of scenarios to illustrate why a plan is important:

"Imagine that your neighbor's burning leaf pile has gotten out of hand and the flames are headed toward your barn, where your horses are housed, or the fire department is at your door, giving you 20 minutes to evacuate because a truck accident down the road is releasing deadly toxic fumes.

"Now imagine you had to figure out what to do with your horses. In addition to loose horses, barn fires, ice storms, muddy conditions, sink holes, traffic accidents, trail ride mishaps or small plane crashes, there are other problems that may require catching horses, emergency treatment and finding some kind of temporary enclosure or shelter for them.

"Using these scenarios as their guidelines, the Bits and Pieces 4-H Club plans to be prepared," she said.

The
Journal-Register

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2002

GREEN THUMB RESOLUTIONS FOR 2002

Extension Gardener

By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



New Year's resolutions-everybody makes them and few people keep them. If you're a gardener, you can make these more relevant and more likely to be carried out by focusing on your lawn and garden, suggests

Dave Reville, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orleans County. Extension horticulturists suggest looking back at the 2001 growing season for educational experiences that you could turn into green thumb resolutions for 2002.

Maybe you'll try something new or do something differently as a result. Or maybe you'll carefully file the list with your garden diagram from last year and never see it again. Either way, making resolutions for the coming growing season is a way of reflecting on past successes and planning for future ones. The following list is courtesy Michigan State University.

In 2002, I resolve:

- To make my list of needed seeds and plants before I start browsing through the seed catalogs.

- To limit the size of my vegetable and flower gardens to what I can reasonably expect to be able to care for.

- To keep records of where I plant what in the landscape, the perennial garden and the vegetable garden, and to file those diagrams where I know I'll be able to find them later.

- To plan the vegetable garden carefully (using last year's diagram) so that closely related crops don't follow one another in the same spot and all available space is productive all season.

- To use disease-resistant vegetable varieties whenever possible.

- To plant using proper spacing so the summer squash plants don't overwhelm the first row of beans and the pumpkin vines don't infiltrate the lawn.

- To plant cool-weather crops early and again in mid-to late summer for a fall harvest.

- To harvest crops at their peak of quality. No more zucchini large enough to make dugout canoes from! No more lumpy, tough beans!

- To freeze or can produce as soon as possible after harvest to maintain high quality.

- To rotate frozen vegetables in the freezer so the oldest are used up first. No more freeze-dried broccoli!

- To check plants for insects and diseases more often-i.e., before tomato hornworms denude the plants, before bean beetles have turned the snap bean leaves to lace, etc., and to take preventive measures against cutworms. No more peppers snapped off at the soil line!

- To use biological and/or cultural rather than chemical controls for pests and weeds whenever possible-e.g., mulch earlier and deeper.

- To hold the line against weeds all summer so they don't go to seed and make next year's weed problems worse.

- To look at my home grounds in light of future as well as current needs and make major changes according to a carefully thought out landscape development plan.

- To try out major landscape changes with stakes and strings before starting to dig.

- To plant only hardy, relatively problems-free ornamentals in sites that provide the growing conditions they need and the room they need to grow so as to minimize the need for chemical sprays, aggressive pruning and replacement to correct problems.

- To recycle landscape leftovers, garden waste and other organic materials in a compost pile.

- To use the products of the compost pile to improve soil quality in the vegetable and flower gardens.

- To take a preventive approach to home and landscape maintenance rather than wait for small problems to turn into disasters-e.g., to prune dead limbs out of trees overhanging buildings before they fall in an ice storm, taking down utility wires, damaging the garage roof and otherwise bringing unneeded excitement into an already stressful time.

- To store firewood outdoors away from the house so that any bugs or rodents that take up residence in the wood stay in the wood rather than migrate into the house.

- To preserve the manufacturer's operating manuals for all lawn and garden equipment and read them frequently-at least at the beginning of every gardening season or before using the equipment for the first time-and following the directions for operation and maintenance.

- To keep a healthy perspective on gardening. It's exercise in the fresh air, not a competition with the neighborhood perfectionist. A list of green thumb resolutions is a statement of intent, not a nag list. And you can only do what you can do with what you have to work with.

- To remember that Murphy's Law is the ruling principle of gardening. Anything that can go wrong-particularly with the weather-most certainly will. But there's always next year.

- Finally, why not enroll in the Home Horticulture Program of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County? This will bring you a monthly gardening newsletter, garden class announcements and the latest in garden research. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County at 585-589-5561 for more information.

Some green thumb New Year's resolutions for 2002

By Dave Reville

The Journal-Register

New Year's resolutions — everybody makes them and few people keep them. If you're a gardener, you can make these more relevant and more likely to be carried out by focusing on your lawn and garden.

Extension horticulturists suggest looking back at the 2001 growing season for educational experiences that you could turn into green thumb resolutions for 2002.

Maybe you'll try something new or do something differently as a result. Or maybe you'll carefully file the list with your garden diagram from last year and never see it again. Either way, making resolutions for the coming growing season is a way of reflecting on past successes and planning for future ones.

The following list is courtesy of Michigan State University.

In 2002, I resolve:

- To make my list of needed seeds and plants before I start browsing through the seed catalogs.

- To limit the size of my vegetable and flower gardens to what I can reasonably expect to be able to care for.

- To keep records of where I plant what in the landscape, the perennial garden and the vegetable garden, and to file those diagrams where I know I'll be able to find them later.

- To plan the vegetable garden carefully (using last year's diagram) so that closely related crops don't follow one another in the same spot and all available space is productive all season.

- To use disease-resistant vegetable varieties whenever possible.

- To plant using proper spacing so the summer squash plants don't overwhelm the first row of beans and the pumpkin vines don't infiltrate the lawn.

- To plant cool-weather crops early and again in mid to late summer for a fall harvest.

- To harvest crops at their peak of quality. No more zucchini large enough to make dugout canoes from! No more lumpy, tough beans!

- To freeze or can produce as soon as possible after harvest to maintain high quality.

- To rotate frozen vegetables in the freezer so the oldest are used up

first. No more frozen, dried broccoli.

- To check plants for insects and diseases more often, i.e. before tomato horaworms denude the plants, before bean needles have turned the snap bean leaves to lace, etc., and to take preventive measures against cutworms. No more peppers snapped off at the soil line.

- To use biological and/or cultural rather than chemical controls for pests and weeds whenever possible, e.g., mulch earlier and deeper.

- To hold the line against weeds all summer so they don't go to seed and make next year's weed problems worse.

- To look at my home grounds in light of future as well as current needs and make major changes according to a carefully thought out landscape development plan.

- To try out major landscape changes with stakes and strings before starting to dig.

- To plant only hardy, relatively problem-free ornamentals in sites that provide the growing conditions they need and the room they need to grow so as to minimize the need for

chemical sprays, aggressive pruning and replacement to correct problems.

- To recycle landscape leftovers, garden waste and other organic materials in a compost pile.

- To use the products of the compost pile to improve soil quality in the vegetable and flower gardens.

- To take a preventative approach to home and landscape maintenance rather than wait for small problems to turn into disasters, e.g., to prune dead limbs out of trees overhanging buildings before they fall in an ice storm, taking down utility wires, damaging the garage roof and otherwise brining unneeded excitement into an already stressful time.

- To store firewood outdoors away from the house so that any bugs or rodents that take up residence in the wood state in the wood rather than migrate into the house.

- To preserve the manufacturer's operating manuals for all lawn and garden equipment and read them frequently — at least at the beginning of every gardening season or before using the equipment for the

first time — and following the directions for operation and maintenance.

- To keep a healthy perspective on gardening. It's exercise in the fresh air, not a competition with the neighboring perfectionist. A list of green thumb resolutions is a statement of intent, not a nag list. And you can only do what you can with what you have to work with.

- To remember that Murphy's Law is the ruling principle of gardening. Anything that can go wrong — particularly with the weather — most certainly will. But there's always next year.

- Finally, why not enroll in the Home Horticulture Program of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County? This will bring you a monthly gardening newsletter, garden class announcements and the latest in garden research. Contact the CCE at 589-5561 for more information.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2002

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Horse Club kicks off program year

The 4-H H.O.R.S.E. Club will participate in a mail-o-gram session Saturday at the Orleans County Fairgrounds.

The mail-o-grams will be Valentine's Day cards, which will be sent to military personnel overseas, according to member Audrey Rath.

At the club's most recent meeting, members chose topics for public presentations to be held in February.

Donna Sharping, club leader, also talked with members about how to treat horses during the winter so they don't get sick.

Club members recapped their December 2001 projects, which included the making of wreaths and gumdrop trees that were entered in the Holiday Faire competition; and buying gifts and food for an Orleans County family in need at Christmastime.

Club members honored at the Holiday Faire were Jessica Arno, court of honor, for her wreath; Stacey Miller, court of honor, for her gift wrap package; and Audrey Rath, court of honor, for her wreath, gift wrap package, gumdrop tree and penguin family.

It was announced at the meeting that the club raised \$16 by selling candy bars in October.

How to care for your holiday gift plants

By Dave Reville

The Journal-Register

The holiday season is made more alive and enjoyable by the various flowering and fruiting plants associated with it. Some are the subjects of pleasant traditions, others simply add to the color of the season.

You can enjoy these plants long after the holidays have become a memory, if you are willing to administer a little sensible care.

Poinsettia

The favorite is the poinsettia, available in varying shades of red, pink or white and marbled. The one you receive this year is probably a long-lasting hybrid. "Long-lasting" means it may still sport its colorful bracts next July!

Hybrid selections grown and cultured exactly are far

different from the poinsettias commonly grown in commercial ranges just five years ago. Then, most poinsettias produced only one bloom per cutting. The height was determined by the time the cutting rooted.

Producers now use the "multi-flower" poinsettia plant. This is a single cutting, rooted, pinched plant, perhaps treated with growth retardant, grown in soilless mix and given photoperiod treatment to be at its prime around Dec. 20.

With a little care, these plants have held their colorful bracts (blooms) into July.

Some growers try to send a "care card" with each plant to its final customer, telling how to handle it. Exposure to freezing temperatures, to overheated or drafty rooms or to several days of drying may

cut short your enjoyment of a poinsettia, regardless of how much or little tender loving care you lavish on it.

If your plant arrives with a decorative wrap around the pot, poke holes in it so no water can accumulate.

Poinsettias like all the winter light they can get. Place your plant in a sunny window, keeping foliage from touching cold glass panes.

Keep it out of drafts, from open doors and registers. The best temperatures for hybrids run between 65 and 70 degrees.

Water only when the surface of the growing medium turns a lighter color or is dry to your touch. After watering, remove any water standing in the saucer.

If after a month the plant still looks healthy, and you continue to enjoy its brilliant colors, feed it a soluble fertilizer. Vegetative shoots may then occur after six weeks, depending on your methods.

A number of people have noted that poinsettia plants last longer if a little light reached the plant throughout the night. Poinsettias will grow vigorously if placed outdoors for summer after frosty winter ends.

Chrysanthemums

Potted chrysanthemums are popular at Christmas because of the diverse color choices available. Long-lasting blooms also help their winter popularity.

Mums do best in bright winter sunlight. Blooms and developing buds will display full color if night temperatures dip to 60 to 65 degrees.

To give it this coolness, set the pot on the floor when you put the cat out — or finish watching the late news. The place should not be drafty, however. If the plant is in a soilless medium — as some now offered — it will need a soluble fertilizer feeding after a month in your home. Keep the medium moist. Check it every day if the plant is sitting in sunshine.

Christmas begonia

Christmas begonias will provide three to four weeks of clusters of small pink flowers above light green foliage. Again, a sunny location is prescribed.

Check begonias daily for

water needs and keep them moist. This plant needs 60- to 65-degree night temperatures to continue bud development. A Christmas begonia is a most difficult plant to maintain in the home. Enjoy it until its flush of blooms comes to an end — then discard it.

Christmas cactus

The Christmas cactus sets buds for wintertime bloom if subjected to short days beginning the first of September.

While "cactus" to many people suggests high temperatures and dry air, this is not the culture to give the Christmas cactus.

To set buds during short days, it needs coolness — temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees. If temperatures are high and the light too low in intensity, buds will drop.

Christmas cactus wants full winter sun, 60-degree nights, a moist growing medium and regular houseplant feeding while in active growth.

Christmas pepper

Christmas pepper is an annual plant. Once its colorful set of fruit begins to wane, discard it. While at its prime, give it full winter sunlight, night temperatures in the 60's and a moist growing medium.

Azalea

Azaleas are seen more and more as Christmas plants. Many single and semi-double varieties in red, orange and white are now available.

To get the longest period of bloom enjoyment, give them full winter sunlight and cool nights with the temperature around 60 degrees. This may mean setting it in the cool side of the room, on the floor or on a cool window sill overnight.

Keep the growing medium moist — check its water needs every other day. Liquid plant food is needed for continued growth and flower bud opening.

To get azaleas to bloom again, next year will demand a six-week cool treatment at around 40 degrees. This is hard to give in a home atmosphere, so it is best to discard the plant after it has lavished its blooms on you.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

How To Care For Your Holiday Gift Plants

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



The Holiday Season is made more alive and enjoyable by the various flowering and fruiting plants associated with it. Some are the subjects of pleasant traditions, others simply add to the color of the season. You can enjoy these plants long after the holidays have become a memory, if you are willing to administer a little sensible care.

POINSETTIA - The favorite is the poinsettia, available in varying shades of red, pink, or white, and marbled. The one you receive this year is probably a long lasting hybrid. "Long lasting" means it may still sport its colorful bracts next July! Hybrid selections grown and cultured exactly are far different from the poinsettias commonly grown in commercial ranges just five years ago. Then most poinsettias produced only one bloom per cutting. The height was determined by the time the cutting rooted. The earlier in the summer the cutting rooted, the taller the plant by Christmas. Producers now use the "multi-flower" poinsettia plant. This is a single cutting, rooted, pinched, perhaps treated with growth retardant, grown in soilless mix, and given photoperiod treatment to be at its prime around December 20. With a little care, these plants have held their colorful bracts (blooms) into July — long beyond their intended period of enjoyment. Some growers try to send a "care card" with each plant to its final customer, telling how to handle it. Exposure to freezing temperature, to overheated or drafty rooms, or to several days of drying may cut short your enjoyment of a poinsettia, regardless of how much or little T.L.C. you lavish on it.

If your plant arrives with a decorative wrap around the pot, poke holes in it so no water can accumulate. Poinsettias like all the winter light they can get. Place your plant in a sunny window, keeping foliage from touching cold glass panes. Keep it out of drafts from open doors and registers. The best temperatures for hybrids run between 65-70°. Water only when the surface of the growing medium turns a lighter color, or is dry to your touch. After watering, remove any water standing in the saucer. If after a month the plant still looks healthy, and you continue to enjoy its brilliant colors, feed it a soluble fertilizer. Vegetative shoots may then occur after some six weeks, depending on your methods.

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CHRYSANTHEMUMS - Potted chrysanthemums are popular at Christmas because of the diverse color choices available. Long lasting blooms also help their winter popularity. Mums do best in bright winter sunlight. Blooms and developing buds will display full color if night temperature dip to 60-65°.

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Like poinsettias, mums respond to the number of hours of daylight. If you are so expert a gardener as to grow them a full year, you will need to meet their short day requirements the following the following autumn to get them to bloom again.

Several plants carry "Christmas" in front of their names-to inform us of some enjoyable characteristics during this time of year. So we have the Christmas begonia, Christmas cactus, and Christmas pepper. These are available where a grower has developed a market for them.

CHRISTMAS BEGONIA - Christmas begonias will provide three to four weeks of clusters of small pink flowers above light green foliage. Again a sunny location is prescribed. Check begonias daily for water needs and keep them moist. This plant needs 60-65° night temperatures to continue bud development. The Christmas begonia is a most difficult plant to maintain in the home. Enjoy it until its flush of blooms comes to an end—then discard it.

CHRISTMAS CACTUS - The Christmas cactus sets buds for winter-time bloom if it is subjected to short days beginning the first of September. While "cactus" to many people suggests high temperatures and dry air, this is not the culture to give the Christmas cactus. To set buds during short days, it needs coolness — temperatures of 60-65°. If temperatures are high and the light too low intensity, buds will drop. Christmas cactus wants full winter sun, 60° nights, a moist growing medium, and regular houseplant feeding while in active growth.

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To get azaleas to bloom again next year will demand a six-week cool treatment at around 40 degrees. This is hard to give in a home atmosphere, so it is best to discard the plant after it has lavished its blooms on you.

JERUSALEM CHERRY - The Jerusalem cherry provides a mass of scarlet or orange-red berries for a colorful Christmas display. It is grown as an annual plant, started each year from seed. For longest life, set the plant in full winter sunlight. Keep the growing medium moist to the touch, and in the cooler part of your house.

KALANCHOES - Kalanchoes are staging a comeback as Christmas plants. Clusters of small bright red flowers appear above the waxy succulent leaves. To prolong flowering, give it all possible sunlight, a moist growing medium and cool night temperatures.

Signs of winter: Maple production seminars upcoming

The
Journal-Register

Owners of "sugar" maple trees are invited to attend several upcoming maple production seminars through the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Western New York Maple School will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 19 at Pioneer Central School in Arcade.

The meeting, designed for both commercial and hobby producers of maple products, will cover maple basics for beginners, maple marketing, forest management, developing a Web page, making digital photos, and maple equipment.

Attendance at the sessions on Web pages and digital photos requires pre-registration.

Admission is free. Lunch can be purchased from FFA students at the school.

For more information, contact Steve Childs, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County, at 585-786-2251.

The meeting is co-sponsored by various maple producer associations, FFA units and the Pioneer Community Center.

Another opportunity to learn about maple production will be offered from 9 a.m. to

**For more
farm and garden news,
turn to page 6B**

1 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Trolley Building, Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds.

A satellite broadcast of the 2002 Maple Production School will be shown.

The last half-hour of the four-hour live broadcast will be an interactive question and answer sessions with participants submitting their questions through phone, fax and e-mail.

Topics will include marketing, pipeline systems, sap ladders, sugar bush management and updates on New York production and research.

The program will be valuable for large and small producers interested in improving production, profits and efficiency, according to Deb Roberts, director of the Orleans CCE.

The broadcast is hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources and the New York State Maple Producers Association.

There is no attendance fee but reservations are requested. To save a seat, call the Orleans CCE at 589-5561.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2002

• The Daily News • Thursday, December 27, 2001

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Society should share blame

Editor:

When a student commits an act of extreme violence, society often points blame at music, video games, movies and other areas of the entertainment industry. For whatever reason, society is not content with merely pointing the finger at the individual who committed the violent act. Society is making excuses for a problem it created. I'll admit that the music students listen to, the video games they play and the movies they watch are not always appropriate. However, they cannot be held solely responsible for juvenile violence in our society.

The school shooting in Columbine is perhaps the most notorious example of student violence. Following the massacre, several critics tried to blame the entertainment industry for the violent nature of the shooters. The students had been stockpiling weapons and making bombs in their basement for months and their parents were unaware of their activities. But violent music and video games were labeled as a major cause of the violent outburst.

The truth is, video games, music and movies do not create a violent nature in human beings. In most cases, individuals naturally possess violent tendencies. With proper upbringing and parental supervision, the urge to act on these tendencies may be greatly reduced. Without this education, people will naturally exhibit outbursts of violence.

Benjamin W. Logan
Albion

Agricultural learning opportunities are diverse

By Deborah Roberts

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension

In Orleans County, we have one of the most diverse agricultures in New York state. You will find fruit, vegetable, livestock, dairy, maple syrup, beekeepers and field crop growers throughout the county. Many of our growers are diversified in the crops they grow.

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, winter is the time growers continue their education by attending meetings and classes. Some of our most diverse growers could probably go to something every day this time of year. So no, farmers don't just nap or go to Florida in their "off" time! They are businessmen who constantly work to improve their businesses.

Here are some of the opportunities available:

The fruit growers have already

been busy with the Apple Quality Forum in Syracuse earlier in the month, where they discussed apple varieties, market characteristics and all the facets of quality.

The Orleans County Lake Ontario Fruit School is set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Apple Grove. Topics to be covered include growing and marketing peaches, managing risk, quality factors, results of research projects, apple varieties and pest management. If you would like more information on this school, call Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Fruit growers who sell their crop through stands will be attending the NYS Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference in Auburn in February. This conference will also include honey producers, Christmas tree growers, greenhouse growers, vegetable growers and owners of markets. Agritourism is one of the

focuses of this meeting, as the industry works to increase the public's awareness of the importance of agriculture to everyone.

The livestock and dairy folks were, and will be, busy with the sheep course and annual meeting last weekend, milking management for Spanish-speaking workers this week, the Beef Quality Conference in Syracuse this weekend, calf and heifer management on Jan. 30 and pork producers in February.

Corn producers will be attending the Corn Congress in Batavia or Waterloo next week. Orleans County growers most likely will be in Batavia for Corn Congress from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 22 at the Batavia Holiday Inn. The scheduled topics include disease and weed control, varieties and breeding, tillage, security and the Farm Bill. For more information, call the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee

County or your local office.

Vegetable growers will be gearing up for the New York State Vegetable Conference Feb. 11 to 14 in Syracuse, which also includes the Becker Forum on The Agricultural/Urban Interface. Topics that will be covered at the conference also include specific commodities — potatoes, cabbage, greens, sweet corn, onions, carrots, beets, beans, peas, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, berries and squash; labor issues, soil health, animal control and food safety. More information is available from any Cornell Cooperative Extension office.

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, maple producers will be attending maple schools the next two Saturdays.

The Western New York Maple School is Saturday in Arcade, and the New York State Maple Production School will be offered at the Trolley

Building at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 26. There is no fee for this meeting, but you are asked to phone in a reservation to the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension if you plan to attend.

There are meetings that cross commodities such as the Farm Finance Workshops, the Northeast Organic Farm Conference in Waterloo, Jan. 25 to 27, Pesticide Certification Classes and the New York Farm Show in Syracuse Feb. 21 to 23. Plus dealers and sales representatives plan meetings and appointments this time of year in preparation for the busy spring season ahead.

So is it nap time? Only if they show a video or slide show after lunch! For more information on any of these programs, contact the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Preventing tree and shrub damage from heavy snow loads

By Dave Reville

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator

Heavy, wet snow can have a detrimental effect on the branches of ornamental trees and shrubs. What can be done to help protect trees and shrubs from this possible damage? Some of the more helpful practices that can be used are correct pruning techniques, various types of devices to "break" or lessen the amount of snow falling on plant branches and quick removal of snow from branches before any damage occurs.

The strongest branch on a

tree is one which is at a 90 degree angle with the trunk of the branch it is attached to. As the angle between the branch and trunk increases or decreases, the branch strength decreases. Knowing this, you should always prune branches which are noticeably weak.

When a tree is old, it may be hard to remove these weak branches because they contribute too much to the overall ornamental value of the tree. These branches could possibly be supported with rods or cables, if needed. In the case of young, newly-planted trees, correct pruning techniques can insure a tree will have strong lateral

branches.

Most low- to medium-height shrubs can be protected from heavy snow damage by constructing devices over them to lessen the amount of snow reaching their branches. Some of these devices will also protect the plant from scorching sun and drying winds. You have probably seen various "covers" over plants made of plywood, snow fence, etc. The design or shape of the cover should be triangular like an A-frame house so the snow will slide off easily. You can use your imagination when it comes to materials used to construct the covers.

Some people "wrap" shrubs with chicken wire or plastic snow fence to keep the branches together and supported. The fencing should be tight enough to give support, but in the case of evergreens it should be loose enough to allow the inside of the shrub to "breathe." On top of the "wrapped" shrub you can secure a piece of burlap. This will keep snow from getting inside the center of the shrub.

Obviously, if no protection has been provided you can remove the snow from the branches before too much accumulates. You can use a broom or bamboo rake to help remove the snow. If you use

this method of prevention, be sure you don't allow too much snow to accumulate at one time. Also, branches are brittle during the winter, so care must be taken to prevent breaking them.

PREVENTING INJURY FROM HEAVY SNOW

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



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Keeping the good works going

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

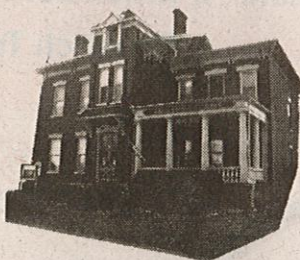
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2002



Members of the 4-H Barn Buddies club gathered this past weekend at the Orleans County Fairgrounds to participate in the "mail-o-gram" program, which provided supplies for them to prepare and send Valentine greetings to military service personnel who are serving overseas. Last month the club stayed busy providing holiday-related service to the community by donating gifts to an area family in need and caroling for patients in the long-term care wing at Medina Memorial Hospital. The members also wrapped up their coat drive and donated the coats to the Medina Area Association of Churches. Shown above are, from left, first row, Stephanie Boyle, Kaitlyn Grimes, David Murphy and Nicki Maryjanowski; second row, Adam Vanderwalker, Brittany Murphy, Kyle Vanderwalker and Molly Murphy; third row, Jenna Mrzywka, Tiffany Vanille, Ashley Boyle and Gabriella Vanille; and fourth row, Amanda Mrzywka, Laura Underwood, Nick Underwood and Jenna Vanille.

