

# Niagriculture

September 2004 Issue

## 2004 Events

- October 10 NY Beef Tour – contact Mike Baker at 607-255-5923 for information.
- October 28 Field Crops Dealer Meeting – pesticide recertification credits applied for. Held at Batavia Party House, contact Nate Herendeen at 716-433-2561.
- November 3 Buying Used and New Farm Equipment for the Small Farm – 7:30pm – 9:30pm, Niagara Implement, 2337 Lockport-Olcott Road, Newfane
- December 2 Crop Insurance, 9am-noon, new products that may be better for you. You may be missing good information!
- December 8 Fresh Market Vegetable Meeting, Lockport
- January 19 WNY Corn Congress – Holiday Inn in Batavia
- January 20 Finger Lakes Corn Congress - Waterloo

**Grants You May Be Interested in:** I know, getting notice of this in harvest season does not seem too smart. But, it is good to take the time to look over the requirements, come up with a grant idea and at least start writing an application. You may need to file your idea if it is not ready to submit by the deadline. Then you will be closer to having the application ready for the next round. Although, I am on vacation between September 20 and October 1, I am willing to assist you when I return.

The Research and Education Grant's proposal date has passed but I wanted you aware of it for the future. If you use the internet, you can view the details of these grants at <http://www.urm.edu/~nesare/Fginfo.html>

### Northeast Region (SARE) Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education Program

Partnership Grants are awarded for on-farm research and demonstration projects developed by

agricultural professionals who work directly with farmers. Grants are capped at \$10,000. 2005 Partnership Grant applications will be available in June and proposals are due November 30, 2004.

Farmer/Grower Grants test new crops, practices and systems through on-site experiments and share the results with other farmers. Grants average about \$5,200, and are capped at \$10,000. 2005 Farmer Grant applications will be available in June and proposals are due December 7, 2004.

Research and Education Grants involve scientists, producers and others in an interdisciplinary approach to important issues in sustainable agriculture. Previous grants have ranged from \$4,300 to \$331,500; the average grant in 2002 was \$102,900. Preproposal required; the deadline is May 21, 2004. Invited full proposals must be received in the SARE office by November 4, 2004.

Sustainable Farmer Educator Grants are offered to successful and articulate farmers who are

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committed to sharing their knowledge with producers, extension personnel, and others in the agricultural community. The award is capped at \$8,000 annually, and applications are accepted only when vacancies occur.

**2004-2005 Request For Proposals** – The following new grant program could be useful with farm to school producer group initiative.

**New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI)** – a farmer-driven organization.

**The NYFVI Small Grants program to Enhance Specialty Crop production Businesses.**

The NYFVI is seeking proposals for short-term projects that will work directly with producers of specialty crops to make their businesses more successful while providing models that other producers of these crops can implement to strengthen the performance of their part of the New York agricultural economy.

For the purposes of this program a specialty crop is defined as any agricultural crop produced or product manufactured in NYS except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, livestock and livestock products.

The Institute will consider projects that focus on near-term applied research, demonstration of recently completed research and development efforts, education, information and technology adoption, market analysis and other business assistance. The Institute seeks sound business planning as a core component of the projects it supports and increased farm-gate value of agricultural products in all projects where this is a feasible outcome.

Proposals will be accepted from agricultural and commodity organizations, researchers and educators at academic institutions, extension staff and others involved in technology adoption and business assistance in the agricultural sector. Requests of up to \$10,000 will be considered.

Proposals must be submitted on or before October 15, 2004.

For a complete copy of the RFP, contact NYFVI at the number or email below.

The NYFVI staff is available to answer questions and provide guidance as applicants prepare proposals. Contact Dave Smith (607-255-7286 or [rds4@cornell.edu](mailto:rds4@cornell.edu)) with questions and/or requests for guidance and assistance.

### **Deer Hunting**

On occasion, Cornell Cooperative Extension gets calls from people wondering if we have a list of farmers who allow deer hunting on their land. While we can usually name a few, if you would like to be on such a list, please call Karen Krysa, my secretary, at 433-2651 to be listed. Be sure to tell us how and when to get hold of you. May we mention your name if we put an article in the newspaper?

