



New York Berry News

Volume 12, Number 12

December 20, 2013

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"Berry Good Question" Re-launched as a Joint Cornell/Penn State Effort

Cathy Heidenreich, Cornell University and Kathy Demchak, The Pennsylvania State University

The "Berry Good Question" (with the answer) will appear in the NY Berry News, and Penn State's Fruit Times and Vegetable and Small Fruit Gazette each month, beginning with this issue.

Monthly BGQ articles may also be accessed via the [Cornell Fruit Berry News and Events blog](#) or the [Penn State Vegetable and Small Fruit News](#).

Feel free to send commercial berry production questions you have to either Cathy Heidenreich (mcm4@cornell.edu) or Kathy Demchak (kdemchak@psu.edu).

You don't get a thing except admiration from your peers for being brave enough to ask (and our thanks for giving us a topic), and we won't publish your name unless tell us that's OK. We also reserve the right to omit some details and slightly change your question(s) to keep your identity anonymous.

That's a Berry Good Question! Mulching Strawberries for Winter

Q: Each year I question whether I'm putting straw mulch on my strawberries too early. Some years, I've waited too long (usually due to hunting season) - then we get snow and I can't get it on at all, so I'd like to mulch as early as I can. I've seen an assortment of recommendations - what should I go by? Thanks.

A: This question resulted in a "two-fer" of articles - a brief answer of the question here, and for more information, an accompanying article by PSU's Rich Marini on winter injury in strawberry that follows on page 4.

True, there are a number of different indicators you might read about, including "when the leaves turn red", "after several hard freezes", "when



the soil temperature drops to 40 degrees", "when the plants flatten", or "sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas".

Some varieties seem to develop "fall color" in September, and some diseases (angular leaf

Mulching Strawberries for Winter *(continued)*

spot, powdery mildew and leaf scorch) or magnesium deficiency can cause discolorations that could be confusing. So, coloration alone probably isn't the best indicator to use.



"When the plants look "flat" is probably the best indicator of when to apply straw mulch to strawberry plantings'

"After several hard freezes" is a little nebulous, and whether that would be sufficient cold exposure depends on what is meant by "several hard freezes". The National Weather Service defines a "hard freeze" as temperatures below 27 degrees for more than 2 hours in a 12-hr period, and actually, that may not be enough cold exposure depending on how far below 27 degrees temperatures get. Compounding the problem, in the last few years, we've gotten some really cold spells with several nights of temperatures in the mid-20's even in late September or early October, followed by a month of mild temperatures.

When the average soil temperature drops to 40 degrees is a pretty good

indicator, but there's a lot of variation in soil temperatures with depth and time of day. In our research plots, soil temperature at a 4-inch depth varied roughly a quarter as much as air temperature on most days. So, on a day when the air temperature started out at 30, but warmed to 58, we saw about a 7 degree change in soil temperature 4 inches deep. There's less variation on cloudy days, at deeper depths, or if there's snow cover or straw mulch as a buffer.

When the plants look "flat" is probably the best indicator, and this usually happens in November to December – it's kind of fun to think of the plants as hunkering down for the winter. Waiting until this happens, and then delaying mulching even longer as long as injurious temperatures are not forecast is the best approach. Rich Marini's neighboring article does an excellent job of explaining how the strawberry plants harden off, and what is

happening within and to the plant during the fall and winter to help you decide exactly when to mulch.

While we are on the subject of mulching, if you need a brain-jogger to remind you to take the mulch off in the spring, two that work are: 1) the reddish blush of red maple trees breaking bud on the hills, usually a welcome sign of spring, or 2) when wild bush honeysuckle (one of the earliest plants to break bud) leaves are just starting to grow. When you notice these signs, take a peek under the mulch to see whether new leaves on the strawberry plants are starting to grow. If they are, it's time to remove the mulch.



New Website is 'One-Stop Shop' for Climate Change Info

November 26, 2013. Farmers, gardeners and students have a new place to learn about climate change and how to be part of the solution.

The new website, climatechange.cornell.edu, is a one-stop shop for everything climate change, says David Wolfe, faculty fellow at Cornell's Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future and chair of the center's Climate Change Task Force.

At the core of the site is a searchable directory of climate change research and outreach programs at Cornell with summaries, contact information, and links to more information. In addition, issue-specific pages to help farmers, local government officials, youth educators and others connect with Cornell's research-based resources and tools for reliable information.

"The Northeast is already feeling the effects of climate change," notes Wolfe. "There are so many people at Cornell working on practical solutions to these challenges – from research in agriculture to economics, engineering to social sciences, and Cooperative Extension's work with farmers and communities. Our website will help the public engage with the expertise at Cornell to put these solutions into practice."

"Our ultimate goal is to explain the science of climate change so that everyone can understand how it affects their lives and can start to make changes," said Allison Chatrchyan, director of Cornell's new Institute for Climate Change and Agriculture.

One of Chatrchyan's favorite



features of the site is the frequently updated "What's with the Weather?"

"We relay information from the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell that helps explain recent weather events within the context of climate change," she says. "It's the kind of timely research-based information that you can share around the water cooler when the conversation inevitably turns to weird weather."

Additional features include:

- A climate forum column, where Cornell experts explain their research for the public or a current issue in the news;
- Climate change Q-and-A, where visitors can ask a Cornell expert to answer a burning question;
- Climate change-related videos; and

- News updates focusing on how the Cornell community is addressing climate change issues.

(Source: [Cornell Chronicle](#))

Minimum Wage Increases to \$8.00 on December 31, 2013!

A. De Marree, Lake Ontario Fruit Program

The NYS minimum wage increases on December 31st of this year and during the next two years.

On December 31, 2014 the minimum wage increases to \$8.75 per hour and to \$9.00 per hour on December 31, 2015.

More information at: <https://labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/farm-labor.shtm>

Under tips: Browse A-Z index, then choose M and minimum wage.

Winter Injury in Strawberry

Dr. Rich Marini, Department of Horticulture, The Pennsylvania State University

Strawberry is an herbaceous perennial plant and it is fairly susceptible to low winter temperatures. An understanding of the cold acclimation process is important to delay mulch application until the plants have acclimated but before plants are exposed to injurious temperatures.

Depending on the variety and time of winter, flower buds may be killed by exposure to 20 degrees F and plants may be killed by 16 degrees F. Fortunately the short stature of the plant allows us to protect plants with mulch or snow.

During the late summer, upon exposure to short days, strawberry plants start to acclimate. A pigment in the leaves, called phytochrome, perceives day length and is responsible for producing compounds that move in the plant to cause the plant to become dormant and to develop some cold tolerance. Short days alone will cause strawberry plants to develop tolerance to about 25 degrees F. Declining non-freezing temperatures will cause further acclimation, but exposure to a frost triggers rapid additional cold tolerance. Characteristics of acclimated plants include leaves with wide angles, so the leaves look flat, and older leaves turn red. Continued exposure to below-freezing temperatures results in maximum cold tolerance and this usually occurs by early December.

Most of the research on strawberry acclimation and low temperature injury has been done with June-bearers. Researchers in Quebec however suggested that day-neutral plants may not respond to day length, but declining autumn temperatures is the primary environmental factor triggering

acclimation.

