



Cornell University Cooperative Extension Niagara County

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Niagriculture

April 2005 Issue

2005 Events

- April 5** Calf Intestinal Immunity Meeting with Jim Quigley, Batavia Part House. Call Wendy at 585-343-3040 for information on this dinner meeting (April 7th – Waterloo)
- April 5 – 8** Financial Summary and Analysis meetings, Newark, Canandaigua, Pembroke, LeRoy, Dairy Farm Business
- April 5 – 8** 34th Annual NY Wine Industry Workshop, Ramada Inn, Geneva Waterfront
- April 6** Pesticide Certification Credits (2.5 general category applied for) 7-9:45 pm 4-H Training Center, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport. Free to enrollees, \$10 for all others.
- April 7 & 8** Special Permit Training Knowlesville (7th) (1-4); Newark (8th) (am)
- April 9 & 10** 2005 Northeast Pastured Poultry Conference & Trade Show, Syracuse Wyndham Hotel – register OnLine: www.cornerstone-farm.com/neppc.htm Call 607-334-3231 x4

Pesticide Credits - Applicators of pesticides who are certified under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will have the opportunity to receive up to 2.5 general credits on Wednesday, April 6th (see calendar for reg./fee)

Topics covered will include an Agricultural Health Nurse's Perspective on Pesticide Safety by Jane Boyd of the Finger Lakes Occupational Health Services, Proper Storage of Pesticides as Influenced by Exporting Requirements by Deborah Breth, Lake Ontario Fruit Program Specialist and Handling and Application video with discussion by Paul Lehman, Extension Educator, Niagara County.

Dairy of Distinction

Have you seen the bright red "Dairy of Distinction" signs in your travels around the Northeast? Attractive dairy farms give

consumers greater confidence in the wholesomeness of milk and stimulate milk sales which encourage public support for the dairy industry. Copies of the application for this year's candidates are at Cooperative Extension, among other places and are due April 15th. Recommend someone! Carol Ainslie, at 1-315-822-6087, will answer questions about the award.

Few people raise sheep in Niagara County nor are likely to get this letter as sheep raisers. Ag and Markets and USDA want to eliminate scrapie, a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system in sheep.

Got 4-Hers in the neighborhood with sheep? The New York Ram Project will arrange for free testing of up to 6 rams per flock, a means of identifying genetic resistance. Call 433-2651 for more information.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Niagara County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Crop Insurance matters to Pay Attention to this Season:

1. Prevented planting: Notify your agent within 72 hours after the final planting date if you are unable to complete your planting due to adverse weather.
2. Know your acreage and yield reporting dates. If you are unsure of the dates, call your insurance agent. Reporting for final planting of spring crops June 15.

For those who were not able to attend the AGR-Lite workshops over the winter organized by Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Federation of Farmers' Markets, there is a good introduction in Power Point on the Internet by Jeremy Forrett available by contacting Christopher Reed, NY Crop Insurance Education Program, at <mailto:chr@capital.net> chr@capital.net

Plan to bring your children, other family members and hired help to the farm and rural safety evening on Wednesday, April 21st at Niagara Frontier Equipment Sales in Wrights Corners. The program is shortened somewhat because it's a school night but will include topics and demonstrations on "first on the scene after an accident", "PTOs, belt and chains - also response time testing", and "firearm safety around the home and in the neighborhood."

On-Farm Safety Trainings - The New York State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board has awarded the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health (NYCAMH) grant funding for on-farm safety surveys and trainings. These surveys are offered to all farms including those who employ migrant or seasonal

workers. The aim of the surveys is to look at mechanical, environmental and personal hazards that are commonly encountered in an agricultural setting. This program is offered at no cost to farmers and will address questions about using and maintaining farm equipment and buildings, and protecting farmers, farm families and farm workers. Each participating farm will receive suggestions on how to eliminate possible hazards and be offered on-farm trainings. These trainings will be farm specific, based on findings from the survey, and can include topics such as equipment, farmstead/building and personal protective equipment safety.

Employers of migrant workers are also offered one-day tractor/implement operation training for their employees. With the assistance of a Spanish translator, NYCAMH will provide this training on orchard, vegetable and dairy farms.