Repotting Houseplants

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



When your plant's roots fill its container and begin growing out the bottom drain hole - it's time to repot suggest Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

If you're wondering what size the new pot should be, a good rule of thumb is one size larger than your current pot. For example, if you have a five-inch pot, pick up one that's six inches. A too large pot (larger than the next size, that is) can cause problems. The extra space will of course accommodate excess soil, which will hold more water than the roots can absorb and that can cause root rot.

Pots are made of clay, ceramic or plastic. To keep your plant as healthy as possible, be aware of the particular benefits and drawbacks of each kind.

Pots made of clay provide excellent aeration for roots and since the containers' porous walls take in and release moisture, plants in clay pots need more watering than those in plastic ones. With the extra water and porous walls, it's a good idea to put plastic trays under clay pots - especially if you want to place the plants on a windowsill. Be sure to check ceramic pots for a drainage hole. Sometimes that feature is missing in these particular containers.

The increasingly popular plastic containers are cheaper, lighter than clay or ceramic pots and with much less porous walls, plastic pots can reduce the watering needs. However, they act as insulation during cold winter months which causes some root rotting to occur in plants that are overwatered. Another reason for the popularity is that the pots are available in a wide range of colors, shapes and sizes.

Repotting Steps

Here are a few simple guidelines of getting your houseplants into a new pot and minimizing risks to its health as you do so:

- ◆ Select a type of potting medium with good drainage as well as some water retention properties. Purchase sterilized potting soil.
- ◆ Put gravel or other drainage material into the bottom of the pot - about one inch. Cover that layer with a layer of potting soil.
- ◆ To remove the plant, cover the soil with one hand with the plant between the fore and middle fingers. Holding the plant upside down, tap the edge of the container against a hard surface, which should loosen it and knock it out of the pot.
- ◆ If the plant is root bound, unwind entwined roots as much as you can. If it's impossible to untangle them, vertically cut them in several places, equidistant around the rootball, and lightly, carefully loosen the bound roots.
- ◆ Scoop the new soil to the sides of the pot to make a place for the rootball in the middle and put in the plant.
- ◆ Fill in around the plant with soil but do not add soil above the original soil line.
- ◆ To firm or settle the soil, gently tap the pot against the side of a table or use your fingers to lightly press the soil. Never pack the soil too tightly.
- ◆ Water well until excess water drains out of the pot. It is advisable to use warm water, not cold, at this point.

Know your plants cultural needs to keep it growing in the winter. Contact Dave Reville at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension for more information.

Shirley G. Bright

Nominated by Doty DuSett

Leading the way cooperatively

My Hometown Hero is Shirley G. Bright, retired director of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension. She served there for 30 years.

Under Shirley Bright's unique inspiration and direction, the Orleans County Fair is the model fair in New York state.

Through Shirley's leadership and inspiration, hundreds of 4-H youth in Orleans County have been awarded educational trips to Cornell University, the New York City Homemaking Trip, Capitol Day in Albany, the Washington Focus Trip and others, including the coveted National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. These 4-H members have learned skills in homemaking, agriculture and higher values that will remain with them throughout life, making them better citizens of their community and their world.

I believe Shirley has given more encouragement and inspiration to the youth in Orleans County than any other individual.

Hats off to her.



Dan Cappellazzo/The Journal-Register

Shirley G. Bright shows off mementos from her days with the Orleans County 4-H. Among her favorites are a button memorializing the "world's largest apple pie," which Orleans 4-H members made at the 1977 county fair and earned a spot in the Guinness Book of Records; a post card showing the post mark created in honor of the 50th anniversary of the county fair in 1996; and an information packet, "Human Sexuality for Parents," distributed by Bright's office in the early 1970s. "That packet almost got me fired," Bright said. "It was quite radical at the time."

Tips for repotting houseplants

By Dave Reville

Extension Educator

When your plant's roots fill its container and begin growing out the bottom drainhole, it's time to repot.

If you're wondering what size the new pot should be, a good rule of thumb is one size larger than your current pot. For example, if you have a five-inch pot, pick up one that's six inches. A too-large pot (larger than the next size, that is) can cause problems. The extra space will, of course, accommodate excess soil, which will hold more water than the roots can absorb, and that can cause root rot.

Pots made of clay provide excellent aeration for roots and since the containers' porous walls take in and release moisture, plants in clay pots need more watering than those in plastic ones. With the extra water and porous walls, it's a good idea to put plastic trays under clay pots — especially if you want to place the plants on a windowsill. Be sure to check ceramic pots for a drainage hole. Sometimes that feature is missing in these particular containers.

The increasingly popular plastic containers are cheaper, lighter than clay or ceramic pots and with much less porous walls, plastic pots can reduce the watering needs. However, they act as

insulation during cold winter months, which causes some root rotting to occur in plants that are overwatered. Another reason for the popularity is that the pots are available in a wide range of colors, shapes and sizes.

Repotting steps

Here are a few simple guidelines of getting your houseplants into a new pot and minimizing risks to its health as you do so:

- Select a type of potting medium with good drainage, as well as some water retention properties. Purchase sterilized potting soil.

- Put gravel or other drainage material into the bottom of the pot — about one inch. Cover the layer with a layer of potting soil.

- To remove the plant, cover the soil with one hand with the plant between the fore and middle fingers. Holding the plant upside down, tap the edge of the container

against a hard surface, which should loosen it and knock it out of the pot.

- If the plant is root-bound, unwind entwined roots as much as you can. If it's impossible to untangle them, vertically cut them in several places, equidistant around the rootball, and lightly, carefully loosen the bound roots.

- Scoop the new soil to the sides of the pot to make a place for the rootball in the middle and put in the plant.

- Fill in around the plant with soil, but do not add soil above the original soil line.

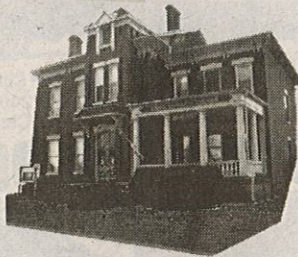
- To firm or settle the soil, gently tap the pot against the side of a table or use your fingers to lightly press the soil. Never pack the soil too tightly.

- Water well until excess water drains out of the pot. It is advisable to use warm water, not cold, at this point.

Know your plant's cultural needs to keep it growing in the winter. Contact Dave Reville at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension for more information.

Forcing Shrubs to Bloom Indoors

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Known as "forcing", this method requires little effort. At this time of year, almost any material can be forced to flower in three to four weeks.

Flower buds are ready to break dormancy after about six weeks of cold temperature during the fall. This means branches may be forced at any time after the first of January in the northern part of the country.

The closer to the actual outdoor blooming date, the shorter will be the time necessary for indoor forcing. There are many excellent flowering shrubs and trees suitable for forcing this time of year for indoor decoration and enjoyment.

The most spectacular blooms are horse chestnut, pussy willow, shadbush, redbud, Cornelian cherry, spicebush, flowering quince, forsythia, spring witch hazel, bridal-wreath, spirea and magnolia.

Fruit trees such as apple, plum, cherry, pear, peach, and apricot also make lovely bouquets.

Almost any tree or shrub, including oak, birch and maple, will be interesting to watch as it develops leaves indoors.

Follow these pointers for enforcing plant materials for indoor bloom: the best time to cut branches for forcing is when outdoor temperatures are moderate. Branches filled with many flower buds should be selected to insure a good number of flowers.

Cut the branches with a pair of sharp pruning shears flush with parent stem so that no torn, jagged edges or stubs are left on the stem; a clean, flush will heal rapidly with little danger of insect or disease damage.

After cutting branches, shred or mash each stem end to encourage water intake; spray the branches with water or lay them in a bathtub partly filled with tepid water and leave them there overnight.

Because these plants normally bloom out of doors in the cold spring season, the best forcing temperature is at 60 to 70°F: warmer temperatures speed up bud development, but reduce the size, color, and keeping quality of the blooms.

In the initial stages, the branches do not need light; they may be kept in a cool cellar, a pantry, or in any other cool place in the house.

In about two weeks, the flower buds will become plump and enlarged. At this stage, the branches should be arranged in bowls or vases for display in the living room.

Part of the enjoyment is watching the buds develop and open to maturity. Flowering branches may be arranged in large sweeping bouquets, which will fill a room with a feast of color. Or, they may be arranged more intimately in spring designs using a large bowl, moss, bark, and pebbles along with two or three daffodils or other spring flowers purchased from the florist.

Flowers will last longer if they are moved from the warm living room to a cool room at night and also during daytime hours when one is not home to enjoy them.

If you want succession of blooms, cut branches and force them at weekly intervals. If done properly, one can have a roomful of flowers throughout the winter months.

Warmer weather will bring out insects

By Deborah Roberts

Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension

As the weather unexpectedly warms up these next few days, we will probably see an outbreak of insects. The most common calls from homeowners we receive at Cooperative Extension are concerning the ever-popular ladybugs and boxelder bugs.

The ladybugs have been particularly busy this year and were seen in the fall in large amounts. Many of us have continued to see them in our houses, and any warm break in the weather will bring them out.

Outdoors, ladybugs are beneficial in that they eat aphids, which are destructive to plants. Indoors, we recommend vacuuming them since squashing them produces a rather nasty smell.

Boxelder bugs tend to be a problem only if you or a neighbor has boxelder trees.

We have fact sheets available on both insects.

While these two insects are primarily nuisances to homeowners, there are many more that create problems for farmers.

One that we see in Orleans County infrequently is the army worm. This last summer it invaded some fields and yards in the Lyndonville area.

Fortunately we did not have a huge invasion. In the Midwest there have been instances where they closed roads because it was so slippery from so many smashed worms.

At the Corn Congress in Batavia this week, growers saw pictures of a corn field with only one stalk of corn left standing after an army worm devastation.

Soybeans and snap beans in our area suffered this past summer from severe infestations of the soybean and black bean aphids. Not only are they a problem themselves, but they carry a bean virus which infects the plants and keeps them from producing beans.

Some of the increase in pests seen this past year was a result of the hot, dry weather disrupting the natural cycle of insect predators. Certain insects prey on other insects at a certain stage of their life, keeping a balance. If the predator insects are too late or too early for the right stage, the balance gets upset.

Fruit growers also are experiencing an increase in some pest problems. As growers use less or different types of chemicals, different types of pest problems pop up. No one likes a wormy apple, so growers are searching for different

methods of controlling pests. The difficulty lies in identifying which pest you have, since different pests take different measures, just like ladybugs and boxelder bugs. The Oriental fruit moth, the lesser apple worm and the codling moth all start as little pink worms with only a few small unique details. Several of them even look alike in the moth stage. Growers rely on research and consultants to help identify and control their pest problems in the best way for both themselves and consumers.

We all face the inconvenience of insect pests, for some it is more than an inconvenience. Too bad we can't just vacuum away all the problem pests.

For more information about household or crop pests, contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Forcing flowering shrubs and trees to bloom indoors

By Dave Reville

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative
Extension educator

Known as "forcing," this method requires little effort. At this time of year, almost any material can be forced to flower in three to four weeks.

Flower beds are ready to break dormancy after about six weeks of cold temperatures during the fall. This means branches may be forced at any time after Jan. 1 in the northern part of the country.

The closer we get to the actual outdoor blooming date, the shorter will be the time necessary for indoor forcing. There are many excellent

flowering shrubs and trees suitable for forcing this time of year for indoor decoration and enjoyment.

The most spectacular blooms are horse chestnut, pussy willow, shadbush, redbud, Cornelian cherry, spicebush, flowering quince, forsythia, spring witch hazel, bridalwreath, spires and magnolia.

Fruit trees such as apple, plum, cherry, pear, peach and apricot also make lovely bouquets.

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forcing is when outdoor temperatures are moderate. Branches filled with many flower buds should be selected to insure a good number of flowers.

Cut the branches with a pair of sharp pruning shears flush with parent stem so that no torn, jagged edges or stubs are left on the stem. A clean flush will heal rapidly with little danger of insect or disease damage.

After cutting branches, shred or mesh each stem end to encourage water intake. Spray the branches with water or lay them in a bathtub partially filled with tepid water and leave them there overnight.

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bloom outdoors in the cold spring season, the best forcing temperature is 60 to 70 degrees. Warmer temperatures speed up bud development but reduce the size, color and keeping quality of the blooms.

In the initial stages, the branches do not need light. They may be kept in a cool cellar, a pantry or any other cool place in the house.

In about two weeks, the flower buds will become plump and enlarged. At this stage, the branches should be arranged in bowls or vases for display in the living room.

Part of the enjoyment is watching the buds develop and open to maturity. Flowering branches may be

arranged in large sweeping bouquets, which will fill a room with a feast of color. Or, they may be arranged more intimately in spring designs using a large bowl, moss, bark or pebbles along with two or three daffodils or other spring flowers purchased from the florist.

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Joanne Beck/Daily News

HANDS-ON TRAINING: COVA member Craig Wilston, left, and John Fair, of Albion Fire Department, get some horse training from 4-H member Stephanie Semon, 9, of Lyndonville, Saturday.

Horse owners, emergency workers learn how to control animals during calamities

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Perhaps the recent snow and ice storm served as a reminder for disaster training participants at

lot of people, Munzert said.

"Some people didn't have water for their horses," she said, adding that it was a good example of an emergency situation.

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Ice Storm Damages Plants

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



The ice storm of this past weekend with high winds wreaked havoc with structures and plants especially trees. Damage was most noticeable on weak wooded plants like Silver Maples, Birches, Willows, Poplar to name a few. Large evergreen trees like Blue or Green Spruce and White Pines also were uprooted by the high winds.

Tree damage included large and small limb breakage, bark damage as well as uprooting of trees. Ice combined with the high winds led to branches being ripped to the ground leaving jagged wounds.

For large trees suffering damage it is advisable to contact reputable tree surgeons rather than to attempt tree cleanup and risk bodily harm.

Small ornamental trees and shrubs suffering damage are more easily trimmed by carefully removing damaged limbs with loppers or wise use of a small chain saw depending on branch thickness. Carefully remove limbs that are broken or shattered making sure cuts are even and not jagged. Remove limbs almost to the main trunk, leaving about a one inch collar, not tight to main trunk. Branch stubs should never be left.

Never attempt to remove ice from any plants, trees or shrubs as they are very brittle due to the ice and it could shatter the plant! To lessen ice as well as snow damage from shrubs, place an "A" frame over them to deflect the ice and snow. Never wrap the plants in plastic or tie with wire or twine. To tie up loose, open growing evergreens like Arborvitae, use plastic coated clothesline so the stems will not be injured.

To remove snow from plants, gently sweep the plants with a broom and never whack the limbs to remove snow loads.

Uprooted trees might not recover if root damage was extensive. Shovel snow or soil on exposed roots to prevent drying if you think the tree could be saved. However, if tree is large, uprighting it might pose other problems at this time. If you think this is an option, contact a reputable arborist for advice.

Contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension for a fact sheet "Repairing Ice and Snow Damage to Trees and Shrubs". Send a legal size self addressed stamped envelope to Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 20 South Main Street, Albion, NY 14411-0150.

Orleans County horse farm questionnaire

The Bits and Pieces 4-H Club is conducting a survey of county horse farms to assist Orleans County emergency personnel in preparing a disaster plan to benefit your horses.

■ Imagine that your barn was on fire. Firefighters could do a better job of helping you if they knew before they got to your farm that you had horses in the barn, and where your water source was located.

■ Imagine that a truck carrying toxic chemicals overturned near your home. Emergency personnel could help you find temporary shelter for your horses if they knew what

was available ahead of time.

■ If you own horses, board horses or can pass this survey on to people who do have horses, please help the Bits and Pieces 4-H Club help you.

■ Thank you in advance for your help in making our project a success.

Clip and mail to:

Wild Rose Farm, 3507 Eagle Harbor Road, Albion, NY, 14411 or e-mail to wild_rose_farm@juno.com.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

How many horses are located on your property? _____

Where is the water source located on your property? _____

Would you be willing to provide emergency shelter for horses? Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, how many? _____ Emergency trailering? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you have a disaster plan for your horses if a problem occurred such as a barn fire, trailering accident or wind storm? Yes ☐ No ☐



Bits & Pieces seeking assistance

Beginning today, the Journal-Register will print the survey enclosed here on a regular basis in order to help the Bits & Pieces 4-H Club formulate a horse disaster plan for Orleans County.

Anyone who owns horses in Orleans — whether it's one horse or a dozen — is asked to fill out the survey and return it to 4-H leader Marilyn Munzert in care of Wild Rose Farm.

Answers will be used for the purposes of formulating the disaster plan only.

Moles

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Mole activity has been prolonged by the mild winter. They are often blamed for the work of mice, voles, squirrels, or skunks. Moles eat only insects, primarily dining on grubs, some insects, and earthworms.

They actually help reduce the population of Japanese beetles. Moles are territorial and solitary animals, and need a large territory in which to forage for enough food to survive. (It needs to eat its own weight in insects daily.) One mole may tunnel 200 feet in a 24-hour period, making tunnels just under the soil surface. (They also maintain deep tunnels that are their more permanent thoroughfares.) So, the homeowner struggling with mole damage may have only one mole to catch or repel-but that mole can do a lot of damage in the meantime.

Mole control is not an exact science and there are no easy answers, but alternatives range from using traps and repellents to the family cat. Other natural predators include owls, hawks, and skunks, so natural habitat nearby can help.

Traps are effective if the homeowner places the trap in an actively used tunnel and does not leave human scent on it. (To determine an active tunnel, stamp down the tunnels one evening and watch which one(s) pop up again by morning.)

Moles also eat earthworms-which are desired in a healthy soil-and the lack of grubs could cause the mole to dig even more tunnels looking farther for the food. Grub control is only recommended if needed, usually indicated if there are 8 to 12 grubs found per square foot of soil. Home remedies have been promoted for mole control but most do not work. (Remember that moles eat insects, and just tunnel around other impediments.)

Finally, mole damage is most severe in late winter and early spring when the soil is moist. Sometimes improving lawn drainage decreases mole activity, and in any case the moles dig deeper or move on once summer comes and the lawn dries out between rains.

It is an individual decision whether or not you fight the mole problem, but patience and some tolerance are helpful.

Deer-Plants They Don't Like

Deer are selective feeders. They forage on plants or plant parts with considerable discrimination. Like humans, if they don't like the menu, they tend not to return to the eating place.

It is for this reason that Cornell University research teams have surveyed landowners to determine what plants, if any, are not attractive to deer. These facts may provide an alternative to the use of expensive chemical repellents and unsightly physical barriers.

However, if a deer herd is starving they will browse even the most resistant plants during periods of food shortage.

The following lists may help the home gardener to keep his plant damage to a minimum although success will vary depending on the size of the local deer population, the territory they have to roam, other available food sources and the time of year. Horticulturalists have determined that the deer will most often eat euonymus and taxus or yews. Flowers they often eat include hollyhocks, impatiens, sunflowers, crocus, daylilies, hosta, lobelia, phlox, rose and tulip. Plants only occasionally eaten are pansies, helianthus, wood hyacinth, cranesbill, English ivy, iris, peony, coneflower, sedum and meadow rue.

An encouraging list of plants that are rarely damaged or are seldom severely damaged include barberry, paper birch, common boxwood, Russian olive, American Holly, Drooping Leucothoe, Colorado Blue Spruce and Japonica. Deer seldom chew on white birch, bittersweet, dogwoods, Hawthorne, forsythia, locust, Chinese Holly, junipers, Mountain Laurel, Norway Spruce, Austrian Pine, Mugo Pine, Japanese cherry, lilac and wisteria.

In your flower garden, the deer do not seem to like the common annuals like ageratum, snapdragon, begonia, cleome, dahlia, foxglove, heliotrope, morning glory, sweet alyssum, forget me not and a host of others. Perennials like yarrow, anemones, astilbe, Butterfly weed, bellflower, and lavender seem to escape.

A complete list of plants rarely or never eaten by deer can be obtained by contacting your County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office. It will help you to plan your garden around it.

For additional questions about Wildlife contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 585-589-5561.

Extension Gardener

Dealing with moles and deer

By Dave Reville

Moles

Mole activity has been prolonged by the mild winter. They are often blamed for the work of mice, voles, squirrels or skunks.

Moles eat only insects, primarily dining on grubs, some insects and earthworms. They actually help reduce the population of Japanese beetles.

Moles are territorial and solitary animals, and need a large territory in which to forage for enough food to survive. (It needs to eat its own weight in insects daily. One mole may tunnel 200 feet in a 24-hour period, making tunnels just under the soil surface. (They also maintain deep tunnels that are their more permanent thoroughfares.) So, the homeowner struggling with mole damage may have only one mole to catch or repel but that mole can do a lot of damage in the meantime.

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An encouraging list of plants that are rarely damaged or are seldom severely damaged include barberry, paper birch, common boxwood, Russian olive, American holly, drooping leucocyte, Colorado blue spruce and japonica.

Deer seldom chew on white birch, bittersweet, dogwoods, hawthorne, forsythia, locust, Chinese holly, junipers, mountain laurel, Norway spruce, Austrian pine, mugo pine, Japanese cherry, lilac and wisteria.

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For additional questions about wildlife, contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Talk about 4-H

Public speaking cultivated

If you think 4-H is only about cows and cooking, some 125 Wyoming County young people would beg to differ. And they could stand up in front of a group and say why.

The 125 are those who participated in a recent Public Presentation program. The annual event features 4-H'ers who research topics, prepare visual aids and then make a presentation before an audience. Participants are judged on speaking ability, how well they present their topic, and knowledge of subject matter.

Topics were wide ranging at last weekend's program. Kevin Conroy talked about techniques for banding birds. Jessica Grasyby talked about the flute and showed how to play and clean it. Four-H'ers could choose any topic that interested them.

Participants earn ribbons, trips and food coupons. And, of course, they are also developing public speaking skills. The ability to get up and communicate something to a group of people is one of the most important tools for success today.

Yes, some 4-H'ers raise animals or bake pies or sew aprons, and they learn from all those activities. But there's a lot more to choose from, too. Just call your county Cornell Cooperative Extension office to find out how much more.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2002

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Orleans youths headed to 4-H Capitol Days

Youths from Albion and Medina will be part of a 4-H delegation taking part in 4-H Capitol Days next week in Albany.

Amie Collazo of Albion and Scott Marciszewski of Medina are representing Orleans County in the 140-member delegation, which will meet with state government leaders and court and agency officials Tuesday and Wednesday. They also will observe a working session of the state Legislature and talk with their representatives.

Collazo is a member of the Hindsburg Hilltop and Towpath 4-H Club. Marciszewski is a member of the New Kids on the Block 4-H Club.

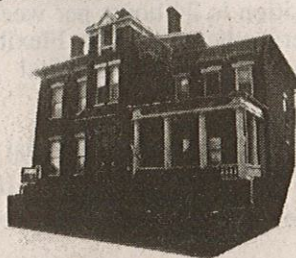
They will be accompanied by Orleans extension educator Margo Bowerman.

4-H Capitol Days are sponsored by the state Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators. Local financial support for the trip is provided by the Orleans County 4-H Leaders' Association and the Orleans County 4-H Senior Council.

For more information about the program, call 589-5561.

CHOOSE VEGETABLE VARIETIES ACCORDING TO NEEDS

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Choosing seeds and plants thoughtfully can spell the difference between success and failure this growing season, suggests Dave Reville, Extension Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orleans County. For each variety consider the following points: specific use, growth habit and mature size, vigor and yield, adaptability, and disease and insect resistance.

Specific Use. Some varieties are best for immediate use, while others may be ideal for freezing or canning. Some keep well in storage, and others are fine for all of these purposes. Just be sure the variety you select is right for the uses you have in mind. **Growth Habit and Mature Size.** If you have limited space in your garden, look for space-saving vegetable varieties. Each year new ones are introduced, including compact forms of squash, cucumber, cantaloupe and watermelon.

Vigor and Yield. These qualities partly depend on soil fertility, available water and other growing conditions. However, when selecting varieties, it often pays to buy hybrids. These are plants that have been developed for specific characteristics, including improved quality and higher yield.

