A WORLD LEADER IN APPLE BREEDING

New York ranks second in the nation in apple production, with a crop value estimated at $233 million in 2010. Breeders at Cornell University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) integrate traditional breeding with modern molecular techniques to genetically improve apples and produce new varieties that add value and diversity to the state apple industry. Greater quality, better storage and shelf life, and reduced dependence on chemical control of insects and diseases have long been the goals of Cornell’s apple breeding program.

Cornell has released 66 types of apples since the late 1890s, including the popular ‘Cortland,’ ‘Macoun,’ ‘Empire’ and ‘Jonagold.’

Two new (yet to be named) varieties released in 2010 will be available exclusively to New York growers:

- **New York 1**
  - Already a big hit with taste testers
  - Boasts the best characteristics of its 'Honeyscrisp' parent, with fewer production problems
  - Harvested early in the season, in late September
  - Attractive fruit with 80-90% full red color
  - Good sugar levels and low to moderate acid
  - Consistent quality and great firmness
  - Reliable storage and shelf life

- **New York 2**
  - Hybrid of 'Braeburn' and 'Autumn Crisp'
  - Ideal for both baking and fresh eating
  - Good source of vitamin C
  - A favorite among growers because the apples are not prone to pre-harvest drop, the trees are easy to grow, and they produce great annual yields
  - Harvested later in the season, in mid to late October
  - Attractive fruit with 85-90% full red color
  - Excellent quality, storage and shelf life
  - Good sugar levels, moderate acid

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**Bolstering New York’s Apple Industry**

By making its two new premium varieties available only to New York producers, CALS is bolstering the state’s apple industry. In May 2010, CALS forged a partnership with a new industry group, the New York Apple Growers (NYAG) LLC, to establish a licensing agreement for ‘New York 1’ and ‘New York 2.’ Open to all of the state’s 674 apple growers, 140 have already joined the group, and will be planting more than 900 acres of the new varieties. They will pay acreage fees as well as royalties on trees purchased and fruit produced, and will benefit from coordinated supply and marketing, as NYAG will use a portion of the income generated to advertise the apples.

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