By late January the chilling requirement is satisfied and when the temperatures rise above about 50 degrees F, the plants begin to de-acclimate and lose cold tolerance. When exposed to non-injurious low temperatures, the plants will re-acclimate and regain some of their cold tolerance, but they will not regain maximum levels.

Several factors influence cold tolerance of strawberry. Different varieties vary in their cold tolerance. Northern breeding programs generally select for the ability to survive low temperatures. A study was conducted in Minnesota (*Yao et al. 2009*), where 9 varieties from the breeding programs at Kentville, Nova Scotia or Geneva, NY were grown under mulch or with no mulch for two seasons. When mulched, plants were less injured than when not mulched and the variety 'Sable' tended to have better plant survival than the other varieties. In a Canadian study (*Gagnon, et., 1990*), the June-bearer 'Redcoat' and the day-neutral 'Tristar' were killed at 19 degrees F compared to 20.8 degrees F for the day-neutral 'Hecker'.

Fall fruiting of day-neutral varieties may also influence cold tolerance. Research on day-neutrals in Quebec showed indicated that fall fruiting can suppress the accumulation of nitrogen, starch and total non-structural carbohydrate level in the plants. Fall fruiting also reduced the cold tolerance and plants that were de-blossomed were killed at 21.6 degrees F, whereas plants that fruited continuously all Fall were killed at only 23.2 degrees F.

Injury Prevention

The best way to prevent winter

injury is to cover the plants with some type of mulch in the early winter, but it is important to apply adequate amounts of mulch and at the appropriate time. Dr. Bertie Boyce performed several studies to learn about the acclimation process and winter injury in Vermont. In growth chamber studies he found that strawberry plants don't acclimate when defoliated, and light is required for acclimation and the development of cold tolerance. In a field experiment he applied mulch at the rate of 5 tons per acre at 4 different times during the fall for 3 years. In 1984, 1985, and 1986 mulch was applied at approximately 14-day intervals starting in mid-October. The coldest air temperatures recorded during October, before the second mulching date was 24 degrees F, the lowest temperature recorded in early November was 17 degrees F and temperatures of 12 to 16 degrees F were recorded during the second half of November. Average yields (pounds/acre) for the 4 mulching dates were 5,215 (Oct. 1), 11,088 (Oct. 15), 14,434 (Nov. 15), and 14,340 (Dec. 1), so applying mulch before November resulted in reductions in yield of 23 to 65% compared to mid-November. The reason for reduced yields following early mulching is probably due to inadequate light reaching the leaves in induce early acclimation and because plants were not exposed to temperatures low enough to induce development of maximum cold tolerance. It is important to apply mulch after the plants are fully acclimated, which usually occurs in early December, but before the occurrence of temperatures low enough to injure the plants.

In another experiment Boyce and Linde (1986) grew 'Midway' plants in 8"-high raised beds. They used snow making equipment to apply 6" man-made snow as mulch in mid-

Winter Injury in Strawberry *(continued)*

December for two seasons. They also had treatments that included no mulch or snow, straw mulch, and natural snow. Crown temperatures were recorded at 5:00AM and 2:00PM each day during the winter. Plants with no snow or mulch had the most days with crown temperatures below 23 degrees F and it was the only treatment with crown temperatures below 14 degrees F. Crown temperatures below 23 degrees F were recorded for only 7 and 9 days, respectively for treatments with natural snow or man-made snow. Six inches of snow was a slightly better insulator against low temperatures than straw mulch and man-made snow was as effective as natural snow. Plant survival and yield were related to crown temperatures. They also found that plant survival was better for daughter plants than for the mother plants.

Summary

Strawberries are only moderately able to survive low winter temperatures. The reason strawberries can be successfully grown in the North is because plants are low to the ground and are often covered with snow and can be covered with straw mulch. To ensure high yields, growers should plant varieties that have performed well in their region and plants should be mulched with straw during early winter.

AG NEWS

NYS Agriculture and Markets Partners with New York State Agricultural Society to Co-Sponsor the 182nd Annual Meeting and Agricultural Forum in Liverpool

November 27, 2013. Acting State Agriculture Commissioner James B. Bays today announced that the Department of Agriculture and Markets is again partnering with the New York State Agricultural Society to co-sponsor the Society's 182nd Annual Meeting and Annual Forum. This is one of the largest agricultural meetings in the state, bringing together all sectors of the food system to explore topics critical to the future of New York agriculture. More than 400 participants are expected to attend the event, which will take place on January 9, 2014 at the Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets is proud to partner with the New York State Agricultural Society to bring stakeholders together to listen and learn about the future of our state's robust agricultural sector," said Acting Commissioner Bays. "This event has a storied tradition dating back 182 years and we look forward to carrying on that tradition next year in Liverpool."

The upcoming Forum focuses on the Next Generation of Agriculturists," comments Penny Heritage, Publicity Coordinator for the NYS Agricultural Society. "We will hear from a national expert on leadership and farm business management, and from a panel of young farmers and agribusiness persons, sharing perspectives on their future in New York agriculture."

All are invited to the New York State Agricultural Society's Agricultural Forum and special pre-forum events. Early registration is strongly encouraged, and discount applies for Forum registrations received before December 20th. For complete meeting details, visit:

<http://www.nysagsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2014-invitation.pdf>. To register online, visit:

<https://plazameetings.com/nysa/s/>.

The New York State Agricultural Society played a vital role in establishing the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University in the 1860s, conducting educational Farmer



AGRICULTURE NEWS
New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

10B Airline Drive ~ Albany, New York 12235 ~ www.agriculture.ny.gov

AG NEWS *(continued)*

NYS Ag Society 182nd Annual Meeting *(continued)*

Institutes until Cornell Cooperative Extension was founded. The organization was also the original operator of the Great New York State Fair until 1899 when operations of the event were assumed by the Department of Agriculture and Markets. In 1985, the Agricultural Society worked with Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to develop the Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute (LEAD NY), which has trained hundreds of leaders in the field of New York agriculture since its inception.

"This annual meeting is a key gathering for the agricultural community, and this year's forum on 'The Next Generation of Agriculturists' both draws upon our shared legacy of engagement and fosters the way forward to a robust future for all," said Kathryn Boor, The Ronald P. Lynch Dean of CALS. "We are proud partners in shaping that future, by developing leaders with the vision and the skills to seize opportunities amidst change."

USDA Announces Notice of Funding Availability for Value-Added Producer Grants

Grants extend production season and income opportunities for America's Farmers

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25, 2013 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the availability of

nearly \$10.5 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities designed to give them a competitive business edge.

"U.S. agriculture is connected to one in 12 American jobs, and value-added products from homegrown sources are one important way that agriculture generates economic growth," Vilsack said. "Supporting producers and businesses to create value-added products strengthens rural economies, helps fuel innovation, and strengthens marketing opportunities for producers – especially at the local and regional level."

The funding is being made available through the [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) program. Grants are available to help agricultural producers create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods, or to develop specialty and niche products. They may be used for working capital and planning activities. The maximum working capital grant is \$200,000; the maximum planning grant is \$75,000.

Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Funding priority is given to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers, and to small- to medium-size family farms, or farmer/rancher cooperatives.