Adaptability. How well a vegetable variety grows in a given locality is basic to wise selection. In part this involves general climatic conditions, including length of growing season. Much of this information is found in seed catalogs and on the packet. However, you must be aware of your garden's own growing conditions that can affect plant performance, such as soil depth and texture and exposure to sun and wind.

Disease Resistance. Select disease-resistant varieties wherever possible. This is equally important for vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers and cantaloupes that are subject to wilts, mildews and viruses. Insects and Other Pest Resistance. Plant breeders have made some progress in selecting stock for resistance. One example is nematode resistant tomatoes. However, if you don't want to be bothered by bugs, select types of vegetables that seem naturally less attractive to pests.

For a list of 2002 vegetable varieties for home garden use, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orleans County; PO Box 150, 20 S Main Street, Albion, NY, 14411.

Annual Farm and Neighboring Evening upcoming

By Deborah Roberts

How well do you know your neighbors? Orleans County can be proud of its "small town" atmosphere where many people know most of their neighbors. However, the residents of Orleans County come from many walks of life and may not always understand their neighbors' point of view.

In an effort to bridge some of these differences, four years ago the Orleans County Farm Bureau and Orleans County Chamber of Commerce began hosting a Farmer to Neighbor evening.

Once again it is time for this annual event designed to bring county services, businesses and consumers together with agricultural producers and businesses. The

evening includes dinner at one of our local restaurants, displays sponsored by local businesses and both an educational and entertaining program.

The first Farmer to Neighbor evening was held at the Apple Grove Inn and the program was on community development through "smart growth." The second year, the event was moved to Hickory Ridge Golf & Country Club and George Conneman from Cornell University gave the program. Last year, the program was again at Hickory Ridge and the audience was entertained by the "incredible edible egg" man. This year finds the evening back at Hickory Ridge at 6 p.m. March 15 with a very different type of program planned.

This year's program is

focusing on one of our local agricultural industries, the New York wine industry. Susan Spence of the New York Wine and Grape Association will be the guest speaker. Also speaking is Peter Smith of Cambria Wine Cellars, located in neighboring Niagara County. The highlight of the evening will be a wine tasting of selections from Cambria Wine Cellars. It should be an interesting insight into the winemaking industry.

Local businesses sponsor this evening, as well as providing donations for the dinner. Donations have also been provided for a drawing for two gift baskets as a reward for those with on-time reservations.

The Niagara-Orleans Dairy Princess will be on hand to

assist with the famous "Milk Moustache" booth, where anyone can be a celebrity with their own milk moustache.

Another highlight will be dessert from Orleans County's own Clarendon Cheesecake, which was featured on national television.

The goal of Farmer to Neighbor Evening is to create and maintain awareness for a strong business community in Orleans County. It is in the entire county's best interest to keep both farm and non-farm businesses economically viable. We can help do that by cultivating an appreciation for each other.

To participate, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 798-4287 or 589-7727.

Deborah Roberts is director of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Choose vegetable varieties according to need

By Dave Reville

Choosing seeds and plants thoughtfully can spell the difference between success and failure this growing season.

For each variety consider the following points: specific use, growth habit and mature size, vigor and yield, adaptability and disease and insect resistance.

Specific use

Some varieties are best for immediate use, while others may be ideal for freezing or canning. Some keep well in storage, and others are fine for all of these purposes. Just be sure the variety you select is right for the uses you have in mind.

Growth habit and mature size

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eties. Each year new ones are introduced, including compact forms of squash, cucumber, cantaloupe and watermelon.

Vigor and yield

These qualities partly depend on soil fertility, available water and other growing conditions. However, when selecting varieties, it often pays to buy hybrids. These are plants that have been developed for specific characteristics, including improved quality and higher yield.

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Disease resistance

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Insect/pest resistance

Plant breeders have made some progress in selecting stock for resistance. One example is nematode resistant tomatoes. However, if you don't want to be bothered by bugs, select types of vegetables that seem naturally less attractive to pests.

For a list of vegetable varieties for home garden use, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orleans County, P.O. Box 150, 20 S. Main St., Albion, NY 14411.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County CCE.

The Daily News • Thursday, February 28, 2002

Two 4-H'ers from Orleans County among participants in Capital Days

Two 4-H members from Orleans County will be among the 140 teens from every county in the state to attend the 67th annual 4-H Capital Days March 5-6 in Albany.

Representing Orleans County will be Amie Collazo of Albion and Scott Marciszewski of Medina. Amie is a member of the Hindsburg Hilltop and Towpath 4-H Club and Scott is a member of the New Kids on the Block 4-H Club. Extension Educator Margo Bowerman will accompany the delegates.

Four-H members, volunteer leaders and staff will meet with leaders in state government, members of the court system and officials from a variety of state agencies. In addition, they will observe a working session of the State Legislature and talk with their representatives.

Member of the Assembly, Elizabeth Little, will discuss the legislative process and Assembly member Paul Tonko will review how a bill becomes a law.

Delegates will learn about career opportunities in government as they tour state agencies, participate in discussion sessions, and visit with their legislators.

The 4-H Capital Days program is sponsored by the New York State Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators. Local financial support for the trip is provided by the Orleans County 4-H Senior Council.

For more information regarding 4-H, call Orleans County Cooperative Extension at 589-5561 or write P.O. Box 150, Albion, N.Y. 14411.



Hearty message

Orleans County 4-H members Nicki Maryjanowski, left, and Stephanie Boyle create Valentine's Day cards earlier this month that were sent to military personnel throughout the world. Nearly 4,000 Valentine's Day cards were produced this year, said Youth Development Educator Margo Bowerman. "What was more impressive than the quantity of cards ... the quality," she said. "The sentiments inside the cards demonstrate a great deal of respect and appreciation for the duties our armed forces perform." For six years club members have been making the valentines for service men and women throughout the world. Last year the club gained national recognition as the leading group in New York state and in the country for the number of Valentine's Day military mailgrams created and distributed to military members, Bowerman said.

It's That Time of Year

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Growers attend pesticides training

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2002

By Deborah Roberts

Across New York state right now, growers are not only attending meetings about their specific crops or equipment, but they are also attending meetings to learn about the pesticides used to ensure a quality and healthy crop.

Pesticides are regulated in New York State by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation or NYSDEC, as you may know them as.

In the United States as a whole, the Environmental Protection Agency is the regulatory agency.

One of the duties of NYSDEC, Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials, is to develop the process by which individuals can become certified as a pesticide applicator. They also design the standards for the courses and administer the exams. Agriculture educators with local Cornell Cooperative Extension associations offer training for the exams and coordinate with NYSDEC to provide opportunities for the exams.

There are different types of certification. Individuals can be certified as commercial or private pesticide applicators. After attending the initial training and passing the exam, applicators must also accumulate continuing certification hours to maintain their certification. Recertification must be achieved every six years by accumulating a specified number of credits depending on the type of certification. After January 2003, the credits will have to be obtained in more than one calendar year as well as be at least 25 percent category-specific.

Categories refer to specific topics or commodities versus core credits which apply to all types of pesticides.

Commercial categories include agricultural plants and animals, companion animals, turf, public health and many more.

Private categories are field and forage, fruit, vegetable, greenhouses and florist, nursery and ornamental turf, agricultural animal and aquatic.

New regulations went into effect in January 2000 that raise the number of continuing certification hours for all categories. According to a statement on the NYSDEC Web site, the new credit requirements will go into effect January 2003.

In our area several pesticide trainings will be offered for area growers.

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension will host a training from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 8 at the Trolley Building at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds. Topics will include laws and regulations, safety precautions, integrated pest management, filling and mixing and record keeping, among others. The Pesticide Certification exam will be offered on March 13 only to those pre-registered with Gail Martimer, DEC, at 585-226-2466. For more information, call the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension office at 589-5561.

In Niagara County, a pesticide training session will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. March 20 at the 4-H Training Center. Emphasis will be on calibration and formulation. The exam will be offered from 1 to 4 p.m. March 22 at the 4-H Training Center for those registered with the DEC at 716-851-7220.

Growers commit considerable time and effort into learning the appropriate and safe ways to use pesticides to ensure a healthy crop and environment.

For more information on any of these programs contact the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

—
Deborah Roberts is director of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Corn growers to hold annual Industry Day

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2002

The New York Corn Growers Association and the Crop and Soil Management Program Work Team of the Cornell Cooperative Extension are sponsoring their annual Field and Feed Crop Industry Day March 5 at the RIT Conference Center, Route 15, West Henrietta.

Iowa farmer Tim Burrack will speak about farming in South America — if it is competition or a complement to North American grain production.

Dr. David Galton, PRO-DAIRY at Cornell, will discuss synergies between dairy and crop producers, and opportunities for win-win situations in New York.

Ron Robbins, New York Farm Service Agency director, will provide an update on the Farm Bill.

Three concurrent sessions run in the afternoon.

In the first session, Keith Culver from NYCGA and others will speak on ethanol, by-product feeds and other

alternative feeds from corn in New York.

Session two will cover dairy/livestock producers and crop grower alliances making it mutually work. A panel discussion includes Craig Yunker, CY Farms; Curt Norton, Norton Farms; and Grady Vincent, L-Brooke Farms, plus others.

The third session covers feeding soybeans to dairy cows and value added marketing alternative. Dr. Wu, Pennsylvania State University will

be the speaker for this session.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program adjourns at 3:30 p.m. Lunch is included in the registration fee of \$30 for NYCGA members and \$35 for non-members.

Exhibitors will be available during registration and the lunch break to meet with program attendees.

Contact Ann Peck, NYCGA at 315-331-7791, or fax 315-331-1294 for registration and other information.

A garden guide for late February

By Dave Reville

Sometimes the best way to deal with winter is to ignore it and get your sights on spring. Timely lawn and garden tasks from the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension helps you forget about the weather.

- Plan your 2002 vegetable garden, flowerbeds and landscape plantings and order seeds and plants soon.

- Contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension for a copy of the 2002 home vegetable garden variety list.

- Prune fruit trees, grapes, wisteria and most ornamental trees and shrubs while they're dormant. Exceptions are birch, dogwood and maple and spring flowering plants such as forsythia and lilac. Spring flowering trees and shrubs bear this year's flowers on last year's wood, and pruning now would prevent flowering by removing the buds. Birches, dogwoods and maples will "bleed" sap from running wounds made now. Prune these in the

summer, after the sap is past.

- As you prune landscape plants and fruit trees, check for bagworm bags and silvery gray, foamy masses of tent caterpillar eggs. Remove these when you find them to reduce the number of pests you'll have to deal with later.

- Take cuttings from spring flowering plants and force them into bloom. Make cuttings from pussy willow, quince, cherry, forsythia, birch and other plants with a sharp knife or cutting tool so you don't injure the plants. Place cut branches in water in a cool (60 degrees), brightly-lit spot. Mist flower buds several times a day as they start to open, and keep the cut ends of the branches in water at all times. Night temperatures in the 40s will extend the blooming period.

- Continue to bring bulbs potted in October out of cold storage for forcing.

- Check winter mulches on strawberries, bulb beds and perennials and add to them if necessary, though under our present snow depth this is not necessary.

- Check winter plant protectors and make repairs as needed to assure that plants continue to be protected against gnawing mice and rabbits, flying salt spray, heavy loads of snow and ice and drying sun and wind.

- Continue to water houseplants sparingly and hold off fertilizing until they begin to grow more vigorously in the spring.

- Continue checking stored produce and bulbs, corms and tubers, and discard any showing signs of mold or decay.

- If you've been feeding wild birds, keep at it. The birds are depending on your feeder and may starve if you stop feeding.

- Subscribe to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Orleans County's "Orleans Gardener." Call 589-5561 for more information.

—
Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Extension to offer Sweet Corn workshop

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2002

Fresh market and processing sweet corn growers and other interested parties are invited to attend the Cornell Cooperative Extension Integrated Pest Management Sweet Corn Workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, 249 Highland Ave., Rochester.

The workshop is designed to educate vegetable producers and promote open discussion between Cornell vegetable research scientists and vegetable growers. Formal

presentations made by Cornell researchers on weeds, insects and disease management of sweet corn will be conducted and a demonstration of spray nozzles and spray drift will also take place.

In addition to formal presentations, examples of major pest problems will be on display.

Upon completion of the workshop, participants will be awarded six Department of Environmental Conservation recertification credits.

The cost to pre-register is

\$30 per person or \$40 for walk-ins. The pre-registration deadline is Monday.

To register, call Sharon Hancock at 585-461-1000, ext. 0.

GARDEN GUIDE FOR LATE FEBRUARY

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Sometimes the best way to deal with winter is to ignore it and get your sights on spring. Timely lawn and garden tasks, from the Orleans County Cooperative Extension helps you forget about the weather.

- Plan your 2002 vegetable garden, flowerbeds and landscape plantings, and order seeds and plants soon.
- Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension for a copy of the 2002 Home Vegetable Garden Variety list.
- Prune fruit trees, grapes, wisteria and most ornamental trees and shrubs while they're dormant. Exceptions are birch, dogwood and maple, and spring flowering plants such as forsythia and lilac. Spring flowering trees and shrubs bear this year's flowers on last year's wood, and pruning now would prevent flowering by removing the buds. Birches, dogwoods and maples will "bleed" sap from pruning wounds made now. Prune these in the summer, after the sap flow is past.
- As you prune landscape plants and fruit trees, check for bagworm bags and silvery gray, foamy masses of tent caterpillar eggs. Remove these when you find them to reduce the number of pests you'll have to deal with later.
- Take cuttings from spring flowering plants and force them into bloom. Make cuttings from pussy willow, quince, cherry, forsythia, birch and other plants with a sharp knife or cutting tool so you don't injure the plants. Place cut branches in water in a cool (60 F), brightly lighted spot. Mist flower buds several times a day as they start to open, and keep the cut ends of the branches in water at all times. Night temperatures in the 40s will extend the blooming period.
- Continue to bring bulbs potted in October out of cold storage for forcing.
- Check winter mulches on strawberries, bulb beds and perennials, and add to them if necessary, though under our present snow depth this not necessary.
- Check winter plant protectors and make repairs as needed to assure that plants continue to be protected against gnawing mice and rabbits, flying salt spray, heavy loads of snow and ice, and drying sun and wind.
- Continue to water houseplants sparingly and hold off fertilizing until they begin to grow more vigorously in the spring.
- Continue checking stored produce and bulbs, corms and tubers, and discard any showing signs of mold or decay.
- If you've been feeding wild birds, keep at it. The birds are depending on your feeder and may starve if you stop feeding.
- Subscribe to Cornell Cooperative Extension Orleans County's "Orleans Gardener". Call 589-5561 for more information.

Horse division at 4-H Fair under new requirements

Beginning this year, to participate in the Orleans County 4-H Fair, youths and their parents or guardians must meet two new requirements.

These new requirements arose out of concerns regarding the horse division at the fair over the past few years, according to Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator Margo Bowerman. The new requirements are designed to promote and strengthen the educational aspects of the program, as well as improve the comprehension of the 4-H mission for spectators, she said.

The first requirement is attendance of the youth and parent/guardian at a discussion of the goals of the 4-H program, particularly the horse program. Also covered at this meeting will be expectations for participants and spectators.

The meetings are scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. March 9, 7 to 9 p.m. April 11 and 7 to 9 p.m. May 10 at the Trolley Building of the fairgrounds.

The second requirement is the youth's participation in one of four horse-related educational events. The first event was a horse communications test earlier this month.

The second event of the 5-Star test. This event helps youths, parents and club leaders evaluate the youth's understanding of a horse, equipment and safety issues. The test is being conducted at 9 a.m. March 2 at the Trolley

Building.

The third event is a clinic on showmanship and "what judges are looking for." This clinic is being run from 7 to 9 p.m. March 22.

The final event is an observational riding clinic, being conducted from 9 to 11 a.m. May 11 at the fairgrounds.

If a youth wishing to take part in the horse division does not meet both these requirements, they will not be permitted to participate, Bowerman said.

For more information, call the CCE at 589-5561.

The Daily News • Wednesday, March 6, 2002

HORSE Club conducts regular session

MEDINA — Feb. 17 was a regular 4-H meeting of the Orleans County HORSE Club. Members discussed their public presentations. Almost everyone qualified for regionals.

Members reviewed the calendar events and studied for the upcoming five-star tests.

The Daily News • Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Barn Buddies send mailgrams abroad

KNOWLESVILLE — Barn Buddies 4-H Horse Club worked with other 4-H clubs in the county to make military mailgrams for servicemen and women during the month of January.

Last year the local clubs were tops in the nation, and this year they made more than 3,000 cards, double last year's amount.

Barn Buddies president Stephanie Boyle took part in the County Conversation, a meeting to discuss the many different things the clubs could do to improve the county's youth.

The club also participated in Public Presentations on Feb. 9 and collected Campbell's soup labels which go toward improving schools. On Feb. 24, the group went to Polar Wave Snow-tubing in Batavia. The annual 5-Star tests were March 2.

• The Daily News • Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Orleans 4-H expands horse show rules

KNOWLESVILLE — Orleans County 4-H Fair officials are adding two requirements for participants in the horse show this year, Cooperative Extension Educator Margo Bowerman said.

The new requirements are designed to promote and strengthen the educational aspects of the 4-H horse program and improve the comprehension of 4-H's mission among participants and spectators, Bowerman says.

The first requirement is for the youth participant and one parent or guardian to attend a discussion about the goals of the 4-H program, including expectations of the participants and spectators and preparation for the fair.

Meeting choices will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, 7 to 9 p.m. April 11 or 7 to 9 p.m. May 10, and they will be at the Trolley Building on Orleans County 4-H fairgrounds, Route 31.

The second requirement is for youth to be in one of four horse-related educational events, such as horse communications presentations, which were earlier in February.

Other events are an educational clinic on showmanship from 7 to 9 p.m. March 22 and an observational riding clinic from 9 to 11 a.m. May 11 at the 4-H fairgrounds.

Any young person who has not met the two requirements will not be permitted to participate in the horse division, Bowerman said.

Call 589-5561 for more information about the requirements or Orleans County 4-H programs.

Albion native to work with 4-H

Jaime Brennan begins job with Orleans Extension

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Jaime Brennan may be new to Cornell Cooperative Extension's Orleans County office, but the office and its 4-H programs aren't new to the Albion native.

Brennan, 25, grew up with 4-H and now plans to incorporate her experience and knowledge into her position as a part-time 4-H community educator for the Family Consumer Science Department.

"4-H creates leadership skills and the ability to interact with others," she said. "It gave me a good foundation to build up on, and a broad background."

Brennan said she learned about sewing, cooking, baking and making crafts in 4-H from age 8 to 18.

"It gave me a basis to build upon," she said, adding that 4-H isn't so much about mastering a skill, but about learning as you improve.

Her job's three primary areas of focus are textiles, food and nutrition and child development, Brennan said from her office at 20 South Main St.

"I would like to get some programs on nutrition for adults and children," Brennan said, adding that there seems to be a huge focus on taking vitamin and herbal supplements in the battle against obesity. "So people can know how to get those things from the foods they eat."

She just signed cooperative extension up as a partner with the program, Eat Well Play Hard, sponsored by New York State Department of Health, Brennan said.

Brennan met her husband John at Cobleskill State College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture about three years ago.

The newlywed of three months was formerly a Kirby and still works part



Joanne Beck/Daily News

NEW EDUCATOR: Jaime Brennan settles into her new office as part-time 4-H Community Educator at the Cornell Cooperative Extension building in Albion.

• The Daily News • Tuesday, March 5, 2002



Tom Rivers/Daily News

ORLEANS VISIT: U.S. Rep. John LaFalce, D-Tonawanda, speaks Monday with Cornell Cooperative Extension Director Deb Roberts during a visit to Albion. They discussed the agency's plan to build a new headquarters in Knowlesville.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2002

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Extension Gardener

Spring is a good time to plant trees

By Dave Reville

There are many good reasons for planting trees since they add value to your property and can help reduce energy costs for heating and cooling by buffering cold winds in winter as well as cooling shade in summer.

Mixed plantings of deciduous and evergreen trees can filter out unwanted noise and dust. They can screen off undesirable views and create privacy in outdoor living areas, and they provide shelter for birds and other wildlife.

Spring is a great time to plant.

Choosing a tree for a specific planting site is a matter of matching various types of trees to the growing conditions in the planting site. Specifically, site selection includes the space available for a tree to reach its mature size, soil drainage and the potential for the tree to reach its mature size, soil drainage and the potential for the tree to get involved with underground or overhead utilities. Frost pockets also need to be avoided.

Once you have a list of potential trees for your site, you can sort them by characteristics like fall color, flowers and fruits, pest resistance form (such as upright or spreading or weeping) or interesting bark traits, to name a few.

Proper planting and some special care in the first two or three years after planting helps the tree become established.

Begin by digging a large planting hole. In well-drained soils, the hole should be as deep as the root ball and two to three times as wide, to provide a volume of loosened soil through which the roots can move easily and rapidly.

In clay soils with poor drainage, a shallow hole may be better. Set the tree in it and then fill in around it and build up a mound of topsoil over and around the roots. A deep hole in poorly drained clay will be slow to drain after a heavy rain; roots that stand in saturated soil for long periods may rot and the tree fail to survive from lack of drainage.

Be sure to remove all wires, plastic cord,

plastic burlap and other non-biodegradable materials from the root ball and main stem. These could restrict root growth or girdle the trunk as the tree grows causing it to die.

When back filling the planting hole, look for a change in bark color on the trunk to indicate the previous soil level it was grown in at the nursery and cover the root ball to that level. Fill in around the roots and firm the soil with your hands, then water to settle the soil and eliminate air pockets, add more soil and water again. Do not "stomp" down soil due to compaction.

In well-drained soil, form a ridge of soil two to four inches high around the outside edge of the planting hole to create a reservoir for watering and natural rainfall.

Support the tree to keep it from being wind whipped or blown over the first few years. Use one stake on the windward side, two stakes on opposite sides, or three stakes equally spaced around a large tree. Place stakes carefully to avoid injuring the roots. To protect the bark, use wire passed through a section of old garden hose to connect the tree to the stakes.

Mulch the root zone with two to four inches of mulch to conserve soil moisture and protect newly planted trees from extremes of heat and cold. Mulch also reduces competition from weeds and eliminates the need to mow next to the trunk. As well as keeping string trimmers away as well as mowers.

Water regularly during dry periods by a soaker hose. Trees planted in sandy soils will need more frequent watering than trees in heavier soils. Trees in heavy clay soils can be overwatered and roots will suffer.

Fertilizing during the planting year is generally not needed and it is best to wait until the next year, after the tree is well established, before fertilizing with granular or liquid products.

Contact the CCE at 589-5561 for further information.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Extension specialists given a formal introduction

By Paul Lane
The Journal-Register

ALBION — In an effort to explain what exactly they do, the Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist teams were introduced to the Orleans County Legislature recently.

The three teams are the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team created in 1970, the Lake Ontario Fruit Team created in the early 1970s and the Lake Plains Vegetable Team created in the 1980s, CCE Executive Director Deborah Roberts said.

The teams offer specialist expertise to team members, grower and industry reps involvement through area advisory committees and input from the CCE, Roberts said.

"(The teams) enable us to widen the amount of information we have available," she said.

Darrell Oakes, an apple farmer from Lyndonville, said that without assistance from specialists, his farm might not have made it through its first 80 years.

"Our farm wouldn't be here today if not for the Extension," he said. "We're greatly indebted to the Cooperative Extension."

One of the problems he receives assistance with is securing temporary labor. Since the

growing season is limited in Orleans, finding dedicated picking help for 10 to 12 weeks a year proves difficult.

"Finding good, honest people is one of the most difficult challenges we face," he said. "(Picking) is hard work."

Nate Herendeen is the field crops specialist in the dairy team. One of his group's goals is to maximize what is produced.

"We have to ask ourselves, 'How can we do things that are value added?'" he said.

Currently, the team is examining the feasibility of manufacturing ethanol from corn crops, he said. Other areas they overlook are water quality and nutrient management, he said.

The teams are shared throughout western New York. The fruit and vegetable teams each encompass six counties, and the dairy team eight.

"It's because we work together that we can afford these specialists," Roberts said.

According to Roberts, specialist teams are vital to agricultural success in the county.

"Orleans is one of the most diverse counties in the state," she said. "Without the teams, there'd be no way we could meet all of our needs."

How-tos of grant-writing will be taught

Grant-writing workshops will be offered in Rochester and Sanborn next month.

The Rochester Grantmakers Forum is offering grantmaking basics for staff, donors, trustees and volunteers from public and private foundations, corporations and other philanthropic organizations.