### **National Farm Safety and Health Week** **September 19-25**

#### **Fatality Rate Higher for Senior Farmers**

Farmers aged 75 and older are more than twice as likely to die on the job than their younger counterparts, according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). NIOSH Statistician Dr. John Myers reported that farmers over age 75 had a death rate of 57 per 100,000, compared to an overall death rate of 21 per 100,000 for all agricultural workers.

Much of this increased risk is related to aging and involves a decrease in sensory abilities that can impact the safety of older farmers. Vision is known to be consistent throughout a person's adult life, but begins to decline by age 60.

Hearing also decreases as people age. Nearly one-half of adults have some level of hearing impairment. Some of this is normal; however, hearing loss is also attributed to noise exposure while working. This is especially true among

farmers, who experience the highest rate of hearing loss among all workers.

Hearing protection at an early age is crucial. Earplugs or earmuffs will protect hearing. Repairing machinery and equipment that are generating excessive noise is also crucial in reducing the exposure.

### Safe Use of Harvesting Equipment

Harvesting equipment is a necessity on farms to gather the crops for a bountiful harvest. Harvest time is primary revenue time on many farms and is also one of the peak periods for farm injuries and deaths. Many of these injuries can be prevented through effective farm safety management.

- Develop a “safety first” attitude. Follow safe work practices all the time and set a good example for others.
- Be physically and mentally fit before operating equipment. Fatigue, stress and worry can distract you from safely operating equipment. Take frequent breaks.
- Pay attention to all safety information. Read operator’s manual and warning decals.
- Inspect the equipment and correct any hazards before operating.
- Identify hazardous areas on equipment and make sure you stay away from moving parts. Beware of pinch points, shear points, wrap points, pull-in areas, thrown objects, crush points, stored energy hazards and free-wheeling parts.
- Make sure everyone who operates the equipment has the appropriate training and is physically able to operate it safely.
- Shut down equipment, turn off the engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.
- Keep bystanders and others away from equipment operation area. Do not allow “extra riders”, especially children.

### Inspection

- Are PTO shields in place?
- Are guards and shields in place?

- Are safety locks operational?
- Are there any leaks in hydraulics?
- Is reflective “Slow Moving Vehicle” signage in place?
- Are lights working properly?
- Is a 20 lb. “ABC” fire extinguisher in place?

Source: National Safety Council’s Agriculture Division

### Linking You To People and Resources For Successful Business Transitions

This year’s Family Farm Transitions Conference (formerly known as “The Dr. George Show”) will be November 19<sup>th</sup> on the Cornell Campus. The cost of this program is free, but space is limited. Registration is easy, simply call 1-800-547-3276. If you are unfamiliar with our organization and/or this event, please read below.

### The Farm Succession Challenge in New York

For family business owners, transferring management responsibility and farm assets to the next generation is an important, but sometimes confusing process. In addition, exiting farmers face a limited amount of choices for retirement and new farmers face a tremendous uphill battle in order to obtain the necessary knowledge, skill, and finances. In order for these families to meet this challenge, they need to know that there are resources available to help.

### Who is NY FarmLink?

NY FarmLink is a non-profit organization that provides educational resources, consulting, and opportunities that enable more farms to be transferred and joint ventures to be developed for the economic enhancement of New York State agriculture.

### What is the Family Farm Transitions Conference?

For the third year in a row, NY FarmLink will be holding its annual Family Farm Transitions Conference at Cornell University. At past conferences, we have had attendance of over 250 family business members who are all concerned with the same topic: *how do we transfer the farm business from one generation to the next?*

At this year's conference we are combining the past two years' keynote speakers to have a statewide conference, which will be open to all farm families. We hope to draw close to 500 people! Don Jonovic, Bernie Erven, George Conneman, and Steve Richards will all be presenting, with a question and answer panel session to follow.

*Who is the conference for?*

All farm families in New York State that are considering transferring their farms to the next generation. Remember to register soon, as space is limited.

Hope to see you there. By: Steve Richards

**Editor**

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Extension Educator