The Value-Added Producer Grant program is one of many USDA

programs that support the development of strong local and regional food systems as part of the *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* initiative. Launched in 2009, the initiative strengthens ties between agricultural producers and their local communities, helping meet growing consumer demand and creating opportunities for small business development. Initiatives like this create new income opportunities for farmers, generate wealth that will stay in rural communities, and increase access to healthy, local foods in underserved communities. All of these actions boost local economies.

The announcement came as more than 1,400 communities nationwide geared up to support [Small Business Saturday](#), a day dedicated to championing small businesses on one of the busiest shopping weekends of the year. This year's Small Business Saturday was Nov. 30.

Rural Development is encouraging applications from Tribal organizations as well as applications that support regional food hubs. Applications supporting value-added activities related to bio-based products are also encouraged.

Since 2009, the Obama Administration has provided agricultural producers with almost \$80 million in Value Added Producer Grant assistance that has supported more than 600 innovative, value-added projects.

In Fiscal year 2012, for example, the Mississippi Delta Southern Rural Black Women in Agriculture Association received a \$44,000

AG NEWS *(continued)*

working capital grant to provide a variety of services in the Delta region. The cooperative delivered oven-bakeable sweet potato fries to local Head Start programs and schools; cut, washed and bagged greens for local restaurants; and delivered sustainably grown and heirloom sweet potatoes to local and specialty grocers regionally and nationwide. The sweet potatoes are processed at the vegetable facility at Alcorn State University, in Lorman, Miss.

The project is supplying emerging markets with locally grown produce to enhance production, marketing and distribution infrastructure among women and minority landowners in persistently poor rural communities.

Additional examples of how VAPGs assist local and regional food producers are available on the USDA *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* [Compass](#), which is searchable by zip code and key word.

Grant applications are due by Feb. 24, 2014. More information about how to apply is available on page 70260 of the [November 25 Federal Register](#), or by contacting any USDA Rural Development state office.

Secretary Vilsack said that today's announcement is another reminder of the importance of USDA programs

such as the Value-Added Producer Grant program for rural America. A comprehensive new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would further expand the rural economy, Vilsack added, saying that's just one reason why Congress must get a comprehensive Bill done as soon as possible.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values.

Microloans Available Now

November 6, 2013. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan

features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.



AG NEWS *(continued)*

Cornell Cooperative Extension Welcomes All of New York State to Annie's Project

The 2014 offering of **Annie's Project** is now open for registration throughout New York State. The course begins February 6, 2014 and will run for six consecutive Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at fifteen Cornell Cooperative Extension facilities across the state.

Those interested in registering should contact their local Extension office, or visit the website www.NYAnniesProject.org. The course is \$60 per person with limited scholarships available upon inquiry. The deadline for registration is January 10, 2014. For more information and program locations, also visit www.Facebook.com/AnniesProjectNYS.

Annie's Project, created in 2003 by Ruth Hambleton, University of Illinois Extension, embodies a risk management perspective that helps to reduce risk exposure by analyzing legal, human resource, marketing, financial, and production factors in farm business decision making. The program is directed to experienced farm women with a passion for business and an involvement in today's farming industry.

This program was recognized in July of 2011 by The White House and named as a Champion of Change with Ms. Hambleton appointed to the White House Rural Committee.

In September Ms. Hambleton traveled to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County to train the Extension

educators who wished to present her program. "Having conducted two programs previously in 2010 and 2011 at a smaller scale in Central New York, it was our pleasure to have Ms. Hambleton help us expand this exciting program statewide," said NYS Annie's Project Co-Leader, Bonnie Collins. "Participants are assured of an excellent experience regardless of where they attend in the state."

The 2014 curriculum boasts many new and exciting features for participants in New York. Women who participate will have access to the New York State Annie's Project website that not only provides information and updates, but also hosts a chat forum for interaction between classes. Current participants and alumnae can interact with women from their own class and/or others in different regions of the state.

Annie's Project is a Cornell Cooperative Extension initiative for "New York Women in Agriculture" that seeks to empower women in agricultural opportunities.

New York Annie's Project (2014) is made possible by Cornell Cooperative Extension and the generous funding from Farm Credit East, (NYS) Workforce Development Institute, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, USDA Risk Management Agency, and the Northeast Center for Extension Risk Management Education.

This material is based upon work supported by USDA NIFA (National Institute of Food & Agriculture) under award number 2012-49200-20031.

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by contacting your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Association by the January 10, 2014 registration deadline.

Rincker Writes New York Food and Agriculture Law Book

Cari Rincker of Rincker Law, PLLC recently released a book titled "Field Manual: Field Guide for New York Farmers and Food Entrepreneurs." It is co-authored by Pat Dillon, an Iowa farmer and agriculture lawyer, who wrote the Iowa version of the Field Manual. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com for \$25.99.

"I believe that New York farmers, agri-businesses and food entrepreneurs want education on the myriad of laws that affect their business. I hope this substantive book gives them an overview of New York law in a very practical package," says Rincker.

Although Rincker understands that legal texts can sometimes be difficult to understand, she notes that the Field Manual is an easy read for the nonlawyer. "I really tried to break down

Farm Business Management for Women in Agriculture

*A Risk Management Perspective Program
Offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension
throughout New York State*



Six Consecutive Thursdays

February 6 – March 13, 2014

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Who should attend?

Experienced farm and ranch women wanting a more active role in the business aspects of their farm operations will find this program motivating, enjoyable, and practical.

- \$60 per person includes lunch, all course materials, and handouts. Limited scholarships available.
- Pre-registration required by, January 10, 2014.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
PROGRAM LOCATIONS, VISIT:**

www.Facebook.com/AnniesProjectNYS

www.NYAnniesProject.org



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension



Annie's Project is provided by Cornell University Cooperative Extensions across New York State, and is supported by the Annie's National Network Initiative for Educational Success. Program material is based on work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2012-49200-20031.

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by contacting the Cornell Cooperative Extension host site by January 10, 2014, prior to the start of the program.

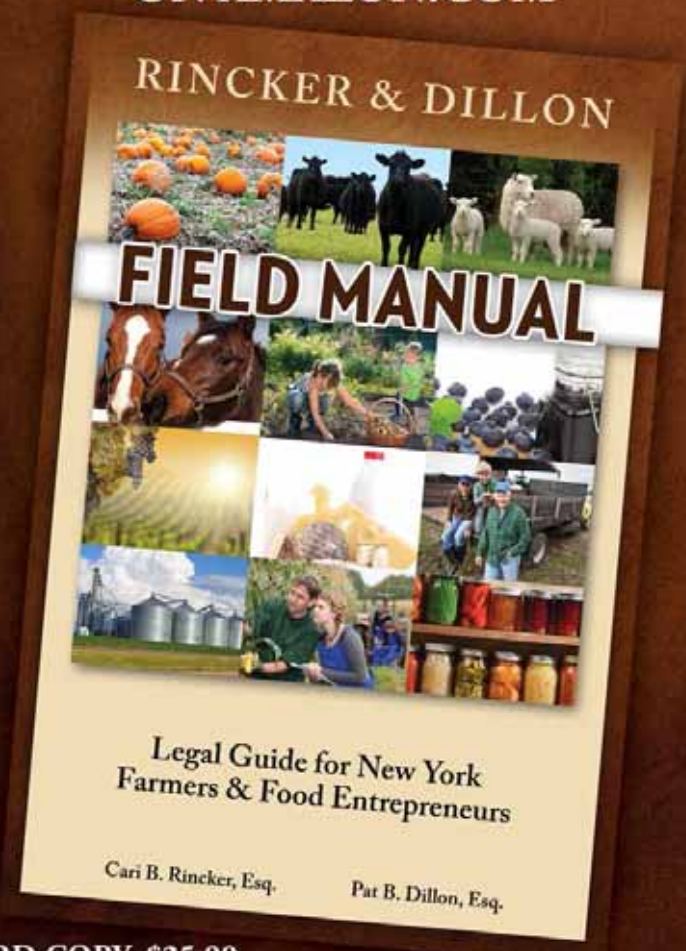
AG NEWS *(continued)*

complicated legal concepts to simple, easy-to-understand terms for the farmer and food entrepreneur reader. Its chock full of farm and agri-business examples that the industry can relate to.”