The three-session primer will include:

- Outreach and priority setting/focusing your grantmaking, from 7:45 to 10 a.m. Feb. 14.
- Reviewing proposals and conducting site visits, from 7:45 to 10 a.m. Feb. 28.
- Understanding nonprofit financials, from 7:45 to 10 a.m. March 13.

Each session includes a presentation by individuals from private, community-based and corporate fund-raisers, a discussion of course reading materials and an open dialogue with participants.

The sessions will take place at the Frontier

Learning and Conference Center, 2060 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road, Henrietta. The registration fee is \$90 for all three.

Pre-registration is required. To sign up, call 232-2380.

Niagara County Community College will offer a two-day grant-writing workshop Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 at its main campus.

The workshop will help participants learn the language of grant-writing and learn how to make contacts. The course fee is \$50.

NCCC also is offering a fund-raising workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 15 and 23. The workshop is designed to teach participants how to tap into new sources of funding and carry out successful fund-raising through events, grants, solicitation, estate planning and memberships. The course fee is \$25.

To register for either NCCC workshop, call 614-6470.



Busy buddies

Members of the Barn Buddies 4-H Horse Club gathered at a recent meeting to recap a busy holiday season, which included collecting gifts for a needy family, caroling at Medina Memorial Health Care System and a coat drive. Coats were donated to the Medina Area Association of Churches. On Jan. 12, the club participated in Military Mailgrams at the Orleans County Fairgrounds, sending cards to servicemen overseas. The group is looking forward to public presentations in February.

Don't start transplanting too early

By Dave Reville

Don't over react to "spring fever" and start seeding months ahead of the anticipated field planting date. Allow five to six weeks at most for tomatoes and eggplant, six to seven weeks for peppers, two to three weeks for lettuce and curcurbits (cucumbers, melons, squash) and three and one-half to four weeks for cabbage and cauliflower.

These intervals are based on good growing conditions for temperature and light. With such schedules, a few days delay in planting does not hurt too much. The best yields and fruit size comes from desirable transplants.

Horticultural oil spray for insect control

Horticultural oils of the superior type are used on trees and shrubs to control primarily the egg stages of insects such as aphids, scales, adelgid and mites. These oils are contact insecticides whose mode of action is physical rather than chemical for the oil to be effective. Dormant and summer oil applications have been used

safely on many types of plants.

In order for the spray oil to be effective, the insect egg must be present at the time of treatment and contact with the egg must take place. Adult or immature insect stages migrating to the plant after treatment are not controlled by oil residues.

If you had an insect infestation last year on your ornamental trees and shrubs, now is a good time to use horticultural oil sprays. It is essential that the entire tree is covered thoroughly. Do not drench the plant. The best time to spray is on a dry, mild, sunning morning.

Horticultural oil sprays are recommended for most ornamental woody plants, but it is important to avoid the following plants so no injury results: Japanese maple, beech, Colorado blue spruce, hickory, walnut, butternut and Douglas fir. Oil spray on Colorado blue spruce will remove the bluish frosted material from the current season's growth. Read the label to become familiar with all precautions and application information.

Is your ground

ready to till?

With "spring fever" affecting all of us, the first inclination is to get the vegetable garden dug up for the planting of early crops. Many times this is done with too much haste.

Before doing and plowing or spading, check to see if the soil is dry enough to work. If it is still too wet, the soil particles will become too closely packed and it will remain hard and cloddy for weeks and months thereafter.

How do you tell if the soil is ready to work? Squeeze a handful tightly into a ball and then break it apart with your fingers. If the mass crumbles easily it is safe to work the soil. However, if the particles cling together and the soil cannot be readily broken up, it's still too wet. Wait another week and try it again.

For further information, call the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Genesee County 4-H program has shaped area youth for decades

By Matt Surtel

Daily News Staff Writer

Current and former members of Genesee County 4-H say the club taught much about youth development and values. But many of them said 4-H meant a lot more.

"When we were kids 4-H was *it*," said Bob Mullen, 69, of Stafford. "4-H was freedom. Not that we didn't like being on a farm, but 4-H was freedom."

As Genesee County marks its Bicentennial, the state 4-H program is celebrating its 100th anniversary. And their histories often go hand-in-hand.

The Genesee County 4-H program has spent decades shaping the area's youth and future leaders. Although technology and tools used to foster youth development have changed, the purpose of 4-H has remained the same



since the first meetings were conducted locally in the 1920s.

Any member is acquainted with the organization's emphasis on head, heart, hands and health. The clover symbol represents good luck and achievement.

— From page A-1

etables, and demonstrated calves, sheep and pigs. They also planted experimental potato plots on their farm, and even had a pond dug so they could experiment with irrigation.

Mullen said the experimental plots were started with the help of Arthur J. Platt, a field representative from Cornell University.

The biggest time of year was the Genesee County Fair in late August. Mullen's mother would transport up to three carloads of vegetables for judging, and the siblings would get spend-

ing money through the prizes they won.

"Then if won at state fair could go to club congress in Chicago," Mullen said. "It was a reward to us, and we got to meet a lot of people."

Mullen became a junior leader at age 15, and later started 4-H clubs with his wife Helen. They taught boys and girls topics such as "The ABCs of Cooking."

Some parts of 4-H have changed since the earlier days, he said. Members learned to tie their own halters for cows, and purchase them from stores now. Equine programs popular for riders formerly emphasized draft horses used for farming.

Among the Genesee County 4-H program's accomplishments is creation of the walk-a-thon fund-raiser in 1969. The idea has since become common across North America.

A 4-H handbook published in 1952 provides a look at an earlier era. Chapters on livestock judging and nutrition would be familiar to today's 4-H'ers; so would the safety warning implicit in a photograph of a train chugging by a smashed tractor. But bow ties, sweater vests and a fun automobile quiz on long-vanished makes such as Hudson, LaSalle, Austin and DeSoto would probably be lost on younger readers.

Topics include vegetable and livestock judging, showmanship and nutrition. A picture of a steam engine chugging by a smashed tractor shows farm safety has always been important.

Other aspects show how much times

have changed. One chapter includes information on protecting household food shelves with the banned insecticide DDT. Farming photographs have a conspicuous emphasis on boys, while images of girls are mostly limited to gardening and nutrition.

Mullen has been involved with 4-H nearly his entire life. He was one of Genesee County's early members and spent 55 years as an instructor.

"You didn't go anyplace back then," he said. "It was how you got to go places and have things to do."

As the ninth of 14 children, Mullen watched his older siblings take part in the program, and eventually joined them. The family ran its own 4-H club at their 100-acre farm.

The siblings grew all manner of veg-

See 4-H — page A-2

Community service is now a big part of the 4-H program, and clubs aren't just rural youth. Members can do projects on everything from photography to model rockets.

The tools have changed but the 4-H mission remains the same, said Kelly Knapp, public relations director for the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County. Besides youth development and leadership, the organization also trains adult instructors.

In a literal sense, the victory gardens of the World War II era have been replaced by recycling projects.

"Our mission is the same in the Cor-

nell Cooperative Extension," said Chip Malone, 4-H youth development director. "To help people help themselves using land grants and other resources.

"That hasn't really changed," he continued. "The Extension is one of our primary resources but we also work with a lot with Genesee Community College."

Area youths and adults can become acquainted with what 4-H offers at the upcoming Catch the 4-H Fever night. The program will be conducted 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 23 at the Robert Morris School in Batavia.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2002

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

4-H'ers do some horsin' around

The Orleans County H.O.R.S.E. Club met Feb. 17 to discuss members' public presentations. All presentations were well done and everyone received an award. Almost everyone qualified for regionals.

The club members

reviewed the calendar year of events and studied for the upcoming five-star tests. A lot of important information regarding the tests was discussed.

Everyone laughed and had a good time.

— Stacy Miller, Lyndonville

Lake Country Pennysaver March 10, 2002

Spring a Good Time to Plant Trees

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



There are many good reasons for planting trees since they add value to your property and can help reduce energy costs for heating and cooling by buffering cold winds in winter as well as cooling shade in summer.

Mixed plantings of deciduous and evergreen trees can filter out unwanted noise and dust. They can screen off undesirable views and create privacy in outdoor living areas, and they provide shelter for birds and other wildlife. Spring is great time to plant.

Choosing a tree for a specific planting site is a matter of matching various types of trees to the growing conditions in the planting site. Specifically, site selection includes the space available for a tree to reach its mature size, soil drainage and the potential for the tree to reach its mature size, soil drainage and the potential for the tree to get involved with underground or overhead utilities. Frost pockets also need to be avoided.

Once you have a list of potential trees for your site, you can sort them by characteristics like fall color, flowers and fruits, pest resistance form (such as upright or spreading or weeping), interesting bark traits to name a few.

Proper planting and some special care in the first two or three years after planting helps the tree become established.

Begin by digging a large planting hole. In well-drained soils, the hole should be as deep as the root ball and two to three times as wide, to provide a volume of loosened soil through which the roots can move easily and rapidly.

In clay soils with poor drainage, a shallow hole may be better. Set the tree in it and then fill in around it and build up a mound of topsoil over and around the roots. A deep hole in poorly drained clay will be slow to drain after a heavy rain; roots that stand in saturated soil for long periods may rot and the tree fail to survive from lack of drainage.

Be sure to remove all wires, plastic cord, plastic burlap and other non-biodegradable materials from the root ball and main stem. These could restrict root growth or girdle the trunk as the tree grows causing it to die.

When back filling the planting hole, look for a change in bark color on the trunk to indicate the previous soil level it was grown in at the nursery and cover the root ball to that level. Fill in around the roots and firm the soil with your hands, then water to settle the soil and eliminate air pockets, add more soil and water again. Do not "stomp" down soil due to compaction.

In well-drained soil, form a ridge of soil 2 to 4 inches high around the outside edge of the planting hole to create a reservoir for watering and natural rainfall.

Support the tree to keep it from being wind whipped or blown over the first few years. Use one stake on the windward side, two stakes on opposite sides, or three stakes equally spaced around a large tree. Place stakes carefully to avoid injuring the roots. To protect the bark, use wire passed through a section of old garden hose to connect the tree to the stakes.

Mulching the root zone with 2 to 4 inches of mulch to conserve soil moisture and protect newly planted trees from extremes of heat and cold. Mulch also reduces competition from weeds and eliminates the need to mow next to the trunk. As well as keeping string trimmers away as well as mowers.

Water regularly during dry periods by a soaker hose. Trees planted in sandy soils will need more frequent watering than trees in heavier soils. Trees in heavy clay soils can be overwatered and roots will suffer.

Fertilizing during the planting year is generally not needed and notes it is best to wait until the next year, after the tree is well established, before fertilizing with granular or liquid products.

Contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 585-589-5561 for further information.

Agriculture feeling the effects of recession

By Deborah Roberts

Like everyone else, American agriculture is feeling the effects of the overall recession. Farmers in Orleans County are no different.

Certain types of agriculture have been facing difficulties for several years, such as the apple industry. Each commodity faces different factors contributing to its difficulties, however, some shared issues keep surfacing at the various commodity meetings. The importance of these issues is magnified by the current economic times.

Trade and marketing issues are probably the most widely shared concern. Prices of most agricultural commodities are not much higher (some are lower) now than they have been in 50 years.

Other countries, either through lower labor costs or through government subsidies, are selling their products in the United States at the sake of U.S. agricultural products.

Agriculture is not alone in this problem, as evidenced by the tariffs on steel just imposed by President Bush this week. While there are regulations that provide some protection, there are often

ways around them. It is an age-old argument that other nations do not always allow as much access to their markets as the United States does to its markets. U.S. and state governments, producer organizations and businesses continue to work on the promotion of U.S. agricultural products overseas.

Regulations are another cross-commodity issue. There are the accounting, safety and employer issues that all small businesses face. There are also product safety and environmental regulations among others.

New York is known for its higher levels of regulation relative to other states. From animal waste management plans to chemical application training and reporting, to vehicle permits to lender reports, farmers are faced with a multitude of requirements and regulations. Education and advocacy are the tools they use to deal with them.

Labor is a third common issue, which can be linked to Federal regulations. The type of agriculture we have here in Orleans County demands intensive hand labor at various times of the year whether it is setting and cutting cabbage or picking apples.

Over the years, farmers have had to rely more and more on our neighbor to the south, Mexico, to come up with an adequate supply of workers willing to do the hard work needed. More and more, it is becoming difficult to get an adequate number of workers for an entire season whether they are from Mexico, the Caribbean or the U.S. As national security becomes an even higher priority, farmers are concerned about where they will find enough labor this year.

The last common concern is one that is often voiced for Orleans County in general; how do we keep our young adults? In agriculture the concern is not only how to get them to want to stay in the business, but also how best to pass it on to them.

Questions also arise about what is the best preparation, since the face of agriculture is changing rapidly. For many in agriculture, farming is not just a business, but also a way of life, which adds another dimension to the process. Private consultants and NY FarmNet provide help to farm families in approaching inherent issues in family business.

Agriculture is an important component of life in Orleans County and so affects us all. We all are facing a rapidly changing world whether we are in agriculture or not. It is by working together that we will make the most of the future, whatever it is.

For more information on agriculture, call the CCE at 589-5561.

Deborah Roberts is director of the Orleans County CCE.

EASTER PLANT CARE

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



AZALEA: Azalea prefer bright light, cool temperature, and an abundance of water. When they stop blooming in the house, continue to water them. Place outdoors when danger of frost is past. Place in a partially shaded spot and keep the soil moist. Prune in late May or early June to keep a well-shaped bush. Bring the plant in before frost and keep in a well-lighted room with a cool temperature (45-50 degrees F) until January. At that time bring the plant into a warm spot to force the buds to bloom. Never allow the plant to dry out during forcing or the buds will drop.

BEGONIA: There are many different types of begonias. They generally like the semi-sun to shady spots and evenly moist soil although the most common wax begonia can be almost dry before watering again. Pick off dead blossoms.

CALCEOLARIA, CINNERARIA, & PRIMROSE: These plants are treated as annuals and are to be kept moist and cool (not over 70 degrees F) to prolong the life of the flowers. When the blossoms have faded, discard the plant.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS: Most potted chrysanthemums are not reliably winter hardy. While indoors keep them in a cool, sunny location and keep moist because foliage droops easily. In the spring plant the garden type outdoors in a sunny location. Prune them back to 3-5" from the ground and they should bloom again next fall.

CROCUS, DAFFODILS, HYACINTHS, TULIPS: These flowering bulbs must be kept in a cool, sunny place or the blooms will fade quite readily. Always keep the soil moist. Let the foliage turn yellow before planting them out in the spring. These will not flower again indoors but will flower outdoors after one winter.

CYCLAMEN: Keep in a cool, north window or where the sun is not too strong, and keep evenly moist. Towards the end of March, they will cease to flower and the leaves will turn yellow as they go into their dormant period. Gradually reduce watering them and pick off the dead leaves. It is important not to wet the centers of the plant. At the beginning of June, stop watering altogether and expose the corms to the full sun until the end of July when watering should begin again. As soon as corms begin to develop young leaves replant into a larger pot with the corm half in the soil and half out.

EASTER LILY: Lilies prefer bright light and moderate moisture. When you receive a plant, punch a hole through the colored foil to make sure there will be good drainage. As the flowers begin to open remove the yellow anthers before they turn to powder. Continue watering until leaves turn yellow, then cut off the stem. Place the pot in a cool dark place until weather permits setting the bulb outdoors. Plant the bulb in a sunny location 4-6" deep. It should flower towards the end of that summer but don't give up if it doesn't. It most likely will next year.

GARDENIA: Gardenias are difficult to keep in the home. They require good light, even temperature (65 degrees F) and an abundance of moisture day and night. Bloom failure may be caused by poor light, overwatering, soil drying out, sudden temperature changes, high soil temperature, and improper feeding. In the summer, place outdoors in semi-shade.

GLOXINIA: Keep gloxinias evenly moist and in moderate sun. When the last bloom has faded and there is no sign of new buds, gradually withhold water until the soil is almost dry. Store the tuber in dim light at 50-60 degrees F. Water often enough to keep the tuber alive. When new sprouts appear, repot and start over again by fertilizing and keeping it evenly moist.

HYDRANGEA: A potted hydrangea should be kept moist at all times, watering two times a day if needed. When the blooms have faded, cut the shoots back and still keep well watered. When the danger of frost has past they can be planted in light shade. In the fall, before cold weather, store in a cool, dark place until January, watering enough to keep the stems from shriveling. Then place in a sunny window with a 55-60F temperature.

ROSES: Miniature roses are rewarding house plants. Keep them in full sunlight and evenly moist. Try to keep at a temperature around 65 degrees F. When the danger of frost is gone, plant in enriched soil outdoors. Provide winter protection.

For further information, call Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2002

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

W. Va. 4-H to end tribal rituals

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — For 80 years, 4-H members at summer camp in West Virginia have split off into tribes and followed rituals patterned after American Indian customs, from copying rain dances to wearing head-dresses to creating self-styled tribal yells.

Now, the practice — a large part of the summer camps themselves — is being eliminated because of a complaint that it is offensive to American Indians.

At least three other states — Delaware, Maryland and Virginia — have similar 4-H camps.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2002

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

College leader to be in Cornell

ITHACA — Cornell University will serve for the next three years as the headquarters for the executive director of New York Campus Compact.

Compact is an organization of college presidents across the state seeking to promote community service by their schools.

Numerous states have individual campus compacts. New York's was formed in fall 2001 by a number of schools, including the State University College at Geneseo, Nazareth College and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Now, 35 schools are part of the organization.

SUNY Geneseo President Christopher Dahl and Hobart and William Smith President Mark Gearan are co-chairmen of the compact. A compact committee currently is overseeing the search for an executive director.

- FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2002

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Briefly

4-H club selling dinner tickets

KNOWLESVILLE — Members of the Helping Hands 4-H Club of West Barre will serve a spaghetti dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. April 8 at the Trolley Building, 4-H Fairgrounds.

The club, made up of children ages 5 to 18, is raising money for the local Red Cross Disaster Fund, which experienced a drain in resources after the February ice storm, according to Red Cross spokesman Julie Miller.

Contisano Foods and Prince Pasta are donating the sauce and noodles.

Door prizes, coupons and raffles will be offered.

Tickets, \$5 for adults and \$2 for children younger than 5, can be purchased at the Red Cross Main Office in Medina or from Helping Hands members.

For more information, call 798-3170.

Farm and Garden

Extension Gardener

Some tips on caring for those Easter plants

By Dave Reville

Azalea

Azalea prefer bright light, cool temperature and an abundance of water.

When they stop blooming in the house, continue to water them. Place outdoors when the danger of frost is past.

Place in a partially shaded spot and keep the soil moist. Prune in late May or early June to keep a well-shaped bush.

Bring the plant in before frost and keep in a well-lighted room with cool temperature (45 to 50 degrees) until January. At that time, bring the plant into a warm spot to force the buds to bloom.

Never allow the plant to dry out during forcing or the buds will drop.

Begonias

There are many different types of begonias. They generally like the semi-sun to shady spots and evenly moist soil, although the most common wax begonia can be almost dry before watering again. Pick off dead blossoms.

Calceolaria, cinneraria and prim-rose

These plants are treated as annuals and are to be kept moist and cool (not over 70 degrees) to prolong the life of the flowers.

When the blossoms have faded, discard the plant.

Chrysanthemums

Most potted chrysanthemums are not reliably winter hardy.

While indoors keep them in a cool, sunny location and keep moist because foliage droops easily.

In the spring plant the garden type outdoors in a sunny location. Prune them back to three to five inches from the ground and they should bloom again next fall.

Crocus, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips

These flowering bulbs must be kept in a cool, sunny place or the blooms will fade quite readily. Always keep the soil moist.

Let the foliage turn yellow before

planting them out in the spring. These will not flower again indoors but will flower outdoors after one winter.

Cyclamen

Keep in a cool, north window or where the sun is not too strong and keep evenly moist.

Toward the end of March they will cease to flower, and the leaves will turn yellow as they go into their dormant period.

Gradually reduce watering them and pick off the dead leaves.

It is important not to wet the centers of the plant. At the beginning of June, stop watering altogether and expose the corms to the full sun until the end of July when watering should begin again.

As soon as corms begin to develop young leaves replant into a larger pot with the corm half in the soil and half out.

Easter lily

Lilies prefer bright light and moderate moisture. When you receive a

plant, pinch a hole through the colored foil to make sure there will be good drainage. As the flowers begin to open, remove the yellow anthers before they turn to powder.

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Gardenias

Gardenias are difficult to keep in the home. They require good light, even temperature (65 degrees) and an abundance of moisture day and night.

Bloom failure may be caused by poor light, overwatering, soil drying out, sudden temperature changes, high soil temperatures and improper feeding.

In the summer, place outdoors in semi-shade.

Gloxinias

Keep gloxinias evenly moist and in moderate sun. When the last bloom has faded and there is no sign of new buds, gradually withhold water until the soil is almost dry.

Store the tuber in dim light at 50 to 60 degrees. Water often enough to keep the tuber alive.

When new sprouts appear, repot and start over again by fertilizing and keeping it evenly moist.

Roses

Miniature roses are rewarding house plants.

Keep them in full sunlight and evenly moist. Try to keep at a temperature around 65 degrees.

When the danger of frost is gone, plant in enriched soil outdoors. Provide winter protection.

For further information, call Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Frost Tolerance Determines Planting Date

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



The tradition of putting the garden in on Memorial Day weekend is based on a climatic fact of life: the earlier you plant warm-weather crops, the greater the likelihood that frost will zap them in our area, so don't rush things.

Warm-weather crops are those that need warm soil and air temperatures and won't tolerate freezing temperatures or frost. They include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, snap beans, squash and cucumbers. If you sow your own seed, count back 6 weeks from Memorial Day to start the seeds.

Cool weather crops will grow in soil and even tolerate some frost. Peas, onions, lettuce, spinach, the cabbage family crops (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage) not only can be planted earlier, but ought to be—they don't thrive in summer's heat. But don't start them too early, if you grow your own-sow seed indoors-about March 17 for planting out in mid-late April.

Whether sown as seed or planted as transplants, warm weather crops simply don't grow if the soil is too cool. Therefore, early-planted tomatoes and peppers may not begin producing any quicker than those planted later, after the soil has warmed, even if they're protected against frost. Snap bean seeds sown in cool, wet soil are more likely to rot than germinate and grow.

With snap beans, you can fudge a little on the frost-free date because it usually takes seeds 7-10 days to germinate and emerge from the soil. Make a small planting about a week before our local frost-free date of May 25. If an unusually late frost wipes it out, there's still plenty of time to make several more plantings.

Transplant warm-weather crops on a cloudy day or late in the day so they have a chance to adjust to outdoor conditions before they have to cope with bright sunlight. In very hot or windy weather, some sort of cover that shades plants and protects them against the wind may be a good idea. If cutworms have ever been a problem, you can make cutworm collars out of strips of cardboard and set them around new transplants to protect them. Cutworms are drab-colored caterpillars that hide in the soil during the day and emerge at night to snip young transplants and seedlings off at or just below the soil surface. You'll rarely see the worms themselves, but their handiwork is hard to mistake. They seem particularly fond of pepper plants, but they can also damage other crops. Preventing damage is easy and definitely cheaper than replacing plants.

To get transplants off to a quick start, fertilize at planting time with a starter water-soluble fertilizer. Promoting root growth helps plants recover from the shock of transplanting and resume growing. For further information, please call the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Farm and Garden

Extension Gardener

Frost tolerance determines the right planting date

By Dave Reville

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Warm-weather crops are those that need warm soil and air temperatures and won't tolerate freezing temperatures or frost. They include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, snap beans, squash and cucumbers. If you sow your own seed, count back six weeks from Memorial Day to start

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Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County CCE.

Frost Tolerance Determines Planting Date

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
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Barn Buddies recognized

The members of the 4-H Barn Buddies club stayed busy in February.

First, they planned and presented their public presentations. Stephanie Boyle, Ashley Boyle, Nicki Maryjanowski and Amanda Mrzywka were the presenters. Afterward, Maryjanowski and Stephanie Boyle attended the 4-H Recognition Dinner and were awarded a three-day trip to Cornell University to examine career exploration.

Stephanie Boyle, club president, also received the Lisa Andrews Memorial Fund Award, given to outstanding 4-H'ers who participate in many activities.

Barn Buddies Stephanie Boyle, Mrzywka and Maxine Boyle attended the HPDC meeting Feb. 11 and were voted new members.

At the club's Feb. 19

meeting, the group donated a dwarf hamster, hats and mittens to a nursery school, then traveled to Orchard Manor and joined the residents in game of bingo.

The club also presented Valentines to the veterans at the VA Hospital in Batavia and donated coats to a local church.

