



Cornell University
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Niagara County

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Niagriculture

March 2007 Issue

2007 Calendar of Events

March 28	Informational Meeting for Niagara County Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Produce Farmers , 4-H Training Center, Lockport (see below) 6:30 pm
March 27 & April 10	Immigration Policy, Hispanic Employees & Your Farm D & R Depot – Rt. 19, LeRoy (March 27th), Phelps Hotel Rt. 96, Phelps (April 10 th) call 585-343-3040 Phelps (April 10th) Call 585-343-3040 x138 for 27th, 585-394-3977 x427 for 10 th 6:30 - 8:30 pm
April 3	Effective Spraying of Vineyards JCC – North Campus, Dunkirk, NY 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
April 4 & 5	Repro Anatomy & A.I. Training Course w/Genex Cooperative @ Spring Hope Farm
April 11	"Safety in Rural Places – Not Just for Farmers Anymore" Niagara Frontier Equipment Sales, 4060 Lake Avenue (Rt. 78) Wright's Corners 7-9:30 pm
April 18	Decline and Collapse of Honeybees in North America 7pm in 4-H Training Center, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport
May 7	Pesticide Recertification , 4-H Training Center, Lockport 1-4 and 7-10
June 7	Small Grains Field "Morning" @ Musgrave Research Farm, Aurora
Aug 1-5	Niagara County Fair
Aug 7 -9	Empire Farm Days @ Rodman Lott & Son Farm, Seneca Falls
Sept 25-28	Niagara County BiCentennial Ag Fair

Pesticide Recertification Credits

For a number of reasons, no pesticide recertification has been scheduled in Niagara County so far this year. Even though it is late, we are taking a gamble and offering 2.5-3.0 credits on Monday, May 7th from 1-4 pm and again from 7-10 pm. A key part of the program will be a presentation by Dr. Andrew Landers, Ag engineer from Cornell who will demonstrate spray nozzle selection and spray drift control. Call 433-8839 x221 to tell us when you will be coming.

Informational Meeting for Niagara County Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Produce Farmers

We are looking for interested farmers to attend an informational meeting that could enhance your profitability and expand your markets. Foodlink of Rochester, a 28-year old agency involved in providing food to children and families across the region is looking to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables from local and regional farms. Due to their expertise and organization, they are able to pay decent wholesale prices and pick-up from your farm on a regular (weekly) basis during the season.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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

We are planning an information meeting for you to hear their proposal. Foodlink is running a number of major projects that require purchasing a wide assortment and quantities of local fresh produce. Please attend and hear what they have to say.

Wednesday evening March 28 at 6:30 pm. Niagara County Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Education Building – Large Meeting Room.

In order to justify this meeting we need to know we have interest and ask that you call or e-mail us. Without a strong showing of interest by you, this meeting will not happen. Please pre-register by Monday March 26 – 3 pm. Call Karen 716-433-8839 ext. 221 For more information contact Paul Lehman 716-433-8839 ext 241 or Robert Hadad 585-739-4065

Safety in Rural Places – Not Just for Farmers Anymore!

For approximately 15 years, Niagara County Farm Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension have collaborated on a rural and farm safety evening. **On Wednesday, April 11th, from 7-9:30 pm, the program “Safety in Rural Places – Not Just for Farmers Anymore”** will be offered to families and individuals at **Niagara Frontier Equipment Sales, Inc., 4060 Lake Avenue (Rt. 78 in Wrights Corners), Lockport.**

Four topics, 20 minutes each will be presented and will involve talks and demonstrations appropriate for various ages. This annual event has always sought to make farm and rural safety a family affair with employees, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren encouraged to attend.

Bruce Simmons, representing the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) will feature equipment rollovers on slopes, rollover protection and other demonstrations as time permits. Hebel Sales and Service staff will present ATV and other recreational equipment safety. The staff of Niagara Frontier Equipment Sales are

gathering ideas about safety hazards they see in their business and also focus on riding lawnmower and snowblower safety. Bob Glidden, Cornell Farm Safety-certified instructor will present “First on the Scene.”