Rincker Law, PLLC is based in New York, New York. Rincker is the Chair of the American Bar Association, General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Division’s Agriculture Law Committee and the Founding Member and Past-President of New York Agri-Women. Rincker grew up on a beef cattle farm in Central Illinois and has advanced degrees in animal science. She was recently awarded the 2012 Outstanding Early Career Award from Texas A & M University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the 2012 Best Livestock Lawyer in the Best of the Barns Competition.

Rincker is licensed to practice in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and the District of Columbia. She is also on the mediator roster for the New York State Agriculture Mediation Program. For more information on the Field Manual and upcoming book tour, visit www.newyorkagriculturelaw.com. You can also follow her award-winning “Food, Farm and Family” Law Blog at www.rinckerlaw.com/blog.

**- NOW AVAILABLE -
ON AMAZON.COM**



RINCKER & DILLON

FIELD MANUAL

**Legal Guide for New York
Farmers & Food Entrepreneurs**

Cari B. Rincker, Esq. Pat B. Dillon, Esq.

HARD COPY: \$25.99
KINDLE: \$10.99

For more information on the Field Manual visit
www.newyorkagriculturelaw.com

Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

2014 Hudson Valley Commercial Fruit Growers' School

February 11-13, 2014

*Garden Plaza Hotel (former Holiday Inn of Kingston)
503 Washington Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401*



Agenda - Thursday, February 13, 2014 – Berry Session

8:00 – 9:00 AM Registration & coffee - Sign morning DEC Recertification rosters.

9:00 – 9:05 AM Welcome and Announcements

Laura McDermott, *CCE ENYCHP, Hudson Falls, NY*

9:05 – 9:50 AM

Spray Technology Update for Berry and Grape Growers

Dr. Andrew Landers, *Entomology Dept., Cornell, Geneva, NY*

9:50 – 10:20 AM

Strategies for Late Season SWD Management in Berries and Grapes

Peter Jentsch, *Entomology Dept., Cornell, HVL, Highland, NY*

10:20 – 10:35 AM

Update on Plans for the Hudson Valley Lab

Peter Jentsch, *Superintendent, Cornell Univ., HVL, Highland, NY*
TBA, *Hudson Valley Research Lab Board and Fundraising Committee*

10:35 – 10:50

Break

10:50 – 11:20 AM

Water Management Challenges in a Changing Climate

Larry Geohring, *Biological and Environmental Engineering Dept., Cornell, Ithaca, NY*

11:20 – 12:15 PM

Eastern NY Field Research Reports:

Reflective Mulch for SWD Control in DN Strawberries

Jim O'Connell, *CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture,
and CCE Ulster Co., Kingston, NY*

Exclusion Netting and Mass Trapping for SWD Control

Laura McDermott, *CCE ENYCHP*

12:15 – 1:30 PM

Lunch and networking

1:30 -1:35 PM

Call to Order and Announcements

Laura McDermott, *CCE ENYCHP, Hudson Falls, NY*

1:35 – 3:05 PM

Using the Berry Farm Business Summary Results to Improve your Bottom Line, Sandra Buxton, *Farm Business management, CCE Capital District Agriculture Program, Hudson Falls, NY*

3:05 PM

Final announcements – Adjourn

More information or to register:



BERRY ORGANIZATION NEWS

New York Berry Growers Association (NYSBGA)

What a Year!

Dale-Ila M. Riggs, President, NYS Berry Growers Association, The Berry Patch, Stephentown NY

2013. The year that we got 15 inches of rain in three weeks as strawberries were sizing up and starting to ripen.

The year that some people got convinced that Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) was on their farm .

The year that SWD populations were lighter than the previous year.

The year that the NYS Berry Growers Association rounded up \$285,000 in funding for SWD management research.

The year that...say WHAT?

Yes, it is true. The New York Berry Growers Association successfully obtained a \$200,000 allocation from the NYS legislature for research to battle Spotted Wing Drosophila. We also made the connections for an \$85,000 grant from the Farm Viability Institute to investigate using a fixed sprayer system in tunnels to manage SWD. AND we are working on some additional funding avenues to target bio-control agents for SWD.

Add to that our cooperative agreement with Cornell for evaluating advanced lines of strawberries and working with Cornell to successfully obtain a label for the use of Stinger in blueberries, and yes, we HAVE had quite a year.

Every farmer makes investments.



We invest in land, tractors, irrigation systems, labor saving equipment, your employees, and more. The board of the Berry Growers Association has worked hard over this past year to move the berry industry forward. Now we need every single berry grower to invest in your own future by joining the Berry Growers Association.

Associations don't exist without members. Legislators and state agencies don't take action based on what individuals tell them, but they do take action when they listen to associations that represent people throughout the state. There is no possible way we would have received \$285,000 in research funds without being an association. And we will not get funding in the future if we do not grow the Berry Growers Association.

For those of you that are members, you have gotten a return of \$2280 for each dollar of your membership dues. I challenge everyone to tell me where they have gotten a return on investment of that magnitude.

For those of you that are not members, we welcome your membership (form on following page).

We look forward to hearing your ideas on what the Association can do, and we welcome forward thinking minds joining us on the Board.

If you are a berry grower battling SWD, the future of your farm and of our industry is in your hands. We can beat this pest with enough research. But if you don't join us to grow the Berry Growers Association, we won't be able to continue to get research funds, and then SWD will probably cause more growers to pull out their plantings. Do yourself and the industry a favor. Give yourself an investment that pays a dividend of \$2280 for each dollar invested. Join us today.