Some members attended the 4-H fun night at the YMCA.

In addition to preparing for the 5-Star Test this month, members had a blast at the Polar Wave Snow Tubing Park.

— Amanda Mrzywka

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2002

Workshop slated for growers on pest management

Growers of sweet corn increasingly are challenged to grow their crops with a minimum of pesticide and to grow a fresh market crop where pesticide drift would be a problem for neighbors.

Controlling weeds, insects and diseases with the most environmentally sound

integrated pest management techniques is the theme of a workshop for western New York growers.

There will be formal presentations on weeds and insects of sweet corn, disease management of sweet corn and a demonstration of spray nozzles and spray drift.

Following each one-hour presentation will be a 30-minute open discussion.

In addition to the formal presentations, examples of the major pest problems will be on display.

Attendees at this workshop will be awarded six DEC recertification credits. Each

participant will also receive a sweet corn IPM reference book.

Contact Sharon Hancock at 716-461-1000, ext. 0 or e-mail Arlie McFaul at acm29@cornell.edu, or contact your local extension office for more information and or a registration packet.

Orleans farming industry is threatening to rot

By Paul Lane

The Journal-Register

The Journal-Register

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2002

ALBION — Members of the Orleans County Farm Bureau addressed the Orleans County Legislature Wednesday in an effort to increase communication between the two bodies.

Diane Krenning, Farm Bureau president, told the Legislature that increased interaction between the two groups will help in farmers' efforts to survive in trying times across the nation for agriculture.

"We're going to be very pro-active this year," she said. "Agriculture is in very serious trouble."

Agriculture is the top industry in the county, according to Krenning, as the market value of agricultural products sold in the county totaled over \$83 million in 1999. Unless something is done to assist farmers, she said, the county will suffer.

"It's not going to take a rocket scientist to figure out ... what (a lack of action) would mean to Orleans County as a whole," she said.

The primary thing hurting agriculture is trade and the declining value of the dollar, Krenning said. Apples in particular are falling value, as farmers are getting minimal returns on their crops.

"It just can not continue," she said.

Some farmers sell their produce in Japan, Krenning said, because a higher price will be paid there than in the United States. Because of this, America often does not see the prime product that its farmers put out, she said.

Along with devalued money, products from out of state and nation are harming local sales, Krenning said. Legislator Kenneth Rush cited the success of apples from Washington state in markets across the nation and wondered if a similar marketing campaign would aid New York farmers.

"Washington apples are never sold in bags," he said. "Every apple is shined, no matter what the variety."

Krenning explained that their state apple association puts much more effort into marketing than their New York counterparts, and

"We're going to be very pro-active this year. Agriculture is in very serious trouble."

Diane Krenning, Orleans County Farm Bureau president

desired for a similar campaign here.

"They have lots of money to promote their apples," she said.

In addition to increased communication, Krenning called for the Legislature and public to look at what they are buying from the produce section.

"One thing you can do today to help is to buy only domestic produce," she said.

Most produce is labeled with a country of origin, and this should soon be mandated for all produce, she said.

Legislature Chairwoman Marcia Tuohey offered to write letters to state and federal officials on the Bureau's behalf.

"Any time you want us to lobby on your behalf, we'd be happy to," she said.

Orleans County currently provides funding for programs like Soil and Water Conservation and the Cornell Cooperative Extension. According to Bureau member Todd Roberts, these agencies are essential in educating the public.

"If we don't have the infrastructure here ... it's going to be much harder to get the information," he said.

The time to act is now, according to Krenning, because farmers have been leaving the industry in increasing numbers every year since 1999, and this trend promises to continue into the near future.

"It's going to be the effort that's going to make the difference," she said.

Contact Paul Lane at 798-1400, extension 2229, or e-mail lanep@gnnewspaper.com.

The Daily News • Thursday, April 11, 2002

HORSE Club prepares for county fair

MEDINA — The HORSE Club met March 17.

Club members discuss the 5-star results which were very good and talked about the mandatory meetings that must be attended in order to be able to show in the fair. A riding clinic is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. May 11 to help riders improve for the fair. Some club members competed in the regional level of the public speaking activity April 6 at Medina High School.

The club's annual plant sale continues through May 1. The next meeting is Sunday.

The
Journal-Register

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2002

— File Features —

35 years ago

Medina High School graduate James L. Piedmont was promoted to the rank of Army Spec. 5 and was serving in Korea — Barbara Mathes of Holley and William Ingham of Kent were Orleans County's representatives to the annual 4-H Capitol Days in Albany.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

It's That Time Of Year

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2002

Drainage issues affect all in Orleans County

By Deborah Roberts

As we move into spring and snow becomes rain, water will be everywhere in Orleans County.

Because of our generally flat, lake plain terrain, water does not flow easily or consistently to its final destination.

Water affects all of us including farmer, homeowner and businesses. Just ask those homeowners who have spent hours carrying water out of their basements during our extensive power outages this winter! Or ask a farmer when his wheat field looks like an in-land lake this time of year!

Surface drainage is very important to us all, so a group of interested farmers, landowners and public servants has met on a casual basis to begin looking at the drainage situation in Orleans County. Town and village officials were also surveyed for their input on what drainage issues they face.

What has come out of these meetings

so far is that the drainage issues are varied and affect a variety of groups.

Farmers need drainage from their fields to allow the crops to grow in the optimal amount of moisture. Much of Orleans County is a heavier clay type soil that holds water and does not drain away easily, so ditches and drainage tile are needed. Water from fields, however, can only drain away as long as the ditch or stream beyond is not blocked. Blockage can result from a buildup of silt, vegetation and tree growth, animal diggings or man made interference.

Homeowners and developers need drainage to keep their home or building sites dry. In addition to dry basements, septic systems work much better when water isn't standing on them. In villages and developments, asphalt areas and roads collect and concentrate water problems. Clean ditches allow water to get away quickly from these areas.

Tourism based on our rivers and streams has become a sizable part of our

Orleans economy. Flooding of rivers and streams can be made worse by sluggish build up of vegetation or silt. Clean ditches and streams allow the water to move through quickly keeping subsequent silting down. Healthy streams and flowing rivers result in healthy fishing and boating.

Waterways do not end at political boundaries or property lines. Any efforts at drainage plans need to include the entire watersheds and all stakeholders. Everyone's needs must be taken into consideration. Education, understanding and cooperation will be key as answers to the drainage issues in Orleans County are explored.

For more information on drainage contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561 or Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District at 589-5959.

Deborah Roberts is the executive director of the Orleans County CCE.

Preventing diseases in your yard and garden

By Dave Reville

For plant diseases to occur in the yard and garden, three things are necessary: a pathogen (a disease-causing organism, such as a fungus), a susceptible host plant and favorable environmental conditions.

The gardener who wants to minimize plant disease problems needs to find a way to prevent that combination from occurring.

The easiest way is to select plants that are resistant to, or tolerant of, disease.

When you're choosing vegetable varieties, check the catalog or the seed packet for information on disease resistance and obtain Cornell's listing of Vegetable Varieties for Planting in New York State Gardens. This is crucial, as it eliminates the susceptible host as part of the disease triangle.

A favorable environment includes conditions that are favorable to the disease, unfavorable to the plants, or

both.

Selecting a proper planting site is a way to control the environmental part of the triangle.

For warm-weather, sun-loving crops, for instance, a proper site would be sunny with good soil and air movement. Soggy soil or poor light will slow plant growth and reduce vigor, making plants more susceptible to diseases, particularly root rot.

Air movement is important because many foliage diseases can get established only when foliage is wet. Air movement around plants dries foliage quickly, reducing the relative humidity so disease organisms have less chance to get started.

Gardeners can influence air movement around plants by adjusting spacing and density within the row by avoiding placement of plants in a dead air space created by a hedge-row or other windbreak. They can also avoid working in the garden when plants are wet, time irrigation

to allow plants time to dry before evening and control weeds.

Controlling weeds is not just a matter of aesthetics. Weeds can harbor disease organisms and weeds that crowd garden plants can reduce air movement around plants.

Two closely related activities that can help get a handle on plant disease are scouting and keeping records, which are two principles of Integrated Pest Management.

Scouting is simply examining your plants to see if any problems are present, and logging what occurs, when and under what conditions can reveal patterns.

If, for instance, tomatoes, peppers and potatoes planted in the north-west corner of the garden do poorly there, often losing their leaves prematurely because of leaf spotting, you could deduce that there's a plant disease-causing organism in that part of the garden that is building up over time.

You'd then make a note to yourself

to plant other crops there.

Making a map of the garden each year and keeping it with your notes on how the garden performed can go a long way toward minimizing problems in future years, as well as providing interesting tales during the winter.

Keeping plants growing vigorously is a good defense against diseases and other problems. Watering as needed, fertilizing and protecting plants from injury by insects, wildlife and cultivation keeps plants growing well and better able to resist disease.

Sometimes disease prevention is closely related to insect control. Bacterial wilt of cucumbers and related crops is carried by the cucumber beetle. The only way to prevent the disease is to protect plants against the beetle through weed control and a pest control program. So keep areas in and around the garden weed free.

When plants do become diseased, sometimes the only treatment is to

remove the infected plants, which prevents diseased plant leaves and other plant tissue at the end of the season to reduce the carryover of certain diseases.

This is especially important with crab-apple trees, roses and tomatoes. The organisms that cause a number of devastating diseases, such as scab on crab-apple, black spot on roses and leaf spotting on tomatoes exist over the winter on fallen foliage or other plant parts, so a thorough spring and fall clean up is a sound investment.

In terms of vegetable gardening, request a copy of the "Recommended List Of Home Vegetable Varieties For Planting In New York State" by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 150, 20 S. Main St., Albion, NY 14411, or call 589-5561 for further information.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County CCE.

Frost Tolerance Determines Planting Date

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



The tradition of putting the garden in on Memorial Day weekend is based on a climatic fact of life: the earlier you plant warm-weather crops, the greater the likelihood that frost will zap them on our area.

Warm-weather crops are those that need warm soil and air temperatures and won't tolerate freezing temperatures or frost. They include tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, snap beans, squash and cucumbers.

Cool weather crops will grow in cool soil and even tolerate some frost. Peas, onions, lettuce, spinach, the cabbage family crops (broccoli cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage) not only can be planted earlier, but ought to be—they don't thrive in summer's heat.

Whether sown as seed or planted as transplants, warm weather crops simply don't grow if the soil is too cool. Therefore, early-planted tomatoes and peppers may not begin producing any quicker than those planted later, after the soil has warmed, even if they're protected against frost. Snap bean seeds sown in cool, wet soil are more likely to rot than germinate and grow.

With snap beans, you can fudge a little on the frost-free date because it usually takes seeds 7-10 days to germinate and emerge from the soil. Make a small planting about a week before our local frost-free date of May 25. If an unusually late frost wipes it out, there's still plenty of time to make several more plantings.

Transplant warm-weather crops on a cloudy day or late in the day so they have a chance to adjust to outdoor conditions before they have to cope with bright sunlight. In very hot or windy weather, some sort of cover that shades plants and protects them against the wind may be a good idea. If cutworms have ever been a problem, you can make cutworm collars out of strips of cardboard and set them around new transplants to protect them. Cutworms are drab-colored caterpillars that hide in the soil during the day and emerge at night to snip young transplants and seedlings off at or just below the soil surface. You'll rarely see the worms themselves, but their handiwork is hard to mistake. They seem particularly fond of pepper plants, but they can also damage other crops. Preventing damage is easy and definitely cheaper than replacing plants.

To get transplants off to a quick start, fertilize at planting time with a starter fertilizer high in phosphorus, the element most important to root growth or use "manure tea." Promoting root growth helps plants recover from the shock of transplanting and resume growing. For further information, contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 585-589-5561.

Plant tolerance determines planting date

By Dave Reville

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Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER - FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2002

Annual Niagara farm photo contest announced

LOCKPORT — Photos showing off Niagara County's farms, farmers and foods are being solicited by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County for the fourth annual "Taste, Face and Place of New York Farms" photo contest.

County winners will go on to exhibit and compete at the 2002 New York State Fair.

There is no entry fee and the contest is open to all photographers.

There is an adult category and a youth (ages 16 and under) category.

Awards will be presented to the first, second and third place winners in each category.

Photos must be taken in Niagara County, however, photographers do not have to be residents of the county.

All photos entered will be

on display at the 2002 Niagara County Fair, July 31 through Aug. 4.

Entries are due July 23.

Entry forms and detailed contest rules can be obtained by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension, Niagara County at 433-2651.

Ladybug farm to host baleage, grazing workshop

MIDDLEPORT — The Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock, Field Crops Team will be holding a baleage and grazing workshop April 16 at Ladybug Farm, owned by Ken and Mary Gumaer, 9335 Pearson Road.

The program, which runs from 9:20 a.m. to 3 p.m. has a fee of \$5 per person, which includes lunch and a notebook.

There will be on-site exhibits of a variety of silage balers

and wrappers, with representatives available to answer questions.

Registration will be at 9:20 a.m.

The program will begin at 9:45 a.m. with a workshop "Baleage — How and Why" conducted by Bernard Adams of Innovation Agricole Adam Inc., Quebec, Canada. The topic areas will include: Crop management, moisture testing, fixed chambers vs. variable chamber balers, where to

wrap in the field vs. storage site, silage film and things to look for in a silage wrapper, dry hay vs. haylage and economic comparison and bale mover considerations.

Next, Roberta Crill, dairy specialist with NWNYS Dairy Livestock and Field Crops Team, will talk on forage quality, nutrition and sampling.

After lunch at noon, there will be a pasture walk at 1 p.m. led by Bill Henning, small farms specialist, and Mike

Stanyard, field crops specialist, with NYNY Dairy Livestock and Field Crops Team. The topic areas will include: A practical in-field look at grazing, come with your questions and concerns, optimizing results for your farm and field fertility, pest management and scouting.

For more information contact Henning at 536-5123 or Martha Wright at 585-394-3977 ext. 36.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2002

Volunteer birders needed for Cornell Lab study

The wood thrush, with its haunting, flutelike song, is one of the most loved North American birds. Unfortunately, the wood thrush and other forest-dwelling bird species are showing population declines.

Birds in Forested Landscapes, a study being conducted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with the help of volunteer birders across the continent, is working to better understand the reasons for these declines and to develop guidelines that may help reverse these birds' declining numbers.

"We're hoping to answer several important conservation-related questions," says Ken Rosenberg, director of conservation science for the lab. "For example,

we want to know how much habitat different forest-dwelling bird species require for successful breeding, and how habitat requirements are affected by land uses — human development, forestry, agricultural practices — in the surrounding landscape. We also are working to find out how the habitat requirements of a species vary across its range."

To find these answers, lab researchers are relying on the help of volunteer bird watchers. Participants in BFL select study species that occur in the region where they live. They then select survey points in forest patches of different sizes, visit each point twice during the breeding season to search for the selected

species, look for evidence of breeding success and record characteristics about the study sites.

During, they look and listen for the birds they are studying as well as for potential nest predators and brown-headed cowbirds, a species that lays its eggs in other species' nests, at the expense of the host species.

These citizen scientists also conduct a short playback-and-behavior watch periods for each study species using a CD of BFL study species' songs, calls and drums. Observations are recorded on field data forms provided to volunteer researchers and then entered at the BFL website or sent to the Lab on paper forms.

"Both BFL and the

Golden-winger Warbler Atlas Project are providing the kinds of data we need to make informed management recommendations for species that need them," says Rosenberg. "To get that data, though, we need the help of bird enthusiasts across the continent. Volunteering for one or both of these projects is a great way to give something back to the birds we all treasure."

To learn more about the projects visit www.birds.cornell.edu/bfl or www.birds.cornell.edu/gowap or call 800-843-2437. Questions via e-mail can be sent to forest_birds@cornell.edu or via regular mail, to Cornell Lab of Ornithology BFL/GOWAP, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2002

Feed seminar set

With an increasing number of feeds now available and a growing trend towards specialized feed products, consumers have more questions about which feeds are right for their animals. To help consumers, Agway Bagged Feeds is offering a certification program for its dealers and their employees Tuesday at the Holiday Inn in Batavia.

The one-day training seminar will provide participants with product knowledge for all of Agway's bagged feeds.

All aspects of feeds will be covered — from specialty milk replacers to milling information to animal health.

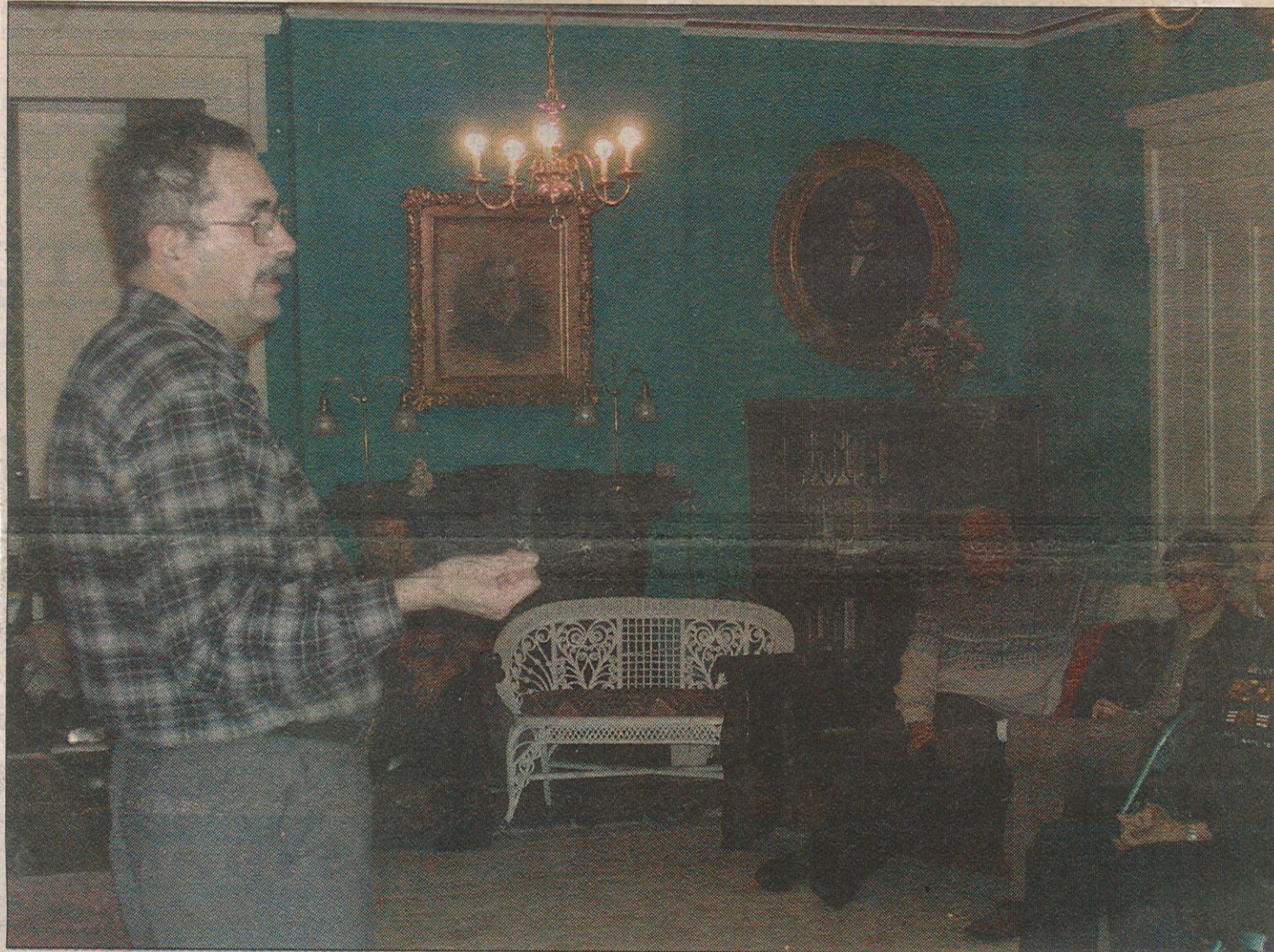
Every topic is designed to provide the dealers and salespeople with knowledge that they can use when working with customers.

Participants will be required to pass a take-home qualifying test based on the seminar information. Those who pass will receive the "Certified Bagged Feeds Specialist" designation.

Spinning a yarn

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2002



Paul Lane/The Journal-Register

Albion Village Historian Neil Johnson, left, offered a presentation Wednesday on the Civil War at Swan Library. Johnson will speak again at 7 p.m. April 17 at the library on "Orleans County and the Civil War." Preceding him in the month-long series will be Joel Emerson, who will speak at 7 p.m. April 10 on the "History of Medicine in the Civil War." Swan Library is located at 4 N. Main St. in the village.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

- MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2002

"Advertisement"

Dates Ahead

• May 13 - Spring Gardening,
"Getting your garden ready" -
with Dave Reville, Orleans
County Cornell Cooperative
Extension Educator at
Lee-Whedon Library, 620 West
Ave. Slide/lecture with time for
questions.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2002

File Features

35 years ago

(No paper published April 23, 1967. From the April 21 edition:) Officers of the Medina-Middleport Business and Professional Women's Club were elected. The slate consisted of Mrs. Beatrice Carroll, president; Mrs. Martin Krebs, vice president; Mrs. Lavona Canfield, recording secretary; Mrs. Ruth Healy, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Chester Southworth, treasurer — Deborah Zelazny, a student at Wise Junior High School, was named the Orleans County winner of the Buffalo Evening News Spelling Bee. The Orleans runner-up was Sally Sadowski, an eighth-grader at St. Mary's Assumption School in Albion — Wise Junior High School ninth-grader Christine A. Zinkievich won the Orleans County 4-H Talent Show with her solo "Begin the Beguine," a piece made famous by Benny Goodman.



James Neiss/The Journal-Register

Gary Roberts, owner of Roberts Farm Market on Route 31, looks over his orchard of Empire apple trees. He said he is not concerned about the trees blooming too early, as temperatures would have to dip below 26 degrees before trouble could arise.

Early fruit blossoms are being threatened by cold

By Brian M. Bannister
The Journal-Register

Chilly night temperatures have Orleans County fruit farmers sleeping a little uncomfortably.

After temperatures in the 80s last week, peaches and cherries are in full bloom and apple blossoms are well on their way — not a good thing so early in the season, since temperatures that dip too far can cause serious crop damage.

"We're right on the edge," said Diane Krenning, president of the Orleans County Farm Bureau. "We're right at the critical point."

The temperature dropped to 24 degrees in Niagara Falls Monday night and Lyndonville reported a temperature of 27 degrees, according to meteorologist Joseph Pace of the National Weather Service.

The critical temperature is not 32 degrees Fahrenheit, the freezing point of water, but rather 27 to 28 degrees, according to Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension

Educator Deborah Breth.

"Blossoms don't freeze at 32," she said.

If the temperature drops to around 27 degrees while apple trees are in blossom, farmers could lose up to 10 percent of their crop, Breth said. If the temperature drops to 21 degrees as much as 90 percent of a crop could be destroyed.

Slightly higher temperatures could cause similar destruction to peaches and cherries while in full bloom, Breth said.

"The 80 degrees forced things along a little, we weren't totally prepared," Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator David Reville said. "But you can't put blankets over the trees."

It's too early to tell whether recent temperatures have damaged local crops, Krenning said, but according to the weather service things should warm up shortly. Evening temperatures are expected to return to the 50s by the weekend.

Contact Brian M. Bannister at 798-1400, extension 2226, or e-mail brianmbann@yahoo.com.

The Daily News • Saturday, April 20, 2002

Refuge to 'Celebrate Wildlife' at open house April 27

ALABAMA — Live animals and music will be featured at the annual Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge open house to "Celebrate Wildlife" beginning at 10 a.m. April 27.

Guided walks, nature exhibits, children's activities and food also are planned for the open house, which ends at 5 p.m.

At least 10 exhibitors will have displays

outside and inside the refuge offices on Casey Road.

They are Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, the New York Bluebird Society, Roy-Hart Middle School, Niagara County Trappers Federation, Ducks Unlimited, wildlife and nature products by Dave Seyler, the Adirondack Mountain Club, Western New York Land

Conservancy, Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension and Friends of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.

The Corfu-Pembroke Community Band will play at 1 p.m.

Food will be available from the Alabama American Legion Post.

For more information, contact the refuge office at 948-5445.

From the **GROUND** up

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2002

Arbor Day gives a perfect excuse to plan, pick and plant

BY STAFF WRITER
LISA HUTCHURSON

With National Arbor Day coming up Friday, it's time to think about planting trees and shrubs.

Not only do these larger, woody perennials provide the backbones for our landscapes, they fill our air with oxygen and cool our homes and properties.

