



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Niagara County

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Niagriculture

February 2005 Issue

2005 Events

- March 3** Purchase of Development Rights Workshops, 7-9pm, Amherst Museum – see article
- March 4 & 5** Annual Finger Lakes Grape Growers Convention, Holiday Inn, Waterloo
- March 8** Marketing Pastured-Based Production Apple orchard Inn, Medina 8:30 – 3 PM
Please pre-register Cost \$12 if paid by Friday March 4 * \$17 at the door *
Make checks payable to: CCE – Yates, 417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527
- March 9 & 21** 12:30-3 PM Growing bio-energy crops for home heating - Register with Jeni Wightman, jw93@cornell.edu Ride with Tom Freck and Paul Lehman
- March 8 - 5** Annual Field and Feed Crop Industry Day, 9-3:30 PM, Holiday Inn, Waterloo sponsored by New York Corn Growers Association Topics: ethanol plant update, feeding distillers grains, NY soybean marketing \$30 mbrs/\$35 non-mbrs. 315-331-7791
- March 9** Hoof Care Workshop @ Veratti Farms, Gasport
- March 15** Dry Bean Meeting 9 – 3:30 PM, DiPacific's Restaurant, Farmington @ Rts. 332 and 96 (Exit 44, Thruway)
- March 15-17** Dairy Manure Management: Treatment, Handling and Community Relations Holiday Inn, Syracuse
- March 18 & 19** Cornell Swine School and Trade Show, Morrison Hall, Cornell (19th program for small farms and youth with interest in swine production) Registration with Jim Patros (315)568-275
- April 5** Calf Intestinal Immunity Meeting with Jim Quigley, Batavia Part House. Call Wendy at 585-343-3040 for information on this dinner meeting
- March 20** **National Ag Day** Excellent resources at internet site: <http://www.agday.org/>
- March 24** Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Growers' Conference, 7:30 AM - 4 PM Fredonia State University \$35 prior to March 10/ \$50 after the 10th Recert. Credits
- March 31** Building a Better Future Through Agricultural Initiatives, Bellinger Hall at Chautauqua Institution, 9:30 – 3 PM. Register by March 25th \$20. Topics on assuring ag viability, capturing added value and consumer demand
- April 6** Pesticide Certification Credits (2.5 general category applied for) 7-9:30 pm 4-H Training Center, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport
- 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

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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

Purchase of Development Rights Workshops:

American Farmland Trust and the Western New York Land Conservancy are sponsoring a workshop for farmers, landowners, and local government officials interested in learning about how and why to place a conservation easement on agricultural land and the benefits to be derived by doing so. David Haight, New York Field Manager for American Farmland Trust, will address this topic, and local farmers and town government officials who have been involved in placing easements on agricultural land parcels, will share their experiences. Amy Holt, Western New York Land Conservancy Executive Director, will discuss the Land Conservancy's roles in past purchase of development rights projects. Because of the lateness of this Workshop 2: Thursday, March 3, 2005, 7:00 - 9:00 pm Amherst Museum, 3755 Tonawanda Creek Rd., Amherst. Because of the lateness of this notice, you do not need to pre-register. Note: The Amherst Museum is just over Tonawanda Creek coming down East Canal Road from Niagara County

As many of you know, there is increased interest among NY farmers and landowners in gaining a better understanding of the market and opportunities for wind energy.

It seems that things are moving quickly. Farmers are being asked to make decisions about their land with limited resource information at hand.

To meet the demand for information, we are currently collecting resources that will assist producers in their decision-making. In addition to this, Chris Dorociak, a Cornell University graduate student in the department of Applied Economics and Management is conducting some research on producer experiences in investigating utility scale wind power. The resulting document to be published by May 2005, will assist landowners with information and questions to ask for the decision making process. If you know of any producers (that have investigated or are

investigating large scale wind power opportunities) that might be willing to participate in this survey, please contact us.

Wind Energy is the world's fastest growing energy technology. By 2012 NYS will source 25% of its energy from renewable energy. Wind energy will be one of those.

How does this impact New York Farmers?