New York State Berry Growers Association

Chairperson-Dale Riggs-(518) 733-6772 Treasurer-Anthony Emmi-(315) 638-7679

Executive Secretary-Paul Baker- (716)807-6827 fax (716)219-4089

goodberries@roadrunner.com

www.nysbga.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION 2014

Name _____ (Renewal _____ New _____)

Farm or Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail Address _____ County _____

Web Address _____

Crops: (check all that apply)

Blueberries _____ Raspberries _____ Blackberries _____ Strawberries _____ Currants _____

Gooseberries _____ Other _____ Vegetables _____ Fruit _____

Marketing Venue (Please indicate percent)

U-Pick _____ Retail _____ Wholesale _____

Membership Fee – 1 Year 2014 _____ **\$125.00**
(\$50 of this will go directly to research)

Research Fund Donation _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____



Please make check payable to New York State Berry Growers Association
Or NYSBGA and send to:

Paul Baker, Executive Secretary NYS Berry Growers
3568 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn, NY 14132

Cancelled check will serve as your receipt, unless otherwise requested



Plan to attend the
North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference
January 27-29, 2014 – Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pennsylvania
in association with the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention

The North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association's 2014 Annual Conference offers a full program of caneberry-related sessions, a tour, and all the many sessions and large trade show of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention (MAFVC). Non-members are invited to attend; you may join with your registration to take advantage of lower member registration fees.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Two concurrent morning tracks; please indicate on your registration which you plan to attend. May also sign up for the Workshop only.

8:00 Registration/check-in opens.

9:00 - 12:00 Workshop: Getting Started with Raspberries and Blackberries – for new and prospective growers, those in their first years of production, or those who want a refresher in the basics – *Marvin Pritts and Cathy Heidenreich, Cornell University*

9:00 - 12:00 Advanced Topics in Raspberry/Blackberry Production

9:00 **Understanding Insecticides and How They Work** – *Greg Loeb, Cornell University*

9:25 **SWD Research: What's New & Exciting** – *Greg Loeb, Cornell University*

9:50 **Your Aging Planting: Revitalize or Retire?** *Marvin Pritts, Cornell University*

10:15 **Break**

10:30 **Voices of Experience Panel**, followed by discussion groups led by the each of the panelists.

- Grower Experiences with the Rotating Cross-arm Trellis – Brett Rhoads,

- Rhoads Farm, Circleville, OH
- Protected Culture/Substrate Production of Raspberries
- Making Growing Brambles Profitable – Susan Lynn, Sand Hill Berries, Mt. Pleasant, PA
- Managing Employees & Customers: What works for us – *Lynn Moore, Larriland Farm, Woodbine, MD*

12:30 - 1:30 NARBA Annual Meeting and Luncheon

1:45 **Grower Spotlight** – *Dale Stokes, Dale Stokes Fruit Farm, Wilmington, OH*

2:30 **Post-Harvest Issues with Blackberries** – *Penny Perkins-Veazie, NCSU Plants for Human Health Institute*

3:15-4:00 **GAPs for PYO and Direct-Marketers** – *Wes Kline, Rutgers University*

4:00-5:00 **Understanding and Capitalizing on Bramble Health Benefits** – *Penny Perkins-Veazie, NCSU Plants for Human Health Institute and Dale Stokes, Dale Stokes Fruit Farm, Wilmington, OH*

Evening: Informal gathering and discussion. Details will be available at the meeting.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Sign up for the bus tour OR stay at the Hershey Lodge to attend MAFVC sessions and visit the trade show.

7:30 Registration/check-in opens.

8:30-5:00 NARBA Bus Tour. Travel by charter bus; seats on the tour are limited and on a first-come basis based on when registrations are received. Lunch is included in the tour price.

8:30 Depart Hershey Lodge. Buses load at 8:15.

- **Cramers Posie Patch** (Cramers, Inc.) utilizes 5 acres of Haygrove high tunnels to produce mainly cut flowers, but also grows other crops including blackberries on the RCA

- trellis system. Learn about their experiences with tunnel management.
- **Agri Analysis, Inc.** is an independently owned and operated agricultural and environmental laboratory that offers a wide range of services to growers. Learn about what goes on behind the scenes with your plant and soil samples and how you can get the most meaningful results.
- **Lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasbord** – Offers a large selection of popular PA Dutch cooking and more at one of the largest buffets in the Eastern U.S.; also features a 40,000 sq. ft. (that's almost an acre!) gift shop.
- **Daniel Stoltzfus Farm** – Find out how farming without tractors, marketing without owning a truck, and dealing with food safety concerns is being accomplished from a member of the Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative. LFFC is a non-profit organic farmers cooperative made of up over 80 small-scale family farms, nearly all Amish and Mennonite.
- **Four Seasons Produce** – One of the largest independent produce wholesalers in the country, carrying both organic and conventional berries, fruits, and vegetables. Learn about their produce tracking, food safety procedures, market trends, and more.

Return to Hershey Lodge at 5:00 pm

9:00-4:30 **MAFVC Option.** Keynote presentation and sessions on CSAs, Organic Vegetables, Pumpkins, Herbs, Asparagus, Tree Fruit, Labor, Equipment, and more. Trade show open 8:00-5:00.

The Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conference offers multiple topic tracks and over 160 exhibitors. For details of the full schedule visit www.mafvc.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

9:00 **Grower Spotlight** – *Sidney Kuhn and Anthony Herring, Kuhn Orchards, Cashtown, PA*

10:00 **Break**

10:15 **Grower Panel – How We Determine Which Raspberry Varieties Work (or Don't)** – *Nate Nourse, Nourse Farms, Whately, MA; Bruce Smith, High Hopes Farm, Westmoreland, NH; Guy Moore, Larriland Farm, Woodbine, MD*

11:00 **What's New with Blackberry Varieties?** *Reza Rafie, Virginia State University and John R. Clark, University of Arkansas*

12:00-1:30 **Lunch.** Lunch buffet selections available to purchase.

1:30 **Black Raspberries: New Interest in an Old Crop** – *Bryan Butler, University of Maryland, and Kathy Demchak, Penn State University*

'Niwot' Double-Cropping Black Raspberry – *Peter Tallman, Independent Raspberry Breeder, Longmont, CO*

2:15 **SWD and Other Fruit-Infesting Larvae** – *Hannah Burrack, North Carolina State University*

3:00 **Show and Tell** from our sponsors and exhibitors

3:15 **Getting the Most Out of SWD Control Measures** – *Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Rutgers University*

4:00 **"There Are Worms in My Fruit Salad!" – Customer Relations in the Face of SWD** – *John Berry, Penn State University*

Also on Wednesday: Sessions on Marketing, Vegetables, Tree Fruit, Agritainment, Peaches and more.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

9:00-4:00 No Raspberry/Blackberry sessions; attend sessions on Food Trends, Strawberries, Blueberries, Tree Fruit, High Tunnels, Sweet Corn, Vegetables, Soil Health, Value-Added, Cut Flowers, and more. Trade show open 8:00-2:00.

The Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conference offers multiple topic tracks and over 160 exhibitors. For details of the full schedule visit www.mafvc.org.



ACCOMMODATIONS

The Conference is at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. For reservations call **1-800-HERSHEY** (800-437-4739). Be sure to mention you are with the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, group code # **612176**, to get the special convention rate of \$135.00 (plus taxes) per night per room with single, double, triple, or quad occupancy.

Visit www.mafvc.org for more information. Attractions nearby include the Hershey's Chocolate World tour.

TRAVEL

Driving: Hershey, PA is 90 minutes from Baltimore, 90 minutes from Philadelphia, 2 hours from Washington, DC, 3 hours from New York City, 4 hours from Pittsburgh. The address is 325 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033.

Flying: Hershey is located 15 minutes from Harrisburg International Airport (MDT). Hershey Lodge offers shuttle service to or from the airport for \$20/person. Make arrangements for airport pick-up in advance of your arrival – call 717-533-3311 and ask for the concierge. Rental cars are also available at the airport.