Their size makes them more of an investment, though — even a liability if they're in the wrong spot. So before you pick-and-plant, think ahead.

Draw a map: Start by roughly sketching existing landscaping and structures, says Rochelle Smith, a landscape architect who helped Rochester re-tree after the '91 ice storm. This can be done from any angle, and you can draw up several if you'd like.

Draw in the basic shapes, sizes (and colors if you wish) of what you'd like to see and where you think the plants should go.

And remember to think about how much work you want to put into the plant. If you like the look of a plant but don't want to be on a step-ladder spraying it every other week, try a dwarf or disease-resistant variety.

Where to plant: "You've got to make sure you're putting the right

Arbor Day event

What: A celebration including the planting of oak trees and an official proclamation by city and county officials. Sponsored by Genesee Finger Lakes Nursery and Landscape Association, City of Rochester, County of Monroe and Cornell Cooperative Extension-Monroe County. Tips on tree planting and care provided. Free.

When: 11 a.m. Friday.

Where: Charlotte Lighthouse, off Latta Road on Lighthouse Street, behind Holy Cross Church.

Call: (585) 428-7581.

SOURCE: The National Arbor Day Foundation

PLANTING, PAGE 6C

Right plant, right place

- Think about how the trees and shrubs you choose affect the appearance of your house. Consider using them to improve your views.

- Think about how much work you want to put into maintaining this tree or shrub.

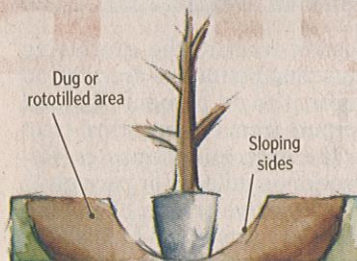
- Think about where you're planting. Do you want a play area with shade? A landscape with evergreens for winter interest?

- Some no-nos: Planting trees that'll grow into power lines, digging into underground utility lines and encroaching on neighbors' properties. Also consider community ordinances and historic tree preservation

Planting

Containerized plants

- Dig or till an area 1 foot deep and approximately five times the diameter of the root ball.



- In transplanting, be sure to keep soil around the roots. Always handle your tree by the ball, not by the trunk or branches.

- After placing the tree, pack soil firmly but not tightly around the root ball. Water the soil and place a protective 3-foot circle of mulch

Bare-root plants

It is best to plant bare-root trees immediately, to keep the fragile roots from drying out. If you can't plant right away, store the trees in a cool place and keep the roots moist.

- Before planting, soak the roots for three to six hours. Do not plant with packing materials attached to roots.

- Dig a wide hole, and remove any grass within a 3-foot circular area. This will help the roots grow.

- Be sure to plant the tree at the same depth it stood at the nursery.

- Water thoroughly, and place a protective 3-foot circle of mulch



Come out to salute volunteers Wednesday

Editor:

National Volunteer Week will be celebrated April 21 to 27. Let me be the first to extend my thanks to all of you who are volunteers — with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County, our volunteer fire companies and emergency management services, with community agencies and organizations, school or church groups or with veterans and senior citizens. Indeed, volunteers are one of the nation's most valuable resources.

The value and importance of volunteers hit me during Health and Human Services Day of the Leadership Genesee program sponsored by Extension. Teams of Leadership Genesee participants visited perhaps 12 to 15 community agencies and organizations. After the visits, when we were sharing each organization's story with the full group, it was more than apparent that many, if not all, of these organizations and agencies are dependent on volunteers.

Since that day I keep thinking about the various agencies, groups and organizations in our midst — in our daily lives — that touch so many

people in our community. I think about the hundreds and probably thousands of volunteers that make these organizations work and how we often take the programs and the volunteers for granted.

How many volunteers do you know? How many ways are you volunteering in your community? How many people are out there that may want to volunteer but haven't been asked or haven't found their niche? Is there something I or you can do to help more people volunteer their time, talents and treasures?

National Volunteer Week began in 1974, when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation in support of National Volunteer Week.

Locally Genesee County Legislature Chairwoman Mary Pat Hancock will be signing a proclamation in support of the week on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Wouldn't it be great if the courthouse was filled with volunteers to be recognized? Come to the event and we'll make it a real celebration!

During National Volunteer

Week in April, dedicated men, women and youth here in Genesee County and in communities throughout the nation will be saluted for their efforts and their commitment to serve. The year's theme, "Celebrate the American Spirit — VOLUNTEER," reflects the resolve of the American tradition of neighbor helping neighbor.

On behalf of the entire Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County organization, I want to say a special "thank you" to the many volunteers who make a difference every day in our community and in the lives of many of our neighbors. Extension's master gardeners and 4-H leaders, our agriculture, nutrition and environmental education volunteers and our board of directors are the heart of our organization and we know this is the case with many other community organizations.

Volunteers do make a difference in our community and your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Martin Culik
Executive Director
Cornell Cooperative
Extension
of Genesee County

The Daily News • Monday, April 22, 2002

goArt!



CORNELL Cooperative Extension

REALITY CHECK

Family

FOLK FAIR

Sunday, April 28th

12:30–5:00pm

Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds

Route 31, Knowlesville

FREE ADMISSION

Day-Long Entertainment:

- 1:00–Woodland Steppers, *Iroquois Dance*
- 2:00–Fun Games for All with Jim Cain
- 3:00–Ted McGraw & Friends, *Irish Music*
- 4:00–The BossTones, *Old Time & □ Dance*

PLUS Folk Arts Demonstrations & Workshops...

And you won't go hungry with food available from
Mark's Pizzeria, Medina Lions Club & Tilla's Bakery

For information—call 1-800-774-7372

Special thanks to the following for making this
event possible: NYS Department of Health,
the New York State Council on the Arts Folk Arts
Program and the Curtis Foundation.

Summer could be abuzzzzzzzzzz

■ Experts predict mild winter will mean bumper crop of bugs.

BY STAFF WRITER
JOHN KOHLSTRAND

Floyd Rothfuss didn't need to go outside to tell summer is coming.

The ladybugs in his bathroom said it all.

"I went to shave . . . and there were two of them climbing up the mirror," said Rothfuss, a semiretired Penfield farmer.

Bugs are something like orange traffic cones: One of the not-so-sweet signs that summer is almost here.

Unfortunately for farmers and gardeners, Cornell Cooperative Extension is predicting a banner year for some pesky insects.

The reason: last winter, which was the mildest in 70 years, according to National Weather Service statistics.

Average temperatures need to dip to 15 degrees for two weeks straight in order to kill insects. Last winter never came close, said Bob King, agriculture specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

As a result, King is warning farmers that several pests may pose problems for them, including corn flea beetles, corn borers and aphids.

It may seem even worse because of the early arrival of warm temperatures. Area exterminators say their phones are ringing constantly for help with ants, wasps and bees. "They've been three, four at a time," said Alice Klapp, who fields calls for her son's Best Price Exterminators, based in Penfield.

Perry Hampton, an Ogden resident and a 15-year



"I went to shave . . . and there were two of them climbing up on the mirror."

FLOYD ROTHFUSS
of Penfield, who found ladybugs in his bathroom.

BUGS, PAGE 6A



WILL YURMAN staff photographer

Bob King of Cornell Cooperative Extension checks Gro-Moore Farms' strawberries. While finding no infestation, he said warm, wet weather creates prime breeding conditions.

Bugs

FROM PAGE 1A

veteran of the pest control business, said calls aren't usually this frequent until mid-May, at least. "I'm working like it would be in the middle of summer," he said this week.

Dr. Andrew S. Doniger, director of the Monroe County Health Department, isn't willing to guess whether mosquitoes will be acute this summer. Much will depend on how wet the weather becomes later this spring and summer.

"It's a little too early to tell at this point," said Doniger, whose agency tracks mosquitoes to guard against West Nile virus.

For homeowners, bugs can be a nuisance. But for farmers, they cost income.

Some corn flea beetles carry a bacteria that causes Stewart's

wilt, which can kill corn.

Sweet corn is a \$34.5 million crop in the six-county Rochester area, which is home to more than half the state's sweet corn acreage. King estimates the area lost as much as a quarter of its crop to the disease two years ago.

Corn borer is another problem insect for farmers. Aphids, meanwhile, suck juices from all kinds of trees, shrubs and crops, sometimes leaving behind nasty viruses and bacteria (at least from the plants' point of view).

What to do? King suggests farmers rotate crops to make them harder for pests to find. Gardeners can try this on a smaller scale at home.

Also, he suggests trying pest-resistant varieties of plants.

Finally, "scout early and scout often," King said. Handpicking a few infested plants may be enough to head off larger invasions, which can strike in a

matter of days, he said.

Strawberries, considered a barometer crop by some area farmers, appear to be on track so far — King projects them to arrive around June 8.

The summer may not be completely buggy. Heavy spring rains may have drowned some insects, but the area could still see a return of the ladybugs that swarmed some area houses last October in search of crannies to ride out the cold months.

Cornell has already received a few calls about ladybugs finding their way into homes, instead of returning outdoors in the spring — as most do.

But most farmers love ladybugs, which prey on aphids. That's why instead of smashing the bugs on his mirror earlier this week, Rothfuss tossed them outside, where they might find his farm fields.

With aphids likely to abound, "they'll have plenty of food to eat this year," King said. □



Joanne Beck/Daily News

SWAPS FOR SALE: Cobblestone Unit Troop Leader Jennifer VanWycke, Shelby Cox, troop co-leader Sandy Cox, second row left, Ana Langdon, Jenna Van Wycke and her sister, Erin, are selling homemade swap items to help send an Albion girl to Girl Scout camp this summer.

Albion Girl Scouts have fun helping out one of their own

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Five-year-old Tierra Hastings of Albion will get to go to day camp this summer, and her Girl Scout troop said it was happy to help.

"Not every girl gets to go to camp," Cobblestone Service Unit Leader Jennifer VanWycke said. "We wanted to do something to help."

The troop has been selling handmade swaps, which are small trinkets such as decorative pins, and raffle tickets to help Tierra go to the Oak Orchard camp in Medina after learning her family wouldn't be able to afford the event.

Tierra's mother, Terri, said one of her four children has Rett Syndrome and it has caused financial hardship for the family.

Rett Syndrome is a neurological disorder seen almost exclusively in

females and found in a variety of racial and ethnic groups worldwide.

"We just don't have the money to send Tierra," Hastings said, adding that 8-year-old Jackie does not talk and has special needs and food requirements that cost extra money. "Tia's excited about camp. She's very shy. I think it will be good for her."

VanWycke said her troop has sort of "adopted" Tierra and will also help her fund other activities.

The raffle at 7 p.m. Monday is for two tickets to *The Lion King* and an overnight stay in Toronto worth \$360, and the fund-raiser will also help the girls buy badges and take a field trip to Niagara Falls.

The \$5 swaps include a raffle ticket and can be purchased at Orleans Travel, Orleans County Cooperative Extension or by calling 682-4221.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2002

HORSE Club having plant sale

The H.O.R.S.E. Club's annual plant sale has begun and will continue through May 1.

Members are inviting friends and neighbors to order spring/summer plants from them as a fund-raiser. If the members don't make it out to your neighborhood, call the 4-H office at 589-5561 for an order form.

At their March meeting, club members discussed the Five-Star results. Members fared very well.

Members also discussed mandatory attendance to meetings in order to be able to show in the county fair.

Riders will be able to attend a riding clinic from 9 to 11 a.m. May 11 in order to help improve their performance for the fair.

Some members attended the regional level of public speaking activity held recently at Medina High School.

— By Jessica Arno

Orleans County's part in Civil War relayed

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — It was 8:55 a.m. when thunderous cheers disturbed the morning air and handkerchiefs waved at the 240 Orleans County soldiers who were going off to the Civil War in 1861.

At least that's the way Albion Village Historian Neil Johnson described it to the audience for Swan Library's Civil War Series Wednesday.

"There was a lot of patriotism and romance at the start of the war," Johnson said. "It was a romantic, grand thing."

At the end of his 60-minute talk Johnson painted a different picture of how the Civil War really was: Poorly organized and messy.

Daniel Parker, of Eagle Harbor, sat in the audience of about 15 people to learn more about history, and had attended another program in the series that featured a performer characterizing an army surgeon.

"The older I get the more interested I am in history," Parker said. "I've been to Gettysburg three times ... I like old museums, guns and cannons."

Johnson, who has been the village historian since 1982, said he wasn't all that interested in the Civil War, but that a huge resource of history was available.

A large supply of diaries, articles from two newspapers and thousands of letters written from soldiers have been preserved to help people document what it was like, Johnson said.

Orleans County, and especially the county seat of Albion, was quite active and political throughout time, he said.

"Albion was well-connected to Rochester and Buffalo," he said, adding that the newspapers, a telegraph office and active train station kept local residents informed and mobile. "People weren't isolated



Joanne Beck/Daily News

WAR TALK: Albion village historian Neil Johnson relates how Orleans County was affected by the "War Between The States" during his talk as part of the Swan Library Civil War Series Wednesday.

... Albion was a relatively big community at the time."

At the start of the Civil War in the mid-1860s, Albion's population was 3,300, compared to Medina's smaller size of 2,800, and the village had some prominent bankers, comptrollers and other elected officials, Johnson said.

But then Abraham Lincoln was elected as president and turmoil erupted between the the United States and the newly formed Confederacy, he said.

"Something sacred had been destroyed," he said.

People reacted to the Union's rupture in similar ways to how people responded to Sept. 11, he said.

Two 30-foot flags were hung near Main Street, people flew flags out of their windows and men and women wore various red, white and blue items of clothing.

A military draft was considered "immoral" during that time and people drew together to pay and send soldiers to do battle for as little as \$13 a month, Johnson said.

"They made less than the laborers," he said, adding that civic groups rallied together to purchase various items for the men.

The Free Methodist Church collected \$40 to buy Bibles, speakers made \$171 charging small fees for lectures and the Loyal Ladies Association of Murray sent turkey dinners, he said.

Even a cow was raffled off for war funds.

"Cows amble their way through the history of Orleans County," Johnson said with a smile.

Despite a minimal effect to Albion at the start of the war, a disorganized government took its toll on people, he said.

Johnson said there was great psychological stress as more soldiers were called into battle, payments weren't making their way back home for long stretches of time, and the county was paying out huge bounties to recruit soliders.

Four years later the war ended, and with it was the loss of 500 Orleans County men.

"It dribbled to an end the way it dribbled to a beginning," he said.

Musician and singer Nan Hoffman will conclude the series with a performance at 7 p.m. April 24 at the library as she shares Civil War history through folk songs.

AGRICULTURE

State wants true count of farms

By Joel Stashenko

Associated Press Writer

ALBANY — Gearing up for a once-every-five-year federal Census of Agriculture, officials are trying to identify New Yorkers who qualify as farmers without knowing it.

Screening forms are being mailed to those who grow and market nontraditional agricultural products such as maple syrup, nursery stock, Christmas trees and fish.

The New York Agricultural Statistics Service is also trying to identify people who sell relatively small amounts of vegetables, fruit or grain products to ensure they also are counted in the survey.

Under federal rules, people who produce or sell as little as \$1,000 a year in agricultural commodities qualify as farmers, said William Blackson of the New York Agricul-

tural Statistics Service.

"If you have four or five pleasure horses, maybe you wouldn't consider yourself a farmer, but by definition you are," Blackson said. "If you are retired from big-time farming, but you still have some land and you're pasturing a few beef cows out there for your own use, you may not think of yourself as a farmer, but you are."

Last year's annual count tallied 37,500 farms statewide. Blackson said the number may be larger because of uncounted farm operations.

The agricultural census, which begins this December by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is a far more in-depth look at farm operations in New York. It asks farmers a range of detailed financial and technical questions about their operations.

Blackson, whose agency is jointly operated by the USDA and the state Department of Agriculture and Markets, said the agricultural census is important to statisticians because it helps them estimate the size of crops, heads of cattle, acres planted and other aspects of commercial farming in New York.

Jessica Chittenden, spokeswoman for the state agriculture department, said the census is also crucial to the state's oversight of the farming industry.

"As we are trying to analyze and figure out funding for Cornell University, funding for farm projects, it is important to know how many farms are out there," she said.

An accurate count of farms can also directly affect how much the state spends on programs to enhance various sec-

tions of the agricultural industry, Chittenden said.

Chris LaRoe, a spokesman for the state Farm Bureau, said the upcoming agricultural census will likely cause an increase in the number of New York farms.

Blackson said the Albany-based statistics service is approaching a variety of groups to compile a list of farmers out of the mainstream agricultural industry. They include trade groups, agricultural publications and veterinarians, according to Blackson.

People can get the screening forms by calling the Agricultural Statistics Service at (518) 457-5570 or by e-mailing the service at nass-nynass.usda.gov, Blackson said.

REDUCE DISEASES IN YOUR GARDEN

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



For plant diseases to occur in the yard and garden, three things are necessary: a pathogen (a disease-causing organism, such as a fungus), a susceptible host plant and favorable environmental conditions, states David Reville from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County.

The gardener who wants to minimize plant disease problems needs to find a way to prevent that combination from occurring.

The easiest way is to select plants that are resistant to or tolerant of disease.

When you're choosing vegetable varieties, check the catalog or the seed packet for information on disease resistance and obtain Cornell's listing of Vegetable Varieties for Planting in N.Y.S. Gardens. This is crucial: it eliminates the susceptible host as part of the disease triangle.

A favorable environment includes conditions that are favorable to the disease, unfavorable to the plants, or both.

Selecting a proper planting site is a way to control the environmental part of the triangle. For warm-weather, sun loving crops, for instance, a proper site would be sunny with good soil and air movement. Soggy soil or poor light will slow plant growth and reduce vigor, making plants more susceptible to diseases, particularly root rot.

Air movement is important because many foliage diseases can get established only when foliage is wet; air movement around plants dries foliage quickly, reducing the relative humidity so disease organisms have less chance to get started.

Gardeners can influence air movement around plants by adjusting spacing and density within the row or by avoiding placement of plants in a dead air space created by a hedgerow or other windbreak. They can also avoid working in the garden when plants are wet, time irrigation to allow plants time to dry before evening, and control weeds.

Controlling weeds is not just a matter of aesthetics. Weeds can harbor disease organisms, he points out. And weeds that crowd garden plants can reduce air movement around plants. Two closely related activities that can help get a handle on plant disease in the garden and landscape are scouting and keeping records, which are two principles of Integrated Pest Management.

Scouting is simply examining your plants to see if any problems are present, and logging what occurs, when and under what conditions can reveal patterns. If, for instance, tomatoes, peppers and potatoes planted in the northwest corner of the garden do poorly there, often losing their leaves prematurely because of leaf spotting, you could deduct that there's a plant disease-causing organism in that part of the garden that is building up over time. You'd then make a note to yourself to plant other crops there. Making a map of the garden each year and keeping it with your notes on how the garden performed can go along way toward minimizing problems in future years, as well as provide interesting tales during the winter!

Keeping plants growing vigorously is a good defense against diseases and other problems. Watering as needed, fertilizing and protecting plants from injury by insects, wildlife and cultivation keeps plants growing well and better able to resist disease.

Sometimes disease prevention is closely related to insect control. Bacterial wilt of cucumbers and related crops is carried by the cucumber beetle. The only way to prevent the disease is to protect plants against the beetles through weed control and a pest control program. So keep areas in and around the garden weed free.

When plants do become diseased, sometimes the only treatment is to remove the infected plants, which prevents the spread of a disease. It is advisable to remove all diseased plant leaves and other plant tissue at the end of the season to reduce the carryover of certain diseases. This is especially important with crabapple trees, roses and tomatoes. The organisms that cause a number of devastating disease, such as scab on crabapple, black spot on roses and leaf spotting on tomatoes over winter on fallen foliage or other plant parts, so a thorough spring and fall clean up is a sound investment.

In terms of vegetable gardening request a copy of the "Recommended list of home vegetable varieties for planting in N.Y.S.". Send a stamp, self-addressed envelope to Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, PO Box 150, 20 S Main Street, Albion, NY 14411. Or call for further information at 585-589-5561.

A SUCCESSFUL LANDSCAPE

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Having success growing landscape plants requires that you select healthy, high quality disease resistant plants that are hardy in this area. In addition you need to plant them correctly. Plants that will thrive need a little extra care the first year to get them established.

Analyzing the landscape site is a good first step to success with your plantings. Examine soil type, soil and air drainage, low spots, and exposure to prevailing winds in the winter months. Allow enough space for mature growth of the plants. So problems will not arise later. Visit area nurseries and garden centers for plants to suit your site. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension and local nurserymen for specific advice.

Other factors to include as you consider your site utilities above and below ground, septic systems, and other landscape plants that can interfere with plant growth, especially shade cast from trees. Also examine plants for their susceptibility to disease or insects and select varieties accordingly. It is best avoid weak wooded plants which storm damage takes its toll upon. Consider whether the plant has flowers or fruits and if they will create a problem when they drop. Plant shape, form, flowering period, fall color and bark texture will also provide landscape interest.

Purchasing plants from a local nursery or garden center gives you the chance to examine plants before you purchase and they offer guarantees that will replace plants if they do not live. Plant as soon as possible following purchase for best results. It is important that you plant plants at the same depth they were growing in the nursery and no deeper. Remove tags, broken limbs and fold the burlap under before backfilling with soil if your plant is balled and burlaped.

It is advisable to stake plants that are planted in a windy location the first few years. Thin barked trees like Dogwood, Maple and Crabapple, should have their trunks wrapped with tree wrap paper during the winter months to prevent frost cracks on the trunk. Watering is crucial to newly planted plants especially during periods of low rainfall. Make sure to water deeply by letting the hose, if possible, slowly trickle under plant using care to not cause a washout around roots. Overhead watering, when necessary should never be done after 4:00pm in order to prevent disease problems.

Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County for further information on plant care at 589-5561.

The
Journal-Register

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2002

File Features

10 years ago

(No paper published May 10, 1992. From the May 11 edition:) Jenee Chizick was named valedictorian and Audrey Kleinsmith was named salutatorian of the Lyndonville Central School Class of '92 — Sgt. John McHugh and juvenile officer Joan Fearby of the Medina Police Department were profiled by the Journal-Register in honor of National Police Week.

Deadline is near for Ag District 3 review

By Deborah Roberts

Farmer and homeowners are becoming busier with outside work as the weather finally gets warmer and hopefully drier. So it would be very easy to forget or ignore a letter from the clerk of the Legislature concerning the Agricultural District Review that you may have received.

The third of the county's consolidated Agricultural Districts is nearing the end of the review process. Agricultural District 3 includes the towns of Murray, Gaines, Albion and Ridgeway.

In the past, lands was simply rolled over into the District every eight years unless a request was received to remove it. For the first time, landowners must file to be included in

the District. The concern is that many landowners may have overlooked returning their intent to be included in the Ag District, and time is running out to be included.

You may not be aware that an agricultural district is an area of land with boundaries set by voluntary participation in the district. The purpose of the district is to provide modest incentive for farmers to keep their land in agricultural production. It prevents local governments from enacting local laws or ordinances, which would unreasonably restrict farm structures or farm practices.

It also requires state and local governments to fully evaluate the impact that certain projects could have on agricultural resources. Agriculture is the dominant industry in Orleans

County, so agricultural districts are important to protecting and maintaining our agricultural base.

Agricultural districts do not have to be made up completely of farmland; however they must include a predominance of viable farmland. Not everyone belongs in an agricultural district; however, the rural nature of an area is protected when it is included in the Agricultural District.

The County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board, formed by the Legislature, is given the job of making recommendations concerning the effect of new water lines of land in an agricultural district. Undeveloped land that is included in an agricultural district is not able to commit to new water lines for

non-agricultural use because of the potential adverse effects on agriculture. Existing homes, residences and farms within an agricultural district are not prohibited to connect to new water lines.

All landowners already in an agricultural district receive a letter when the district is reviewed. The landowner has the responsibility of returning his or her letter of intent requesting to either be included or excluded. However, landowners not already in the Ag District do not receive letters and must contact the Orleans County Department of Planning and Development for the proper forms to be included.

For the current review of Murray, Gaines, Albion and Ridgeway, the deadline for letters of intent for

initial inclusion in the Agricultural District was March 8. However, letters of intent are still being accepted.

The public hearing on Agricultural District 3 is planned for June 26 at the Trolley Building on the 4-H Fairgrounds, after which the Orleans County Legislature and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets make their final approvals.

If you wish to be included in the Agricultural District, you must turn in your letter of intent as soon as you can, preferably by Friday.

For more information on agricultural districts contact Orleans County CCE at 589-5561.

Deborah Roberts is executive director of the Orleans County CCE.