High school and college agricultural classes, Tractor Operator Certification classes and 4H groups are also offered farm safety educational programs. These programs are geared toward young adults and youth working on New York farms and can include topics such as equipment, farmstead/building and personal protective equipment safety.

If you would like more information or wish to schedule an on-farm safety survey, contact Jim Carrabba, Farm Safety Education Specialist at NYCAMH. His number is 800-343-7527, ext 239 or his e-mail is jcarrabba@nycamh.com. Farmers/Agricultural Educators in Western NY can contact Safety Trainer, Becky Ireland-Perry at 585-493-2451 or e-mail her at perryja@frontiernet.net. Farmers/Agricultural Educators in Southern NY can contact Safety Trainer, Dave Tetor at 845-868-7796. A program of Bassett Healthcare, NYCAMH's mission

is enhancing agricultural and rural health by preventing and treating occupational injury and illness.

Drugs and Violence in the Country?

Its not so much that people from the city are moving into the rural areas to do business as that illegal drugs have found their way into the rural area and are now being bought and sold in rural areas.

The use and sale of illegal drugs has always been present in our rural communities but the illegal drug of choice tends to change from time to time. Recent news stories have highlighted that 'meth' use continues to be a menace in our rural communities and has found its way onto our local farms. Predictably, as law enforcement continues to implement drug enforcement activities in urban areas such as Rochester and Buffalo, so will their ability to detect and trace back the use and sale of illegal drugs in rural areas.

As our migrant labor and recent immigrant population continues to grow and evolve, those that come from a culture of drugs, money and violence may heighten the presence of these forces in rural areas. Today it's especially important to recognize the signs and symptoms of illegal drug use as it may also involve gang activity that could prove to be detrimental to both the work force and the farm operation. Violence, by itself, may stem from conflicts between smugglers ("coyotes") and illegally smuggled residents.

A key to eliminating these problems at the very start is being able to do a thorough background check on potential employees before they start work on the farm. This includes having an acceptable form of ID.

A list of things to do for background checks of potential employees can be obtained at CCE, Niagara County or at

this web site:
<http://www.cce.cornell.edu/monroe/ag/2002/%20Know%20Your%20Employee.htm> Traffic stops, accidents and other activities that require a valid form of identification can also lead to additional requests for information from the workplace of an individual of interest. Photostat ID is not legal even if it appears that the original was authentic. With photostat IDs in the possession of your workers and law enforcement investigations of drug-related or violent incidents increasing, the situation suggests an increased opportunity for law enforcement and ICE to detain workers you thought were ok and were counting on for your work force.

Agricultural Affiliates is Starting Search for New Executive Director/Secretary

Gary Fitch is retiring from Agricultural Affiliates on July 1, 2005. If you or someone you know is interested in the position, the duties include the provision of information on local, state and federal labor laws, regulations and decisions that affect agricultural employers and employees. Contact Peter Russell at 778-8231 before May 15th for information on the position.

If 5.4% of all residential buildings heated with pelletized grass or wood in America, this would offset 100% of the greenhouse gas emissions attributed to agriculture.

This, and other information was shared at the Cornell biofuels demonstration day attended by several from Niagara County on March 21st. Thinking this was an important topic, given the amount of idle land in Niagara County, and noting the price of petroleum-based heating fuels, attendance at this demo seemed worth while. Of course there's always a downside. Disinterested governments,

stove manufacturers and slow-to-accept-the-reality-of-our-fossil-fuel-dependence attitudes mean that we're a little ahead of the curve in wanting to reduce our home heating bills by substituting biofuel-fired furnaces, boilers and stoves. Corn and wood pellet stoves work well but someone needs to re-engineer them a bit for grass pellets. Some grass pellets produce 8154

BTU/lb. of energy versus 8446 BTU/lb. for wood pellets. We are hoping there might be a small income stream you could tap to help pay the taxes on your marginal land. But being ahead of the curve is better than being behind the curve. Call Paul Lehman, Brian Waters or Tom Freck for their opinions on this intriguing topic.