Hershey is also accessible to Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI). The airport is a 90-minute drive from Hershey.

Train: Harrisburg Train Station is located 15 minutes from Hershey and is serviced by Amtrak. Hershey Lodge provides shuttle service to and from Harrisburg Train Station for a fee. To schedule, call 717-533-3311 and ask for the concierge.

NARBA MEMBERSHIP

This conference is open both to members of the North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association and to non-members. If you are already a member, please use your registration as an opportunity to renew your membership for 2014. If you are not a member, you can join with your registration to take advantage of lower member rates – and receive the other benefits of membership as well. These include:

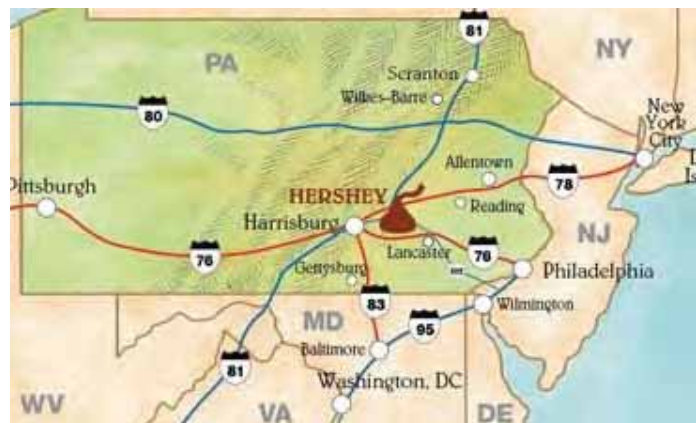
- Quarterly newsletter, *The Bramble*, available on paper or by email.
- Discounts on books, publications, conferences.
- Members-only resources, including consumer brochures and a members' E-Forum.
- Proceedings of the Conference (posted online in the Members Only section of NARBA's website)
- Support and information from NARBA's network of growers and researchers and a greater connection with the larger caneberry industry.

NARBA also provides support to caneberry research – 1/4 of grower dues goes directly to the North American Bramble Growers Research Foundation, and is active on labor, regulatory, and policy issues and concerns.

For more information about NARBA, visit www.raspberryblackberry.com, call 919-542-4037, or email info@raspberryblackberry.com.

REGISTER BY JANUARY 20 FOR LOWER FEES.

Seats on the tour are limited and on a first-come basis.





North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference

January 27-29, 2014 – Hershey, Pennsylvania

Registration Form

Name (primary registrant) _____

Farm/Company/institution _____

Additional farm/company members on this registration _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal code _____ Country _____

Phone #1 _____ Cell Work Home Phone #2 _____ Cell Work Home

E-mail _____ Website _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION <i>All registrations are per-person. Registrations for Jan 28, 29, and 30 include access to all MAFVC sessions. See program brochure for schedule details.</i>	Members			Non-Members		# persons	\$ amount
	By Jan 20		After Jan 20- all members	By Jan 20	After Jan 20		
	1st registrant	Additional persons					
FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGES							
Full conference (all Jan 27 sessions & NARBA luncheon, Jan 28 tour, all Jan 29-30 sessions). # persons for Monday am options: ___ Getting Started Workshop ___ Advanced Topics	\$165	\$160	\$195	--	--		
Full conference <u>without tour</u> (all sessions Jan 27-30 & NARBA Luncheon) # persons for Monday am options: ___ Getting Started Workshop ___ Advanced Topics	125	120	\$140				
BY-THE-DAY REGISTRATION							
Jan 27 Getting Started Workshop ONLY	\$35	\$35	\$45	\$40	\$55		
Jan 27 all day (includes NARBA luncheon) # persons for Monday am options: ___ Getting Started Workshop ___ Advanced Topics	\$60	\$60	\$70	\$80	95		
Jan 28 tour (includes lunch)	\$50	\$50	\$60	\$50	\$60		
Jan 28-30 sessions	\$65	\$60	\$80	\$150	\$150		
Jan 29 sessions only	\$65	\$60	\$80	\$110	\$110		
TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES							
NARBA MEMBERSHIP FEES Membership is per family/farm or company. <input type="checkbox"/> Grower membership: New members (introductory rate): \$50 Renewing members: \$85 PLUS Acreage Charge (all growers): \$5 per acre, maximum acreage charge \$100 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Researchers, extension, students: \$40 <input type="checkbox"/> Industry (suppliers, processors, marketers, etc.): \$150						(Put total of dues & acreage charge in right column)	
TOTAL DUE							

PAYMENT Mastercard Visa Discover Check (make out to "NARBA" – U.S. Funds only) Check Number _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Send registrations to: North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association (NARBA)
1138 Rock Rest Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312
fax: 866-511-6660 email: info@raspberryblackberry.com.

Questions? call NARBA, 919-542-4037.

BERRY ORGANIZATION NEWS *(continued)*

US Highbush Blueberry Council's Spotted Wing Drosophila Industry Research Priorities

USHBC Press Release

Statement of explanation: US blueberry growers and their supporting industries are facing a critical pest management issue caused by the recent introduction into North America of the exotic vinegar fly, *Drosophila* 'Suzukii'.

In response to this, the USHBC has developed the following list of research priorities to direct as many resources as possible toward projects that can best minimize the immediate economic impact this insect is having on our growers.

Listed in order of Importance:

- 1) Accelerate the development and implementation of regional insecticide management programs as the best short term response to this exotic insect pest.
- 2) Develop practical monitoring and risk forecasting/assessment tools.
- 3) Address pesticide residue management issues regarding:
 - a. Export markets and MRL standards.
 - b. Worker and food safety standards.
 - c. Effects of weather and spray additives on residues and efficacy.
- 4) Address postharvest handling and develop practical 'kill step' protocols.
- 5) Expand organic production management options.
- 6) Improve coordination of research projects and communication between all stakeholders and researchers both within the various regions and nationally.

(Source: Peerbolt Small Fruit Update, Week 48. Nov. 26, 2013)





Farm Food Safety Training with GAPs

January 6 & 7, 2014

Location: CCE Ontario County, 480 North Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424

8:30 AM Registration & Refreshments

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Training **both days**

This is for those farmers who are interested in produce safety or who are being required by buyers to develop food safety plans and provide third party verification of their food safety practices. The Food Safety Modernization Act proposed produce safety rules have been released with a tentative final rule anticipated sometime in the summer of 2015. These workshops will help growers understand produce safety issues and Good Agricultural Practices as well as the FSMA proposed produce rule and third party audits. The second day will be devoted to writing farm food safety plans so that each participant can work on their own farm plan. [Click here to register](#)

These workshops are sponsored by the National GAPs Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University, Produce Safety Alliance, and the New York State Department of Ag & Markets with funding from the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority.

Additional Workshop Dates Available:

February 27 & 28, 2014:

Location: Civil Defense Center, 7220 State Rte. 54, Bath, NY 14810

Time: 8:30am—3pm **both days**

Hosted by: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County.

For more information, contact Craig Kahlke at cjk37@cornell.edu or (585) 735-5448.