Planning a successful landscape

By Dave Reville
The Journal-Register

Having success growing landscape plants requires that you select healthy, high quality disease-resistant plants that are hardy in this area. In addition, you need to plant them correctly. Plants that will thrive need a little extra care the first year to get them established.

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Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County for further information on plant care at 589-5561.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Sen. Schumer provides aid breakdown for area farmers

WASHINGTON — Dairy and apple farmers in western New York should get a \$24.4 million stimulus package under the recently completed federal Farm Bill, according to Democratic Senator Charles Schumer's office.

"It's not every day that I get to deliver good news to New York's farmers so today is particularly sweet," he said in a news release.

"No bill is ever going to solve all the challenges facing New York farmers but we took a great step forward in the effort to make things a little easier for them."

Area dairy farmers should expect about \$20.6 million in payments this year if prices fall below \$16.94 hundredweight.

Individual farmers would receive an average payment of \$15,200 annually over the next three and a half years.

Genesee County's 117 dairy farms should get \$1.8 million according to information from Schumer's office. Wyoming County's 289 farms should get about \$4.4 million, and Orleans County's 42 farms should get \$638,400.

Apple aid would total about \$12,925 this year to individual apple farmers statewide. Genesee County's nine apple farms should get \$116,325; Orleans County's 87 farms should get \$1.1 million; and Wyoming County's 17 farms should get \$219,725.

The Journal-Register TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2002

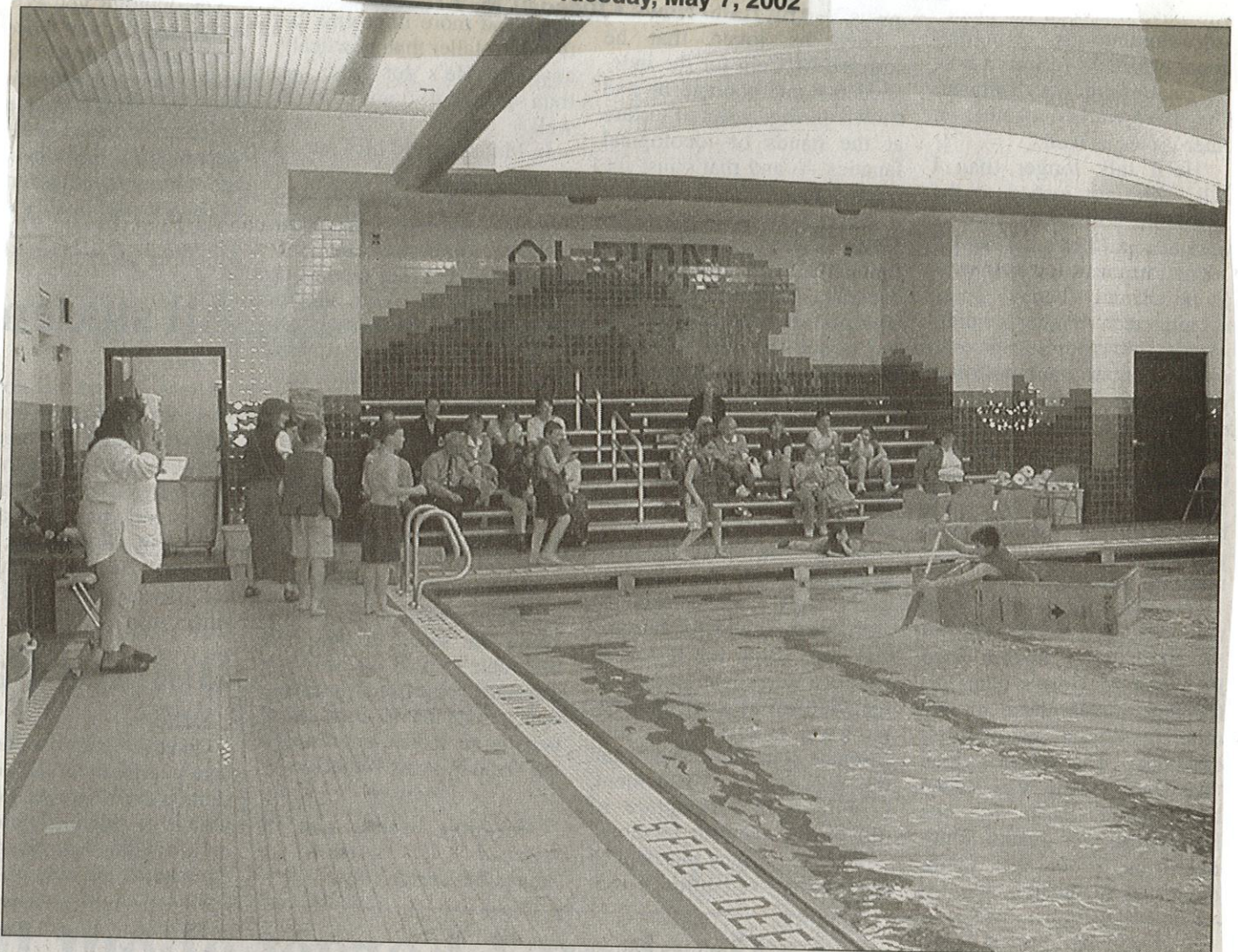
— File Features —

From the Journal-Register archives, on the 7th day of May, it was reported ...

50 years ago

Miss Joan Kenward of Millville and Clyde Maxon of Clarendon will represent Orleans County in the upcoming 4-H regional square dancing contest in Wyoming. Alternates are Ida Wolfe of Kendall and Douglas Towne of Medina — Craig W. Ross, president of the Medina Lions Club, was set to lead the local delegation attending the 29th annual convention of Lions International in Syracuse.

The Daily News • Tuesday, May 7, 2002



Joanne Beck/Daily News

IT'S PADDLE OR SWIM: An audience of family members and school staff cheers on Albion Middle School fifth-grader Brendan Doherty as he navigates his handmade boat to the end of the pool.

Albion students' projects pass float test

By Joanne Beck

Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Armed mostly with cardboard, duct tape and some knowledge of physics, five Albion Elementary School students went to work to create an unsinkable craft about six weeks ago.

The eager fifth-graders launched their creations in the middle school pool Monday to prove they had learned

something in Kathy Costello's math and science class.

"It was a project to use all of their math and science skills," Costello said as she watched the first boater kick his miniature craft across the pool.

The students said they learned about things like buoyancy and water displacement during the project but that it wasn't all about work.

"It was a lot of fun," said 10-year-old Justin Barleben.

Youth Bureau will honor young achievers

The Journal-Register

FANCHER — The Orleans County Youth Bureau is scheduled to hold its annual Youth Recognition Banquet at 5 p.m. May 13.

During the course of the banquet, which is scheduled to be held at Hickory Ridge, this year's Youth Recognition Awards, as well as the Helen Brinsmaid Award and the Eileen Heye Award, will be presented.

"The awards are for the youth in our community who have gone above and beyond the expectations for community service," said Jocelyn Sikorski, a spokeswoman for the Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau.

The awards are meant to honor those who do more than what a normal youth would, because they want to or have to, who wouldn't get recognized otherwise.

Recipients of the Youth Recognition Awards are chosen based on volunteer efforts outside of what they are required to do for school or for a significantly important role in their family, such as caring for an elderly family member or working part-time to help their families financial situation.

Nominations for the award are solicited from churches, schools, youth agencies and county officials and board members.

The Helen Brinsmaid Award will go to Evelene Callard, a preventative services worker at the Orleans County Department of Social Services.

The Helen Brinsmaid Award is given annually to a youth worker who goes above and beyond the expectations

Youths to be honored

Recipients of the Youth Recognition Awards will be: Stephanie Boyle, Genesis Castro, Whitney Davis, Julie Fetzner, Vincent Flow, Adam Gawne, Crystal Gerken, Jacklyn Gingerich, Karen Keryk, Christopher Landis, Laura Lyman, Matt Nelson, Jen Overfield, Heather Quackenbush, Dan Venette, Kerrie Walker, Russell West and Jennifer Wolfe.

of the agency or school for which they work.

"(Callard) is a great, big advocate for the youth in the community," Sikorski said.

Callard initiated the Angel Tree program at Oak Orchard Elementary School and has provided clothing to children for concerts and graduation by her own means, Sikorski said.

The Eileen Heye Award will go to Jim Miles for his work in the Lyndonville PTA, his involvement in school and youth sports in Yates and Lyndonville and for his work as a Boy Scout leader, Sikorski said.

The Eileen Heye award is presented to an adult who volunteers their time to youth.

This year's awards banquet marks its 20th year. It is also the celebration of the Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau's 25th anniversary.

Past award recipients have been invited to attend the event.

"It's going to be a big overall celebration for us," Sikorski said.

Family Folk Fair was second annual

The Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau, GO ART, Orleans Cooperative Extension and Orleans County Youth Empowerment/Reality Check sponsored the second annual Family Folk Fair on April 28.

The organizations partnered once again to feature an afternoon of local arts, music, foods and crafts. The fun began at 12:30 p.m. at the 4-H Fairgrounds, Route 31, Knowlesville, and lasted until 5 p.m. Admission was free.

The Folk Fair grew out of conversations among the sponsoring organizations about the desire to host a youth and family event which would feature local heritage and traditions found in and around Orleans County.

The general theme was "everyday" arts and traditions that spring from our creativity in daily life. These include material arts like quilting, wood carving and fly tying. Square dancing, old time music, gospel and ranchera singing represent some of our traditional performance arts.

Food specialties cover a wide range, from cider and fruit pies to eggplant parmesan and pierogi.

Clapping games, jump rope rhymes, local ghost stories, tall tales and stories or songs about the Erie Canal, cobblestone masonry and quarrying

are just a few examples of the distinct local lore and built environment. In gathering together some of these creative arts and the people who practice them, we hoped to give everyone a chance to enjoy familiar tastes, sights and sounds and try out some new ones.

The day featured musical and dance entertainment from 1-5 p.m., beginning with the Woodland Steppers. This group of Native American dancers lead the participants through the steps of Iroquois social dances and music, complete with traditional dress featuring Tuscarora beadwork.

Ted McGraw and Friends followed later in the afternoon, bringing the sounds of Irish jigs, reels and ballads to the stage, accompanied by a demonstration of Irish step dancing.

Finally, The Boss Tones closed out the day with old time fiddle music, and participants had a chance to join a square dance or two.

Concurrently with the musical entertainment, a number of local artisans and community members held demonstrations and workshops in traditional arts and crafts.

Last year attendees helped create a Family Traditions Quilt, which was on display. Continuing with the same

theme this year, a Family Recipe Book was created.

Local artisans gave hands-on demonstrations of flint napping, Native American corn husk dolls, Tuscarora beadwork, llama wool and felt making, cider pressing, and more.

For those interested in our local agriculture, natural resources and history, there were demonstrations of Orleans County 4-H clubs in goat milk cheese and fudge, horticulture and pioneer games.

Families also enjoyed cooperative and team building games and activities, led by Jim Cain.

Food was available for sale throughout the day from local vendors and service organizations, including Mark's Pizza from Medina and the Medina Lions Club.

The event was jointly sponsored by the Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County, the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council (GO ART!), and Youth Empowerment/Reality Check of Orleans County. The organizations are grateful for partial funding of the New York State Department of Health, and the New York State Council on the Arts Folk Arts Program.

Fair brings Orleans' young and old toge

continued from page 1A

large: recipes. Fairgoers were asked to give a recipe, which the organizing groups plan to assemble as a book.

Jocelyn Sikorski, a youth program assistant with the Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau, said that a few recipes had been submitted at the fair, and about five to six had been submitted previous to the fair.

"We're hoping for a few more," she said.

Last year's family folklore project was a quilt, with different panels designed by different attendees.

Another exhibit focused on Native American crafts. Fairgoers were given the opportunity to make a bracelet from wooden beads or a corn husk doll.

The craft items are part of traditional Native American culture.

"You couldn't go to Wal-Mart and get anything, so you had to make it by hand. Everything came from the Earth," said Orville Greene, one of the exhibit's operators.

There was also a presentation on Native American dance.

"I think the Native American dancing was very enlightening," said fairgoer Duane Coon.

This part of the country is rich in Native American heritage, he said. He felt it was important for people to be familiar with it.

Coon also said he enjoyed the variety of the exhibitions.

Fairgoer Deborah Wilson felt that events like the Folk Fair, where a variety of cultures and traditions are presented to people of all different ages and backgrounds, are great.

Wilson was at last year's fair as a vendor.

"I wasn't able to sell anything this year, so I just wanted to bring my son and his friend back," she said.

Her son, Samuel, was unsure of what his favorite part of the fair was.

This is the Folk Fair's second year. The organizing groups hope that it becomes an annual occurrence, Sikorski said.

Contact Jeremy Moule at 798-1400, extension 2227, or e-mail moulej@ennewspaper.com.



Left, 8-year-old Mitchell H
year-old Kelly Ashton, a s
member, make some fre

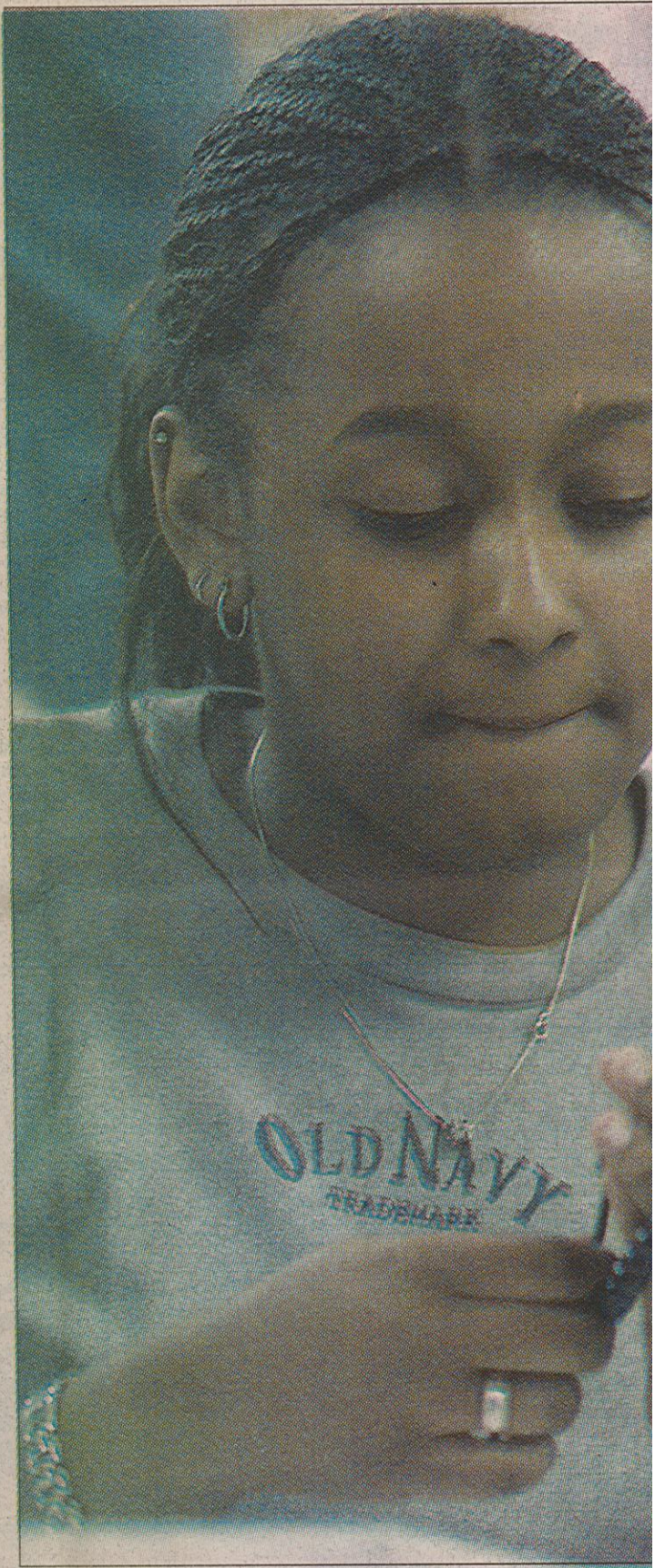
Above, 10-year-old Shan
some pizza.

PHOTOS BY DENN

Below, clockwise from up
Huzair, 8, tosses a feather
game where the children
feather afloat;

Hafsa Quddus, 16, tries to make the dress she is making;

Ted McGraw and Friends band consists of, from left to right, Ted McGraw on button accordion, Lynn McGraw on fiddle, Cathy McGraw on guitar and Carey McGraw on flute.



**Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension
4-H Leaders' Association
March 27, 2002**

Present: David Gerling, Margo Bowerman, Joyce Chizick, Ron Graning, Deb Graning, Laura Shortridge, Janice Giltner, Pauline Lanning, Jane Read, Dotty DuSett, Linda Doherty, Alicia Rich, Jean Webster.

Called to order: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman David Gerling at 7pm. There was a correction made to the January minutes – the wording was wrong on the transfer of the money from the checking account to the savings account. With the correction, Pauline made motion to accept the minutes and Janice seconded the motion. Carried.

Correspondence: Letter from Amie Collazo and Scoot Marciszewski thanking the Leaders' Association for sponsoring the trip to Albany for the Capital Day Award and enjoying Margo Bowerman for their chaperone.

Reports:

Treasurer Janice Giltner approved and Pauline Lanning seconded the motion and be filed for audit. Carried.

Fair Board: Pauline noted that Orleans County won the Ag Awareness Award for \$1500.

The oval race car track will be back for this coming fair, along with Dr. Rock.

They will be working on a new barn 60 x 200 to be up by June 1st.

Michele would like people to save empty toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls.

There will be tickets for sale on beef, swine, and sheep at the fair.

The storm did much damage to tables and Bar B Q pit, water tank down.

Property: Safety needs – ground fault plugs, a new tank for holding gray water on the grounds. This will be for the Farm Bureau building, Pie Stand, and Senior Council. Blue prints for a new building (4-H) at the cost of \$600,000.

Harvest Fest: October 19th, Haunted House Oct. 11-12, 18-19, 25-26. D.J. every night, meals will be served from the kitchen in the Trolley building, not Senior Council. Next meeting, April 4th.

Senior Council: A new 3-door refrigerator is in the making. There are 2 girls that go on E. Line and talk to other counties on what they do in their club and exchange ideas.

Clothing Revue: They need judges. Tickets are being redesigned for the fair for getting food.

Folk Fair: Will be April 28th, 12:30 – 5:00pm. Hands-on demos and entertainment, also.

Family Night at the Y: April 21st at Medina Y

Family & Consumer Science PDC: So Sew Saturday has been very well attended, Western District Kids Forum was talked about, Share the Fun coming up, strawberry dessert contest will in June.

November 9th the Forum in Medina School. Laura Shortridge discussed about a change in Fair Book on Heritage Crafts to possibly 3 different categories. No action was taken.

Business:

On May 18th there will be a Recycling Day in Albion and help is needed – call Margo at the office.

The evaluation sheets for Public Presentations and Grown in NY will be changed.

The Leaders' Banquet will be November 2nd at Knowlesville Recreation Hall at the cost of \$10 per person. Jean Webster made a motion to have the banquet at the Knowlesville Hall, Pauline Lanning seconded. Carried.

Adjournment: Jane Read made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Pauline seconded this motion. Carried.

****Our next meeting will be on April 24th at 7pm in the basement.****

Respectively,
Jean Webster

Lake Country Pennysaver

May 5, 2002

NOTICE OF ACCEPTING BIDS ORLEANS COUNTY CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

is seeking separate bids for:

- # 1 Reroofing an 80 x 200 pole barn with lean-to
- # 2 Rebuilding and reroofing a 50 x 120 pavilion
- # 3 Building a 12 x 90 x 10 pavilion

These buildings are at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds. Interested bidders should contact Cooperative Extension at 585-589-5561 or PO Box 150, Albion, New York 14411 for specifications and contact person. Deadline for bids is May 16, 2002 at 12:00 p.m. Bids will be opened at Cooperative Extension, 20 South Main Street, Albion, NY at 7:30 p.m. on May 16, 2002 at the Board of Directors meeting. Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Nancy J. Thering
Finance Administrator

SITE IS KEY TO VEGETABLE GARDEN SUCCESS

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



A good site provides:

**** Loose, fertile, well drained soil.** Poorly drained clay or dry sandy soil can be improved over time, but in the meantime, conditions are less than wonderful for plant growth. Poorly drained clay soil will translate into poor growth and increased potential for disease problems, especially root

diseases. Sandy spots dry quickly in the spring so you can work them earlier, but in the heat of summer, they require a lot of water and careful fertilization to provide nutrients for plant growth without posing a hazard to groundwater.

**** A full day's sun.** A few vegetables will get by in partial shade, but most need a full day's sun for best growth. Avoid sites near buildings, trees, shrubs, fences or other objects or structures that will shade your crops. Plant tall crops on the north side of the garden so they won't shade the others.

**** Air drainage.** Cold air runs downhill, so gardens in low spots are more likely to be hit by late spring and early fall frosts than gardens on high ground. Air circulation around crops may also be poor in low-lying areas. This means foliage dries more slowly after rain or irrigation and foliage diseases that require moisture or stagnant air to get established are more likely.

**** Freedom from competition from other plants.** Trees, shrubs and weeds all compete with garden crops for water and plant nutrients. If you're tilling new ground, be sure to kill turfgrass and troublesome perennial weeds such as quackgrass first. If you simply turn the sod under, it will keep trying to make a comeback and you'll be fighting it all season. A growing season spent eliminating perennial weed problems from your prospective garden site is time well spent.

One other consideration is garden size. Beginners often start with an oversized garden and become discouraged when they can't keep up with the planting, weeding and necessary chores.

Better to have a small first garden and succeed with it, and next year you can always plant a larger garden. Contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561 for a free listing of recommended vegetable varieties to plant.

Site is key to vegetable garden success

By Dave Reville

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- **Loose, fertile, well-drained soil.** Poorly drained clay or dry sandy soil can be improved over time, but in the meantime, conditions are less than wonderful for plant growth. Poorly drained clay soil will translate into poor growth and increased potential for disease problems, especially root diseases. Sandy spots dry quickly in the spring so you can work them earlier, but into in the heat of summer, they require a lot of water and careful fertilization to provide nutrients for plant growth without posing a hazard to groundwater.

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all season. A growing season spent eliminating perennial weed problems from your prospective garden site is time well spent.

- **Water.** A nearby water supply takes much of the work out of irrigation.

One other consideration is garden size. Beginners often start with an oversized garden and become discouraged when they can't keep up with the planting, weeding and necessary chores.

Better to have a small first garden and succeed with it, and next year you can always plant a larger garden.

Contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561 for a free listing of recommended vegetable varieties to plant.

Dave Reville is an extension gardener with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Farm and Garden

It's that time of year

Conservation Field Days are at hand

By Deborah Roberts

One of the political buzzwords these days is "green space," especially in the cities and suburbs.

We in Orleans County are blessed with an entire county of "green space" and our challenge is finding balanced ways to preserve and conserve it.

One way we do that is through the promotion of the Agricultural Districts, the review of which we hope to finish in the next month or so as the third consolidated agricultural district is finalized.

Another very important way that we work to conserve our precious resource is through the education of the next generation of caretakers.

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension annually sponsors Conservation Field Days for all sixth-graders in Orleans County. For two days in May, local people donate their time to offer workshops on

conservation and environmental issues. The students are bussed to the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds with their teachers, half of them Tuesday and half of them Wednesday, to spend the day learning about a very wide variety of topics related to conservation.

What exactly do we mean by conservation? By definition, conservation is the "planned management of a natural resource to prevent its destruction or extinction."

In Orleans County, we are lucky to have a variety of natural resources from Lake Ontario, the rivers and streams, the wetlands, the woods and the fields, to name a few.

To focus on our diversity, this year's theme for Conservation Field Days is "Orleans County's Unique Environment."

Students began thinking about our "unique environment" with a cover contest for the Field Days booklet, as well as, classroom activities planned

by teachers. Several of the students' drawings are featured on the booklet. The drawings reflect an amazing understanding of the many, many facets of conservation, from the Erie Canal to recycling, from growing trees to pheasant hunting.

What kinds of workshops will be offered? The students will be guided through 20 15-minute sessions with a variety of professionals and volunteers.

Presenters will be there from Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge talking about the Bald Eagles at the Refuge, wetlands and retrieving game with dogs.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be discussing wildlife signs, hunting safety and wildlife management tools.

Other wildlife covered in workshops are river otters, reptiles, turkeys and birds of prey.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

will present a workshop on aquatic species found in Orleans County streams.

There will be a beekeeping demonstration and a session on Integrated Pest Management.