There are 3 possible ways that wind energy can affect New York Farmers:

1. **Small Wind Projects.** Turbines for this level of wind generation tend to be between 10-500kw. Farmers purchase the turbines to supply their home and business with energy. The turbines may be grid-connected so the farmer can sell excess energy produced back to the utility company. Similarly if there is insufficient wind generated energy, the farmer can purchase energy from the utility company. There are some strong financial incentive programs to encourage farmers to purchase small wind turbines
2. **Wind Farms.** Wind energy generating companies (between 10-20 in NYS) are approaching farmers and landowners in areas with high wind potential to lease their land and construct large turbines (in the region of 1MW). Turbines are constructed in relatively close proximity to each other on an individual or group of individuals land. There are financial incentives for wind energy generating companies in NYS, land owners and their neighbors.
3. **Groups of Farmers** are investigating opportunities for business using wind energy. In some parts of the country farmers have formed cooperatives to purchase their own turbines and build their own utility scale wind operations.
4. **If you need further information, there is a group of educators at CCE and Cornell University that are building information to assist producers. Please feel free to contact Jude Barry (607-254-4741) or Brian Henahan (607-255-8800), of the New York Agriculture Innovation Center, to direct you to some of the network that is building across NYS.**

With the Minimum wage at \$6.00 per Hour, what's the Youth Rate?

Until such time as the New York State Labor Department acts, the youth rate remains the same, up to a point. While you are not likely to attract summer help at these rates, inexperienced labor may be employed at less than the \$6.00 per hour if you obtain a Youth Rate Certificate from the commissioner of labor (keep on file 6 years after the youth leaves your employment). You may hire any number of youth workers. Youth under 16 also require a farm work permit for each youth obtainable from the school. New York's Minimum Wage law applies to agricultural employers with a payroll of \$3000 or greater. If you have a larger farm such that you come under the federal labor guidelines (500 man days in any quarter of previous calendar year – even 1 hour on a day counts as a day) you are advised to ignore this article and check with the US Labor Department if you are seeking a Federal Full-Time Student Certificate.

Youth aged 16 and 17 (certificate needed):

Harvesting (for the same employer):

1 st harvest season	\$3.60/hr.
2 nd harvest season	3.80
3 rd harvest season	6.00

Piece rate must be equivalent to the hourly rate or greater

Nonharvesting (for the same employer):

1 st 300 hours	\$3.60/hr.
2 nd 300 hours	3.80
More than 600 hours	6.00

Youth under 16 – verify conditions with the Labor Department. Will youth work for \$3.60/hour? Probably not. But you might legally be able to employ them for a couple of harvest season for less than \$6.00.

Tired of seeing those old round bales sitting in the field until they rot?

Having thoughts about bio-energy, hay pellets, pellet stoves, grass fuel, energy self-sufficiency, greenhouse gases, switchgrass, reed canary grass, abandoned lands, nutrient management, conservation reserve program land?

Come check out Jerry Cherney's demonstration in the Ithaca area – on-site use of grass pellets and pellet stoves. Hear about research on growing solid bio-energy crops for home heating. Hear from the Ag Innovation Center and the ways they provide farmers with business assistance. A representative from Alternative Federal Credit Union will also give their two cents. They provide training and one-on-one consulting and other resources for people interested in starting or expanding a small business.

Come Ask Questions. Share knowledge, skepticism, worries, ideas. Nearly 1/3 of NY energy use is for home heating. As energy prices rise, so do energy products. Is there opportunity for upstate NY farmers to begin to diversify their farm portfolio using their abandoned or underutilized lands for growing energy with their existing machinery? Tom Freck, of Ransomville has some experience with burning mixtures of wood pellets, shelled corn and sprouted wheat (it helps to mix a little limestone with the blend!)

It takes 70 days to grow a crop of grass for pellets. It takes 70 million years to make fossilized grass into fossil fuel. There will be two demonstrations scheduled for late winter with a maximum of 20 individuals per session.

Free. Register with Jeni Wightman, jw93@cornell.edu soon! Directions to demonstration site etc will follow. Ride with Paul Lehman and Tom Freck on the March 21st

Paul E. Lehman
Extension Educator

New Phone Numbers:

Effective immediately, please use the 716-433-8839 number for all calls into the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office in Lockport.

An automated attendant will now answer all incoming calls, and each staff person has an extension number a caller should enter to have the call connected. The best feature of the new telephone system is that we now have voice mail for each staff member. The list of extension numbers is listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ext. #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Ext. #</u>
Karen Krysa	221	Bonnie Mosher	235
Pat McCarthy	222	Judy Humphrey	236
Tiffany Stewart	224	Christine Derby-Cuadrado	237
Megan Peterson	225	Nate Herendeen	238
John Farfaglia	226	Kathy Bowers	239
Diane Orr	227	Chris Brown	240
Margaret Olson	230	Paul Lehman	241
Kim Mansfield	231	Carolyn Richel	242
Paul Westfall	234		