The evening’s program does not require pre-registration nor is there a charge and offers flexibility for those who cannot be there by 7 pm. with topics being repeated once. At the close of the evening, refreshments will be served.

Safety Survey

Recently, the following information was sent through the 4-H Clover Scene Newsletter. With many clubs having few farm resident members, perhaps you could help identify another type of group that would be interested in doing this:

Dear 4-H leader:

The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health (NYCAMH) wants to conduct on-farm safety surveys with your 4-H club. NYCAMH is available to go to agriculturally orientated 4-H clubs as part of their meetings and have the 4-H members complete a walk-around safety survey of a 4-H leader's farm or another 4-H member's farm. In this activity, the club members would be broken into small groups and given different sections of the safety survey. After the club members complete the walk around-survey, we will bring the members together and each group would report on their findings. We will then use the safety survey findings to discuss various aspects of farm safety. A copy of the completed survey will be provided to the farm owner. All results of the on-farm safety surveys are kept strictly confidential. This service is available at no cost and is made possible by a grant from the New York State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board.

Our on-farm safety survey is designed to identify hazards in the following areas:

- **Tractor Safety** – In this section, the 4-H members will examine the tractors on a farm and try to identify any hazards.
- **Machinery Safety** - The 4-H members will examine the machinery on a farm and try to identify any hazards.
- **General Farmstead Safety** – This area includes hazards around the farmstead.
- **Farmshop Safety** - This area includes hazards around the farmshop.
- **Livestock Facilities** – This area includes hazards around livestock and related buildings.
- **Horse Facilities** - This area includes hazards around the horses and related buildings.

If you would like to schedule a presentation for your 4-H group, please call us at 800-343-7527 and ask to speak with Jim Carrabba, Farm Safety Education Specialist at ext 239 or Sharon Scofield at ext 236. Or you can e-mail us at jcarrabba@nycamh.com or sscofield@nycamh.com

This is a program of Bassett Healthcare, NYCAMH is enhancing agricultural and rural health by preventing and treating occupational injury and illness. Visit us on our website at www.nycamh.com.

How are your Electric Bills?

Perhaps there are not a lot of readers who would be expected to qualify for low cost hydroelectric power but you should know that businesses within a 30-mile radius of the Niagara Power Project, including agriculture, are eligible for this power if a "commitment" (not a contract) is made by May 1, 2007. Often I've assumed these programs were only for major non-agricultural business expansion but in fact, Western New York doesn't want to see this power taken by down-state and has these eligibility criteria which may fit some ag businesses:

- Generating new electrical demand (minimum of 100 kW)
- Creating new jobs (1 per each 100 kW or 10 per megawatt)
- Having the "shovel in the ground" by June, 2008 and completing the project within 3 years

- Willing to commit to create and maintain jobs and use the power for the proposed project

Call Mike Casale of the Niagara County Economic Development Department at 278-8752 or David Griggs of Buffalo Niagara Enterprise. at 1-800-916-9073 if interested. Check: www.buffaloniagara.org/hydropower

FSA ACCEPTING EMERGENCY LOAN APPLICATIONS

Niagara County (with Monroe, Orleans and Genesee Counties as contiguous) has been declared eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA), formerly Farmers Home Administration, disaster emergency loan assistance effective February 2, 2007 due to damages and losses caused by excessive rain, flash flooding, and flooding that occurred August 1, 2006 and continuing. Family farmers who have suffered the loss of at least 30% of their production due to excessive rain, flash flooding, and flooding may be eligible for FSA loans. Proceeds from crop insurance and any FSA programs are taken into account when determining eligibility for production losses. Losses must be supported with documented records. Under the FSA Emergency Loan Programs, farmers may be eligible for production loss loans of up to 100% of their actual losses, or the operating loan amount needed to continue in business, or a maximum principal balance outstanding of \$500,000, whichever is less. Farmers must be unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders. The interest rate on Emergency Loans is 3.75%.

Application for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until October 2, 2007. The FSA office is located at 29 Liberty Street, Suite 4, Batavia, New York 14020 (#585-343-9167, Ext. 2000).

Submitted by:
Paul E. Lehman
Extension Educator