Farm Food Safety Training with GAPs

January 6-7, 2014

8:30 am Registration & Refreshments; 9:00 am - 3:30 pm Training

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County
480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Cornell Vegetable Program, the Cornell Lake Ontario Fruit Team, the Produce Safety Alliance, and the Cornell National GAPs Program, with assistance from New York Department of Agriculture & Markets, will be presenting a training for farm food safety or Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), including Harmonized GAPs.

Open to all fresh produce farms and related industry people.

This workshop is partially funded through a grant from the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority.

In recent years, several food borne illness outbreaks in produce have made national news. Both the produce industry and the federal government have stepped up demands for fruit and vegetable farms to meet food safety practice standards. These standards are known as GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices).

A new program, **Harmonized GAPs**, has been developed to combine several food safety certifications into one program. New York's retail produce buyers, such as Wegmans, are asking growers to adopt Harmonized GAPs certification in many cases.

In response, Cornell National GAPs Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension have developed a multi-day workshop.

Monday, January 6

- What is GAPs?
- How does GAPs work?
- What does it mean for my farming operations?

Tuesday, January 7

- Write a food safety plan for your farm*

Optional supplemental session

- Mock audit (at a participant's farm during the growing season)

\$60.00 per person registration includes educational materials, lunch and refreshments. Add \$15.00 each for additional attendee from the same farm.

Register online at cvp.cce.cornell.edu or mail in your registration form and payment.

Pre-register by Thursday, January 2, 2014. Space is limited!

* A laptop computer is required for the second day. If you need to borrow a computer, please let us know in advance. If you are not computer savvy, please bring a person with you that has computer knowledge and skills.

For more information about this training, contact Craig Kahlke, Lake Ontario Fruit Team, at cjk37@cornell.edu or 585-735-5448.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

To see a full listing of upcoming farm food safety trainings, go to www.gaps.cornell.edu

REGISTRATION

Farm Food Safety Training with GAPs

January 6-7, 2014

8:30 am Registration & Refreshments; 9:00 am - 3:30 pm Training

CCE Ontario County, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Pre-register by Thursday, January 2, 2014. Space is limited!

Name _____ \$60.00

Farm/Business Name _____

Additional Attendee (from the same farm) _____ \$15 each

Additional Attendee (from the same farm) _____ \$15 each

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

A laptop computer is required on January 7.
Check here if you would like to borrow a laptop

TOTAL DUE _____

Make checks payable to: **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Return registration form and payment to: Cornell Cooperative Extension
Attn: Angela Parr
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

ON THE ORGANIC SIDE...

Biologically Based Organic Management Strategies for Spotted Wing Drosophila

Join eOrganic for a webinar on biologically based organic management strategies for Spotted Wing Drosophila.

The webinar will take place on February 11, 2014 at 2PM Eastern Time (1 PM Central, 12PM Mountain, 11AM Pacific Time).

The webinar is free and open to the public and advance registration is required. Attendees will be able to type in questions for the presenters.

Register now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/720633376>

About the Webinar

The webinar will cover the biology and management of spotted wing Drosophila, a recent pest of berry and cherry crops across the United States, and the unique challenges and approaches that are relevant for organic producers. The presenters will provide the latest research-based information on what is known about its life-cycle and ability to survive in a range of climates; the current knowledge of biological and cultural controls that can be employed to reduce the pressure from SWD; and the efficacy of certified organic approaches for its control.

Find all upcoming and recorded eOrganic webinars at <http://www.extension.org/pages/25242>

About the Presenters

Vaughn Walton of Oregon State University focuses on resolving key entomological industry needs in the Pacific Northwest with a

current focus on Spotted Wing Drosophila, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, mealybugs and sustainable pest management in hazelnut orchards. He aims to provide environmentally sustainable and minimal impact pest management strategies for agriculturalists in Oregon and further afield.

Dr. Rufus Isaacs is a Professor of Entomology at Michigan State University and is also the berry crops extension specialist for the state. He directs an applied research and extension program aimed at improving insect management in the many small fruit farms of the state. His lab works on projects related to insect pests, beneficials, and pollinators, and research results are extended to growers through various on-farm, online, conference, and print venues.

Hannah Burrack of North Carolina State University studies the biology and management of insect pests and pollinators in blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, and tobacco. The main goal of her research is to determine how insects select host plants and to develop strategies to prevent or reduce their feeding. She and her colleagues work with a wide range of growers and Extension agents to deliver recommendations based on the results of their work.

System Requirements

Java needs to be installed and working on your computer to join the webinar and the webinar. If you have concerns, please test your Java at http://java.com/en/download/test_java.jsp prior to joining the

webinar. If you are running Mac OS X 10.5 with Safari, please be sure to test your Java. If it isn't working, please try Firefox (<http://www.mozilla.com>) or Chrome (<http://www.google.com/chrome>)

The webinar program will require you to download software before connecting you to the webinar, so if you don't have administrative rights on your computer, you may not be able to do this, although you can listen in by phone.

If you'd like to test your connection to gotowebinar in advance, go [here](#).



ON THE ORGANIC SIDE... (continued)

January 24-26, 2014 - NOFA-NY 32nd Annual Winter Conference: Preserving the Past, Seeding the Future,

Saratoga Hilton & City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY. For a complete schedule of events, registration, scholarship applications, and other information, visit www.nofanyconference.org, or call (585)271-1979 ext. 509.

Click [here](#) to register online. If you have questions, please email Stephanie Backer-Bertsch, Registration Coordinator, at register@nofany.org.

January 24-26, 2014 - NOFA-NY 32nd Annual Winter Conference: Special Workshop on SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA

Friday, January 24th, 2014, 1:15pm – 4:30pm.

Does SWD have you (and your berries) down? Learn ways to fight back with the organic control management options that can be combined to work on your farm. This workshop starts by covering the basic biology of SWD, its regional (and international!) distribution, and the crops that it currently or potentially impacts (berries, grapes, soft tree fruit, and maybe even tomatoes!).

Presenters will share the most current research and what showed promise at their farm trials this season. SWD controls covered during this workshop include cultural practices like exclusion and netting, mass trapping, and altered post-harvest handling of berries, as well as spray options including which pesticides effect this tricky pest, how to apply them, and potential bio-controls.

Presenters: Emily Cook, Ulster

County CCE's Commercial Organic Production Resource Educator.
Laura McDermott, CCED
Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program.
Lawrie Nickerson, Hay Berry Farm, Hoosick Falls, NY.

Workshop Agenda
Managing Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) in Organic Berry Plantings

1:15 - Introductions and Announcements

1:20 – The Problem: SWD get here and why we are concerned? – Understand the Enemy: Basic Biology and Life Cycle of SWD – Emily Cook

1:30 – Cultural Management Strategies including monitoring, exclusion, mass trapping, crop management etc. - Laura McDermott – CCE, ENYCHP

2:10 – Using Organic Pesticides to Control SWD: Rotation, Application and Safety – Emily Klamberg-Cook, CCE Ulster County

2:50 – Break

3:00 – How I used netting to

effectively control SWD at Hayberry Farm – Lawrie Nickerson, Hayberry Farm, Rensselaer County

3:45 – Research Updates for SWD Management: Biocontrol, pheromones and more show promise– Tim Lampansona, Cornell University, Hudson Valley Lab

4:15 – Post Harvest Handling and Treatments - an important aspect of SWD control – Emily Cook, CCE Ulster County

4:30 - Adjourn

USDA Grants Support Organic Agriculture Research

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 2013. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) today awarded five grants to support research, education and Extension programs that will improve the competitiveness of organic livestock and crop producers.