Students will be taught to identify poison ivy, the Orleans County Health Department will cover rabies and the Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau will talk about developmental assets.

Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District will provide a look at the unique Orleans County terrain.

One the energy and recycling side of conservation there are several new workshops being presented.

Central New York Resource Conservation and Development will show how electricity can be generated from a renewable resource, willow trees.

The New York State Public Service Commission will be presenting

a windmill demonstration based on a Wyoming County wind energy farm.

Both of these workshops will explore new ways energy might be produced in Orleans County.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation will discuss conserving energy at home.

The GLOW Region Solid Waste Management Committee will talk about recycling and waste reduction in our area.

After May 14 and 15 when Orleans County Conservation Field Days are held, find a sixth grader you know and ask them what they learned about Orleans County's unique environment. Perhaps YOU will learn something new!

For more information about farmland protection or youth development, contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Deborah Roberts is executive director of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2002

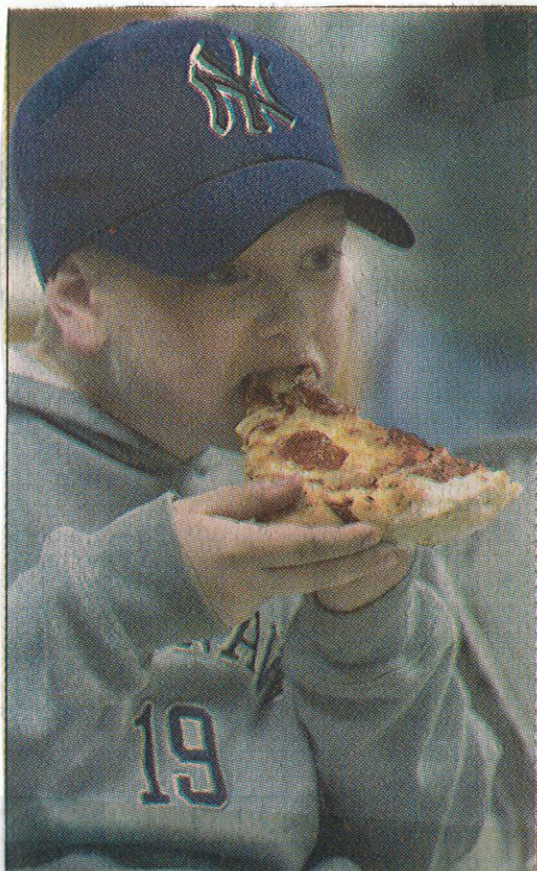
File Features

10 years ago

Medina's Dollars for Scholars committee announced its annual phone-a-thon to raise money for scholarships that go to deserving students in the Medina School District — Jody Neal, Mike Kingston, Tim Brett, Francis Bowman, Craig Basinait and Randy Williams were recognized as the 1992 winners of Albion FFA's Proficiency Awards.



Ted McGraw and Friends perform. The band consists of, from left Ted McGraw on button accordion, Lynn Pilarosia on fiddle, Cathy McGraw on guitar and Pat Carey on flute.



Above, 10-year-old Shane Harmer enjoys some pizza.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS STIERER

Below, clockwise from upper left: Ayman Huzair, 8, tosses a feather up during a game where the children tried to keep the feather afloat;



Fair brings Orleans' young an

continued from page 1A

large: recipes. Fairgoers were asked to give a recipe, which the organizing groups plan to assemble as a book.

Jocelyn Sikorski, a youth program assistant with the Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau, said that a few recipes had been submitted at the fair, and about five to six had been submitted previous to the fair.

"We're hoping for a few more," she said.

Last year's family folklore project was a quilt, with different panels designed by different attendees.

Another exhibit focused on Native American crafts. Fairgoers were given the opportunity to make a bracelet from wooden beads or a corn husk doll.

The craft items are part of traditional Native American culture.

"You couldn't go to Wal-Mart and get anything, so you had to make it by hand. Everything came from the Earth," said Orville Greene, one of the exhibit's operators.

There was also a presentation on Native American dance.

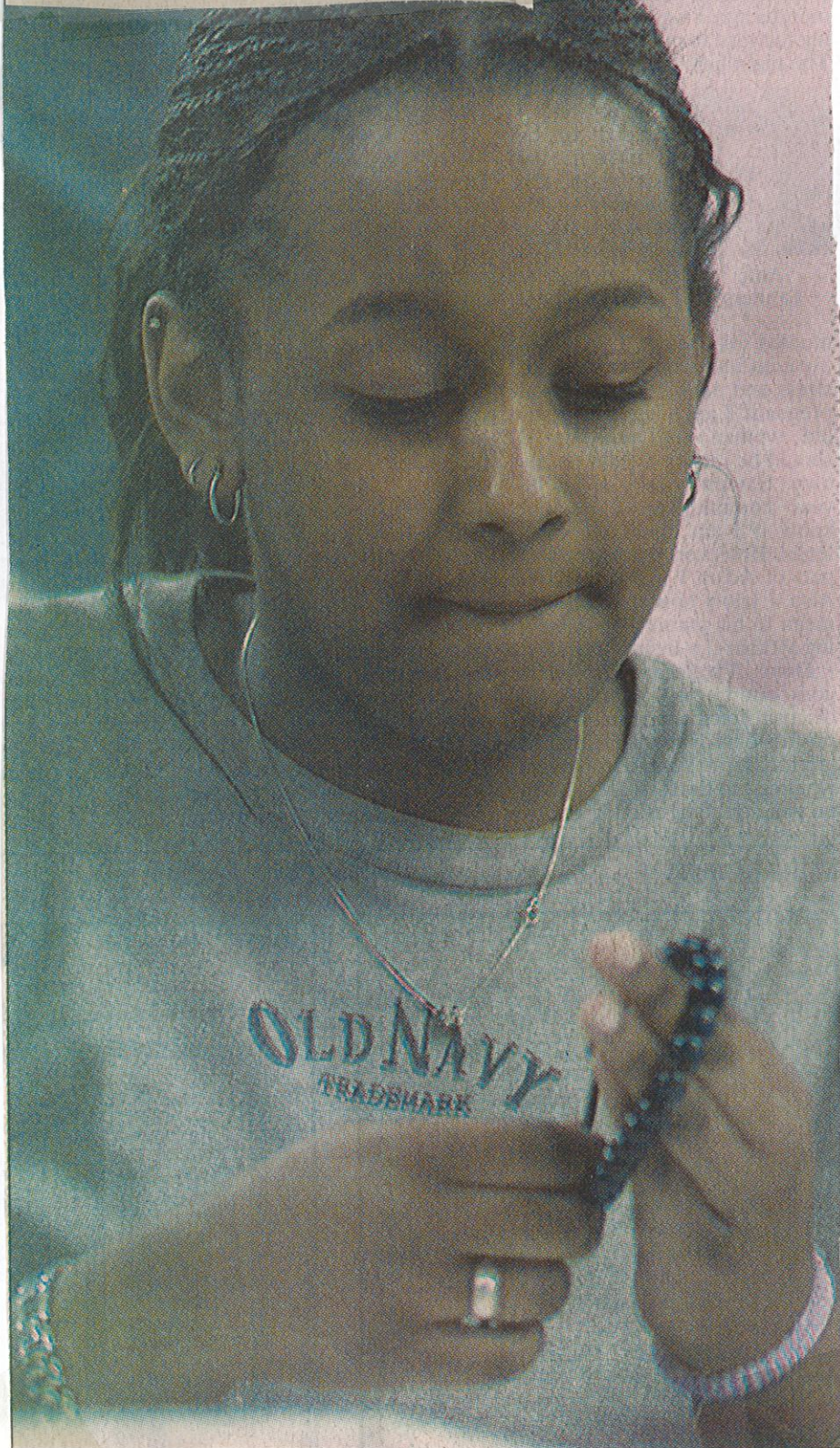
"I think the Native American dancing was very enlightening," said fairgoer Duane Coon.

This part of the country is rich in Native American heri-

Left, 8-year-old Mitchell Holbrook and 16-year-old Kelly Ashton, a senior council 4-H member, make some fresh apple cider.



Hafsa Quddus, 16, tries on a bracelet she is making;



Folk Fair promotes unity via diversity in Orleans

By Jeremy Moule
The Journal-Register

Orleans County is rich with diverse traditions that should not be forgotten.

This is the underlying sentiment behind the Orleans County Folk Fair, which was held Sunday at the Orleans County Fairgrounds.

The fair featured a number of exhibitions, ranging from goat milking and cider pressing to music and dance.

"The basic idea is really simple ... we just want to celebrate local culture," said Karen Canning, the Folk Arts Program director at the Genesee-Orleans Regional Art Council.

The fair was a joint effort between the Orleans County 4-H groups, the Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau and Genesee-Orleans Regional Art Council.

A wide diversity of traditions and cultures exists in Orleans County, said Canning.

The county 4-H groups were involved in the fair for educational purposes.

"A lot of our crafts are something that have been handed from generation to generation, and that's something we incorporate into our programs," said Margo Bowerman, 4-H team coordinator for Orleans County.

The county has a history of agriculture, in which the 4-H is based. They took the opportunity to promote the importance of agriculture in everyday life, Bowerman said.

The Helping Hands 4-H group set up an exhibit about heirloom plants and seeds.

In its simplest definition, an heirloom plant is one that has been in the area for 50 or more years, said Julie Trembley, a leader of the Helping Hands group.

The poet's daffodil is an heirloom plant in Orleans County, as is the bountiful stringless snap in Genesee County.

Heirloom plants had to be hearty enough to stand up to the hearth, and were not just eaten right from the garden, Trembley said.

"Heirlooms tended to be meant for



Dennis Stierer/The Journal-Register

Nichole Sands, 8, finishes up her colored egg during Sunday's Folk Fair.

storage," she said.

One exhibit, which was this year's family folklore project, set out to

compile something that is unique to every family, no matter how small or

Please see **FAIR BRINGS** page 6B

4-H Clothing Revue culmination of much hard work

• The Daily News • Monday, April 29, 2002

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

KNOWLESVILLE — As each of the 22 4-H members paraded down the runway, it was the moment they had been waiting for to show off their homemade apparel.

But it took much more than those few minutes of posing and twirling to pull off the Orleans County Clothing Revue Saturday night at the 4-H fairgrounds, says 4-H Educator Jaime Brennan.

Brennan said many students started making their clothing items in January and the event was officially posted in the Cornell Cooperative Extension newsletter by February.

Revue organizers offered several workshops the morning of the show to review grooming tips, such as make-up, hair and modeling.

Modeling workshop leader Ra'Ann D'Andrea, 26, of Brockport said she's been involved in 4-H and modeling for many years.

"I love this part, it gives the kids something to look forward to," D'Andrea said, adding that her advice includes holding your stomach in, chest in and chin up, smiling and making eye contact with the judge. "And not to rush. This gives them skills they may not even be aware of, it helps them with talking to people."

D'Andrea said she got involved in her grandmother's 4-H club.



Joanne Beck/Daily News

SMOOTH LANDING: 4-H clothing revue workshop leader Pauline Lanning, left, and modeling leader Ra'Ann D'Andrea, right, give pointers to 4-H member Rachel Preston as she practices her stroll down the runway for the Orleans County Clothing Revue Saturday.

"She's been a leader for at least 60 years," D'Andrea said of Albion resident Dotty DuSett.

Cindy Eibl, of Waterport, and Lyndonville resident Tina Boardman sat at their Mary Kay cosmetics table filled with colorful lipsticks and eye shadows, creams, cleansers and plenty

of cotton applicators.

"I think they were learning everything new here," Boardman said.

Students ranged in age from about 8 to 14, which was younger than organizers had expected, Eibl said.

"They responded very well, I think this was a first for them," she said,

adding that the girls walked away with new awareness about skin care and some samples to experiment with.

The makeup session was to show the girls how to take care of their faces and to coordinate colors with their clothing revue outfits, Eibl said.

Twelve-year-old Alina Morales said she's been in 4-H and in the show for five years, but she still learned a few things at the workshops.

"I learned about hair styles," she said, giving a nod to Tammy Smith's table.

Smith, of Kent, said she used to teach at a beauty school in Virginia, has done hair professionally for at least 10 years and enjoys the workshops.

"I love it, I really like the kids ... they're hungry for information on doing hair," she said.

Smith brought her niece, Angelica Smith, as a hair model to demonstrate various techniques.

French braids and spiral curls were two top styles, Smith said.

Smith's sister-in-law, Kathy, watched as the 4-H students practiced with her daughter Angelica's hair.

"I think she'll be getting involved in this herself," Kathy said. "I didn't even know this existed until today. When you hear about 4-H you think of the animals."

Brennan, who was in 4-H for 10

See Clothing — page A-2

years, said Cooperative Extension has been trying to spread the word of the 4-H clothing groups with small success.

"Everyone is welcome to join 4-H; we're trying to

Canines also take center stage at the Fairgrounds

By Joanne Beck

Daily News Staff Writer

KNOWLESVILLE — As 22 4-H members were being groomed for the Orleans County Clothing Revue, canines like Merlin were being groomed for their show at the 4-H fairgrounds Saturday.

Kathy Baumann of Hamburg was brushing and preparing Merlin, her 2-year-old English cocker spaniel, for the Tonawanda Valley Kennel's dog show.

Grooming takes about four hours a week, and she has taken her dog to competitions in Canada and the United States, Baumann said.

"We've got two points in Canada and two points here," she said, adding that it takes 15 points to earn a dog the champion title.

Baumann said Merlin would be judged on his breed characteristics, which include stance, bite and structure.

As everything from chows to shepherds waited for their turn to be judged, Batavia resident Doris Beuler sat at the show's entrance checking people in.

Beuler is treasurer of the Batavia-based TVK and there were about 120 entries at Saturday's show that was sanctioned by American Kennel Club, she said.

"This is to give young dogs some experience," she said, adding that she used to show and breed dogs.

One of those newcomers was Hamburg resident, Joanne Pinkoske, who had just returned from the judging area with her golden retriever, Maverick.

"We didn't do so well here," she said of her 2-year-old partner. "We're just getting started."

Another dog show will be at Bullard Park in Albion during Labor Day weekend, Beuler said.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2002

File Features

35 years ago

The Holley school board proposed a \$1.37 million budget that would increase expenses by 13 percent and tax rates by more than 30 percent. Proposed tax rates ranged from \$6.35 to \$10 per thousand dollars of assessed value — Martin Basinait, Thomas Kirby, Todd Mathes and Gerald Morrissey, all seniors at Albion High School, were announced as scholarship winners. Kirby, Mathes and Morrissey won awards from Cornell University's School of Agriculture and Morrissey

won an award from Fordham University.

Lake Country Pennysaver

April 28, 2002

Weather Damage to Plants

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



The recent 50 degree temperature drop and wet snow flurries put the breaks on further plant development which was almost three weeks ahead of schedule. Damage to sweet cherries and some peaches could be threatened by the cold weather, both in terms of buds and the fact that the bees will not be pollinating. The extent of the damage will be determined by the duration of temperatures below freezing especially at night with 27 to 28 degrees being the tolerance level for most stone fruits.

The flowering bulb plants will be able to tough out some of the cold weather. Perennial plants forced into earlier flowering by the unusually high temperatures, may be damaged from prolonged exposure to cold temperatures. These plants could be protected from frosts by covering plants at night. However, if freezing temperatures of 32 degrees or below are predicted, covering will afford little protection. The best that could happen is for windy, rainy nights which will prevent the frost from settling on the plants. Flowering shrubs like lilacs, may sustain some damage depending on the duration freezing temperatures and depending upon flower bud development and advancement. Most spring flowering shrubs will however probably suffer some damage depending upon variety, stage of development and cold snap duration. In terms of lawns, the cold, wet weather will slow the growth and reduce the effectiveness of weed controls that were applied recently. In addition a return to cold, cloudy, weather could slow down the effectiveness of fertilizers as the soil temperatures can become reduced.

In summary, some damage could be expected to plants with the severity depending upon how long and how cold the weather will remain.

For further information, call Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

You may be the cause of your planting problems

By Dave Reville

Some gardeners blame every garden problem on a single cause, whether that be insects or diseases or poor nutrition, and apply the same treatment to all without investigation.

To find an effective treatment, you need to recognize that plant problems have a variety of causes. In addition to diseases and insects, environmental factors and how plants are planted and cared for may cause many problems.

In many cases, the gardener needs to look no further than the nearest mirror to find the culprit.

Many problems occur because a plant was planted in an unsuitable site. Poorly drained soil, too much shade or low soil fertility can stress a plant and make it less able to resist

attack by insects or disease organisms.

Selecting plants that are suited to our area and choosing a site that provides the growing conditions they need, can go a long way toward reducing potential problems.

Another way to avoid or greatly reduce problems is to grow varieties resistant to common problems. For instance, apple scab can be a serious disease of apples and crab apples under certain environmental conditions. Planting scab-resistant varieties can virtually eliminate scab as a concern. The Cooperative Extension can offer much assistance in this area with nonbiased materials.

Gardeners also need to assure that they do not spread plant diseases as they tend their gardens and landscapes.

Working in the vegetable garden

when plants are wet, the gardener can move disease organisms from plant to plant at a time when plants are most susceptible to infection — when foliage is wet. Also, gardeners pruning landscape plants infected with diseases need to disinfect pruning tools between cuts with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach after every cut.

Other gardening and landscaping activities that can cause plant problems include misapplication of herbicides, fertilizers and other pesticides. These can injure nearby flowers, vegetables and shrubs and weed killers applied as sprays can drift onto desirable plants. Also, dormant oils applied to some woody plants in early spring to control insects can damage sensitive plants. **READ THE LABEL!**

"Lawnmower disease" — damage

to woody plants by lawnmowers hitting them and other lawn equipment — can give disease organisms and insects an entry into landscape plants. A good way to avoid injury to trees and shrubs is to surround them with a mulched area that doesn't have to be mowed.

That won't stop mice and rabbits from gnawing the bark from trees and shrubs, deer from eating twigs or the neighbor's dog from lifting his leg on landscape plants, of course. Preventing animal damage to trees and shrubs may require putting physical or chemical barriers between the plants and the animals.

If you're adding new plants to the landscape, you can get them off to a good start by following proper planting procedures.

If you're planting into a heavy clay soil, dig a big hole, much bigger than

the root ball of the plant. A small hole filled with porous material will simply fill up with water that can't drain away. Make sure the roots will have ample space to spread out.

Check the root ball at planting time. Be sure to remove plastic bur-lap, plastic cords, wires or any other materials that will restrict root growth or girdle the plant as it grows. Roots that have started growing in a circle inside a container should be removed if they can't be redirected — they too, can girdle and kill the plant.

For further information, call Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 585-589-5561.

Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Integrated Pest Management Program wins EPA award

The New York State Integrated Pest Management Program, housed at Cornell University, has received the Environmental Quality Award from the Environmental Protection Agency.

This is the highest award given by EPA, which searches for candidates that provide sustained environmental benefits or help increase public involvement in environmental action.

"New York's IPM Program has time and time again proven its commitment to protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of New York State through its progressive and management strategies," said state Agriculture Commissioner Nathan L. Rudgers. "This program has received esteemed recognition and support from the citizens of New York state, and I am extremely pleased to have the EPA acknowledge IPM's accomplishments as well. Specifically, I would like to congratulate Mike Hoffmann, the director of New York's IPM Program for his outstanding contributions to this federally recognized program."

Back in 1985, when the New York IPM Program first began, the focus was mainly

on finding ways to help farmers on New York state's 7.8 million acres of cropland reduce pesticide risks. But these days it takes on everything from tomato canker and peach tree borers to house mice, grubs and crabgrass — not only on the farm and around the home, but in places ranging from playgrounds and parks to schools, museums, golf courses, office buildings and even jails. It's mission: to develop and teach all New York's citizens sustainable ways to manage pests and use methods that

minimize environmental, health and economic risks.

The program works with a wide range of disciplines, including not only the traditional pest-related disciplines — entomology, plant pathology, weed science and the like, but also sociology and economics. And it reaches out to people and organizations, such as crop advisors, industry and commodity reps, parent-teacher associations, environmental and public health advocates and town, county and district legislators.

"It's a cooperative effort,"

said Hoffmann. "We work with thousands of stakeholders, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators around the state and dozens of Cornell faculty."

Due in large part to the program's efforts, nearly 90 percent of New York's farmers now use some form of integrated pest management, said Hoffmann.

WEATHER PROBLEMS

Extension Gardener
By Dave Reville, Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



The wet, cold weather we have been having is causing major problems for home gardeners and farmers alike. The saturated soils are delaying plantings and crops that were planted like, the cool season vegetable crops, have either been drowned or are so stressed.

It is advisable not to work the soils until they are dry enough to do so. Working wet soils destroys their structure and irreparable damage is done by this unnecessary compaction. In terms of lawn care, the wet conditions make mowing a chore and most difficult to do in-between showers. Heavy riding mowers will cause ruts in the lawn as well as compaction to the soils. Avoid the wet spots and do those later. Pick up the clippings as they are thick enough from all the lush rainy, growth to cause smothering of the grass. Set the mower high so that you are not scalping the turf, especially when it is wet. In fact, it is advisable to mow high year round, never removing more than one third of the leaves each time you mow. The wet weather will spawn weed growth in lawns as any weed control products might have been washed off. The cool season turf diseases like leaf spot are rampant. As soon as the weather returns to normal, these diseases should not be a major problem.

In the flower garden, the perennials that came up early from the warm spell, are suffering from lack of food and cold soil temperatures. Feeding as soon as it warms up and the soil can be worked will be a good idea. Keep a watchful eye out for fungus diseases and hand-pick diseased leaves or use fungicides as needed. Contact Orleans County Cooperative Extension at 585-589-5561 for control recommendations.

Tune in to the weather and plan your plantings accordingly. A warm up of the soil temperatures will help all the plants.

File Features

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2002

25 years ago

The 4-H Senior Council recently held an "International Night" program in which Danna DuSett, a council member, showed slides of her trip to India —

Weathering home lawn and garden problems

By Dave Reville

The wet, cold weather we have been having is causing major problems for home gardeners and farmers alike. The saturated soils are delaying plantings and crops that were planted, like the cool season vegetable crops, have either been drowned or are so stressed.

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Dave Reville is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

How to handle spring flowering bulbs this year

By Dave Reville

The question often arises at Cooperative Extension of what to do with spring flowering bulbs, which have just finished flowering and are lasting longer this year due to colder spring weather.

The minor bulbs such as crocus, eranthus, leucojeum, scilla, puschkinia, muscari and anemone blanda are no problem. Let the foliage mature and leave the bulbs where they are planted. They should multiply and give you a better show next year.

The major bulbs such as tulips, hyacinths and narcissi offer a choice in at least two of the three examples.

Ordinarily, narcissi should be left in the ground to grow on and multi-

ply for future years. If narcissi are planted in fertile, well-drained soil, they should increase in succeeding years until they become close knit clumps with several flowers to the clump. Eventually the clumps become so dense and over crowded that competition cuts down flower production. At this point, the mass of bulbs should be lifted and separated when the foliage starts to turn yellow in early summer.

The bulbs should be replanted as soon as possible to avoid drying, although it is possible to dry the bulbs and hold them until fall planting time. In either case, the bulbs should be spaced to allow room for the development of more bulbs and

flowers in subsequent years.

Hytacinths generally do not multiply freely. Sometimes the mother bulb will produce one or two bulb-lets. But usually the one dominant bulb remains. Hyacinths can remain for several years in the same location — subject only to the damages of insect grubs and small rodents.

If you start with the large exhibition size bulb, you will find that the following years the hyacinth flower heads will be somewhat smaller than the first year. Most people find the smaller flower heads to be more desirable because they are less subject to damage from the heavy rains and winds of springtime. If you feel that you must have the colossal

flower heads, then you will have to replace the bulbs with new ones each year.

Tulips are the most difficult of the major bulbs to maintain. Normally, the first year flower is the best and flower size and vigor decrease in subsequent years.

Tulip bulbs multiply rapidly and crowd out each other. The large bulb you planted last fall will probably be replaced by three or four smaller bulbs this summer. Tulips are heavy feeders and require root space; therefore, they crowd each other quickly.

The best display can be had by leaving bulbs in place for two or possibly three years at most. There are

exceptions and alternatives to these procedures. Botanical tulips usually persist longer than the standard Darwin, breeder and cottage tulips.

Tulips planted deeply, at least six inches from the top of the bulb, in a heavy clay loam, will not multiply as rapidly and will persist longer. Tulips may be dug when the foliage starts to yellow. The bulbs may be dried and then separated.

Remember more gardening information is available from Cornell Cooperative Extension by calling the Orleans Garden Hotline, Monday through Friday morning from 9 until noon at 589-5561.

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