



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Niagara County

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Niagriculture

November 2007

2007 Calendar of Events

Calendar:

- Nov. 7th Right-to-Farm Law Hearing 6:30 pm Courthouse Lockport
- Nov. 8th Planning a Future for Farms 6:30-9 pm CCE, Niagara County, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport (see other side)
- Nov. 15,16 Fall Dairy Conference, Syracuse Contact Dr. Jerry Bertoldo 585-343-3040
- Nov. 18 To Market: Changing Strategies for Family Farming on the Niagara Frontier. Don't want to watch the Bills? Try something different! Free family day and open house, 2-5 pm Castellani Art Museum, Niagara University, 5795 Lewiston Road. Meet Erie and Niagara County farmers with photos of markets. Activities for children 5 and older. Call 286-8293 for questions.
- Nov. 20 **Deadline:** Crop insurance premium must be received by the crop insurance carrier. Failure to accomplish this means no crop insurance next year.
- Nov. 26,27 Feed Managers' Workshop
- Nov. 30, Dec 7 Managing Labor Risks to Strengthen Your Business 10-3pm; CCE, Monroe County, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester. Encouraged to pre-register by Nov. 16 at 585-798-5191. \$10 includes lunch - payable at the door
- Dec. 28 Report forms mailed for 2007 US Census of Agriculture
- Jan 16 Corn Congress, Holiday Inn. Batavia; Jan. 17, Waterloo
- Jan 22, 23 Lake Ontario Fruit School, CCE Orleans in Knowlesville on the 22nd; CCE, Wayne County on the 23rd Call: 585-798-4265 x26 for details
- Feb 6 Soybean/Cereal Grains Congress, Batavia Party House, Batavia; Feb. 7, Waterloo
- Feb. 7th Pesticide certification test or recert. test 12:30 until completed; CCE, Niagara County, 4487 Lake Ave., Lockport. Must preregister a week in advance with DEC at 716-851-7220
- Feb 12 Becker Forum Finding, Training and Maintaining a Labor Force
- Feb 13,14 Empire State Fruit and Vegetable EXPO. Syracuse. Details at: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/expo>

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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

Right to Farm Law for Niagara County:

A number of counties in New York State have Right-to-Farm laws. Legislator Bill Ross has sponsored one for Niagara County developed by the Niagara County Farm Bureau and the Farmland Board. To some degree, it is difficult to put a lot of teeth in the law. Still, it is a reminder that the county considers agriculture important and specifically:

- Protects farm practice in areas of the county not protected by ag districts
- Provides a system for settling neighbor disputes
- Requires local planning boards to require developers, as a condition for approval of subdivisions, to agree to give every deeded property buyer a notice about the possibility of agricultural practices taking place in the town.
- Local governments are encouraged to issue zoning ordinances in conformity with the right-to-farm law

SAFE TRACTOR & MACHINERY OPERATION

Paul Lehman, 433-8839 Ext. 241

At various times in the past few years, Niagara County farmers have been offered the opportunity to participate in reactivating youth safe tractor and machinery operation certification for youth 14 and 15 in Niagara County. Rural counties like Genesee and Orleans offer such courses annually.

We don't need a large class to schedule it but would like you to think about young people – or even adult hired help that would benefit from such a course (even if only the

14 and 15-year-olds get a US Labor Department certificate). Think about young people you might be able to make better use of if they could do some light duty with farm tractors and machinery. You don't have to entrust a \$150,000 machine to them to make use of this course. Sometimes parents and grandparents want their youngsters to have this safety education as a matter of principle even if certification is not required.

I will shortly be meeting with interested instructors and advisors about a safety course. Please respond to the following questions by telephone (call 433-8839 Ext. 241 day or night) or e-mail me at pel5@cornell.edu or write.

1. I know of ____ (number) youth that would likely take the course. Share names and phone numbers if you care to.
2. The best way to get attendance for the 24 hours of instruction required would be to hold the course:
 - (a) 2-hour segments for 12 weeks
 - (b) 4-hour segments for 6 weeks
 - (c) Other.
3. Do you think a week-day class such as 6–10pm on a Friday would work? 10am-2:30pm for 6 Saturdays? Other?
4. This course would be useful to older workers who do not need certification. Do you know of people who would be likely candidates to take it? Share names and phone numbers of these if you care to.

Crop Insurance

The November 20th deadline in the calendar above offers little time to take a break from the harvest season to start

looking ahead to your needs for the next. Given the extremes in weather we seem to be experiencing in recent years, it's good to understand the latest products out there and changes that may make crop insurance more appealing. Don't operate with blinders. Talk to your insurance agent before rejecting this protection out of hand or forgetting about until the deadline has past.

A Chance to Find Out Just How Farmland Protection Programs Work:

Statewide, farmers are requesting more money for farmland protection programs than the Department of Agriculture and Markets has available. Yet, many Niagara County landowners seem mystified about these programs and how they work. Why not attend this Thursday's program close by at CCE, Lockport. \$5.00 will get a light dinner prepared by Donna Eick and you will have a good idea what is required to make these programs work.

This workshop is designed for community leaders, farmers, grant writers, town planners, town attorneys, appraisers and anyone with an interest in farmland protection in our region. The workshop provides a comprehensive review of the process for creating a successful Purchase of

Development Rights program in your community including a review of grant applications and case scenarios.

The presenters include:

- Jason Engel, Farm Protection Implementation Grants Manager for the Towns of Amherst and Marilla, and a Grants Manager for NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets
- Robert Besanceney, Treasurer of the Western New York Land Conservancy, and manager of the Land Conservancy's farmland protection initiatives in Amherst, Marilla and Clarence.
- Diane Held, American Farmland Trust, New York Field Representative covering Western New York.

A light supper is included. The cost is \$5.00 per person, payable at the door. Please RSVP by November 6th to the Western New York Land Conservancy at 716.687.1225 or pszarpa@wnylc.org