"The organic industry is a rapidly growing segment of American agriculture and it is important we continue to invest

ON THE ORGANIC SIDE... (continued)

in sound science to support organic producers," said Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The discoveries these grants enable can help farmers who are looking to adopt the best organic practices that will make their operations more competitive and sustainable."

The grants disbursed include more than \$3 million through the Organic Transitions Program (ORG). ORG is an essential part of USDA's commitment to the organic farm sector. USDA's flagship program to fund organic production, the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI), currently remains unauthorized to continue until a new Farm Bill is passed by Congress.

Fiscal Year 2013 ORG awards include:

- University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., \$675,719. This project focuses on developing sustainable wholefarm systems for organic pecan production in the Southeast.
- Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., \$464,482. This project will develop alternatives to antibiotics for fire blight control in organic crops.
- University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn., \$718,225. This project will create a series of online, interactive educational modules with a focus on the fundamentals of organic agriculture and how to transition to organic farming.
- University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, \$746,973. This project focuses on launching an innovative new

academic program that engages students in rigorous, well-designed research projects designed to address real-world problems faced by organic farmers in south Texas.

- Washington State University, Pullman, Wash., \$749,661. This project examines whether, over time, the adoption of organic farming improves natural pest control.

This year, NIFA also awarded \$847,637 in continuation awards to previous ORG awardees. North Carolina State University's project seeking to understand the impact of organic systems in the Southeastern United States on greenhouse gas emissions and educate stakeholders and students about maximizing the mitigation potential of these systems received Fiscal Year 2013 continuation funding. Also receiving an award that will allow them to build on prior research accomplishments is Texas AgriLife Research for their program to quantify the effects of cover crops, organic soil amendments, and cultivar choice on rice yield, milling quality, soil quality, soil carbon sequestration, and greenhouse gas emissions.

In fiscal year 2013, ORG priorities included determining "ecosystem services", i.e., environmental benefits, provided by organic farming systems in the area of soil conservation and climate change mitigation, including reduction of greenhouse gases. In addition, ORG helps develop educational tools for Cooperative Extension personnel and other agricultural professionals who advise producers on organic practices. ORG also supports the organic industry to develop

appropriate practices and materials to correspond with the National Organic Program's National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. More information on the program may be found online at www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/organictransitionsprogram.cfm. Since the late 1990s, U.S. organic production has grown significantly. U.S. producers are increasingly turning to certified organic farming systems as a potential way to decrease reliance on nonrenewable resources, capture high-value markets and premium prices, and boost farm income. Today, more than two-thirds of U.S. consumers buy organic products at least occasionally, and 28 percent buy organic products weekly. Through federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs, NIFA focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future. More information is at www.nifa.usda.gov.



No-Fear Financial Records: Online Course Starts Jan 13th

Step One to farming profitably is having organized financial records. Step Two is knowing how to read what those records are telling you. If you don't yet have a record-keeping system set up, or you aren't happy with your current system, have no fear! The upcoming 6-week online course [BF 104: Financial Records: Setting Up Systems to Track Your Profitability](#) is perfect for you. This course will help you create a record-keeping system that is as simple or complex as you need it to be, in Excel or Quickbooks.

(Incidentally, Step Three to farming profitably is taking corrective action if you don't like what your current financial records tell you about your business. But that's covered in [BF 203: Holistic Financial Planning](#))

"It's been hard for me to take my focus off production and spend time on record keeping - it always falls to the end of my long to-do list. But this course made me realize that once I have a good system set up, it doesn't have to take long to maintain, and the information I get from these records is helping me feel much more confident about my farm." -farmer participant from Jan. 2013 BF 104 course

If you complete the course you will:

- Appreciate why keeping farm financial records is essential.
- Be familiar with how a financial record keeping system is organized and why it is beneficial for farmers.
- Be able to set up a simple spread sheet (MS Excel) and software program (QuickBooks Pro) to start financial data collection.
- Learn to calculate simple business ratios to assist in management decisions.
- Discover requirements used by lending institutions to make loan determinations.

The course runs Mon. Jan. 13 - Feb 17, with webinars once weekly on Mon. evenings from 6:30-8:00pm EST. The cost is \$200, and multiple people from the same farm may participate without paying extra.

See the [BF 104: Financial Records](#) course description for more on the target audience, instructors, and course outline.

[BF 104: Financial Records - Setting Up Systems to Track Your Profitability](#) is part of the line-up of [12 online courses](#) offered this Fall, Winter and Spring by the Cornell Small Farms Program. To learn more about each course, please visit <http://nebeginningfarmers.org/online-courses>. From this site you can learn more about our instructors, see answers to Frequently Asked Questions, read details for each course, and view the calendar of course offerings for 2013-2014.

Courses often fill very quickly, so don't miss your chance to sign up today!

Cornell University
Department of Horticulture

134 Plant Science Bldg.
Ithaca, NY 14853

PHONE:
607-255-4568/1789

FAX: 607-255-0599

E-MAIL:
hort@cornell.edu

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://hort.cals.cornell.edu/>

New York Berry News (NYBN) is a monthly commercial berry production newsletter provided by Cornell berry team members. It is designed to help promote and strengthen commercial berry crop production in New York State. NYBN is available free of charge in pdf format at:

<http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/nybn/> .

Visit the NYBN web site to view back issues or to subscribe to monthly e-mail notices with table of contents and a link to the most current issue.

More on individual team members and their areas of expertise may be found at: <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/berry/berryteam.htm>.

Questions or comments about the New York Berry News?

Ms. Cathy Heidenreich
Cornell University Dept. of Horticulture – Geneva Campus
630 W. North Street, Geneva, NY 14456
315-787-2367
mcm4@cornell.edu

Editor's Note: We are happy to have you reprint from the NY Berry News. Please cite the source when reprinting. In addition, we request you send a courtesy [e-mail](#) indicating the NYBN volume, issue, and title, and reference citation for the reprint. Thank you.

***Cornell University provides equal program and employment opportunity.**

Upcoming Events

January 6-7, 2014. *Food Safety Training with GAPs.* CCE Ontario County, Canandaigua, NY. More information or to register: <http://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/>.

January 21-23, 2014. *Empire State Producers EXPO.* OnCenter, Syracuse, NY. More information or to register: <http://nysvga.org/expo/information/>.

January 28-30, 2014. *Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention and North American Raspberry and Blackberry Growers Association Annual Meeting.* Hershey, PA. More information: <http://www.mafvc.org/> or <http://www.raspberryblackberry.com/>.

February 27-28, 2014. *Food Safety Training with GAPs.* CCE Steuben County, Bath, NY. More information or to register: <http://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/>.

June 18-25, 2015 – 11th International Rubus & Ribes Symposium, in Asheville, NC, June 21-25, with preconference tour to farms and research sites June 18-20. More info to come. If you are interested in being a sponsor of this event, contact gina.fernandez@ncsu.edu.
