

# FARM & GARDEN



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Chemung & Tioga Counties

**NEWS AND NOTES FOR FARMERS & GARDENERS IN CHEMUNG AND TIOGA COUNTIES**

June 2019

## News From CCE

*By Barb Neal, CCE Tioga*

It is June, so if you are like me, you are chasing the sun trying to catch up on all the farming and gardening tasks that have eluded us due to the rainy spring we have been having. I still have most of my garden to plant!

Thanks to all who came to our plant sales—what a wonderful way our community thanks the Master Gardeners of our two counties.

Ponds are everywhere and it seems everyone with a pond has questions about it! If you have a pond or are thinking about putting one in, see the workshop announcement on page 6. This should be a not-to-be-missed presentation.

Time to get back in the garden.....

### Inside this issue:

- Handling cattle
- Sounds of Spring
- Pleas for Bees
- Heat vs. Drought—what will affect crops more?
- Lots of workshops
- And more!



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**Workshop: Invasive plants in the home landscape**

**June 18, 2019; 4:00 – 5:00 PM.** Many established gardens in the Elmira area have plants that are now classified as invasive. What is an invasive plant? Why is managing invasives so important? What can you plant instead of these once popular plants? Join Master Gardener, Barbara Classen, at the Steele library, 4:00-5:00 pm on June 18<sup>th</sup> to learn how to cope with invasive plants in your home landscape.

**Speaker:** Barbara Classen, Chemung County Master Gardener

**Place:** Steele Memorial Library (Large Conference Room), 101 E Church Street, Elmira, NY

**Workshop fee:** Free, but a \$3 suggested donation helps support our Horticulture program.

Please register with Chemung CCE at 607-734-4453. [Ext 208](#)

Tri City Farm Tour a Success!

The weather was not spectacular, but that did not dampen the spirits of all the adults and children that toured the farms of Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. One look at the smiles of the children lets you know the importance of knowing how farmers take care of their animals and crops. These pictures were taken at (clockwise, from right) Iron Kettle Farm, Side Hill Goat Dairy, and Twin Brook Farm.



For more specific information about the Chemung County Master Gardener program, please contact Jingjing Yin at 607-734-4453 or [jy578@cornell.edu](mailto:jy578@cornell.edu).

For more information about the Tioga County Master Gardener program, please contact Barb Neal at 607-687-4020 or [ban1@cornell.edu](mailto:ban1@cornell.edu).



## Warming Up the Organs to Make Music

Paul Hetzler, CCE St. Lawrence

Every spring, Mother Nature takes the choir out of the freezer. The choir to which I refer is that all-male horde of early-spring frogs: spring peepers, wood frogs, and chorus frogs. Even while an ice rind still clings to the pond edges, untold numbers of these guys roust themselves from torpor to sing for female attention.

While in our species it is mostly an inflated ego which causes males to become unusually loud attention-mongers when seeking mates, an inflated vocal sac is what allows male frogs to be so noisy. This air-filled structure balloons out and acts as a resonance chamber to amplify sound. I don't know how it is with all frog species, but the inflated vocal sac of a peeper is almost as big as it is. This contrasts with the human male, whose ego can sometimes swell to many times his body size.

Spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) are the most vocal of the trio, and their song is the most widely recognized. I'd describe their call as a sweet, shrill—let's see—peep, shall we say. Singly or in small groups it is melodious, and a large population of them can be deafening (some people with atypical hearing ranges describe it as painful).

The rough "X" (or cross; hence the species name) on their backs help identify this tan, inch-long amphibian with toe pads similar to those of a tree frog. Peepers can in fact climb trees, but for whatever reason they seldom do. Maybe there is no need to climb because they can practically fly. Peepers can jump 40 to 50 times their body length.

If it quacks like a duck, it's not always a duck. Wood frogs (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) are plenty vocal, though their calls don't carry as far as other frogs' do. Their call is a short quack, not so much like they are imitating a duck call, but more like they are inspired by it. I have sometimes thought it sounds like barking, but that may be a minority opinion.

As their name indicates, wood frogs spend considerable time in the forest, wintering over in the leaf litter, and breeding in shallow ephemeral pools in the woods. Measuring around 2 ½ inches long, they are brown to copper-colored, with a raccoon-like dark mask across their eyes.

Every time I approach a group of wood frogs in early spring I am tempted to set up a curtain or something so they can have privacy. Let's just say they are rather animat-

ed and communal in their business dealings, in addition to being very public. Wood frogs create large collective egg masses, apparently not a common practice in the frog world.

If winter's frost is more than a few inches deep, both spring peepers and wood frogs freeze solid for several months at a time. Obviously they have some kind of super-powers, namely that they pump cellular water outside the cell walls. They also produce antifreeze to help prevent tissue damage at below-freezing temps.

It turns out that among other chemicals, they create ethylene glycol, the same thing you put in your car radiator. If more than a quart of this compound is released into the environment, it's considered a "reportable quantity," and therefore a hazardous spill that must be disclosed to regulators. I don't know how many winterized peepers or wood frogs it would take to constitute a quart of ethylene glycol, but good luck getting them to register with the EPA, right?

The choir wouldn't be complete without the aptly named chorus frog. Our boreal, or upland, chorus frog (*Pseudacris kalmi*) is one- to 1 ½- inches long, greenish-gray to brown, with three dark stripes down its back. More or less the backup singers for spring peepers, their call is a melodious, trilling "crreeek" that lasts a second or two. Listen for this understated song amidst the nonstop cacophony of peepers.

If you've ever run your fingernail along the teeth of a cheap, hard-plastic comb, you've approximated their call. Go easy on the comb, though, or you may have female chorus frogs following you around.



Spring peeper on a tree trunk. Image from Wikipedia

## Stockmanship Training with Curt Pate: It's All about Pressure



You've been handling cattle for years, and you do it every day, so what's there to think about? At the recent Dairy Managers Training Program, Curt Pate, a rancher and stockmanship expert from Montana, demonstrated that there actually is a lot to think about. Dairy cattle have been domesticated for a long time, and they are handled daily, so it's easy to forget how big of an impact our presence can have on them.

How we handle cattle can significantly affect both their mental state and their productivity. Curt explained that animals can't be in "survival" mode and "growth" mode at the same time, so if we are mishandling them, and creating a stressful environment, their health and production will be negatively impacted. We need to therefore design barns and handle cows effectively to minimize stress and keep the animal in "growth" mode.

Barn and facility design plays a critical role in minimizing stress and making it easier to move cattle, but ultimately it is up to the handler to use the right technique and apply the right pressure to move the cows successfully. As Curt says, moving cattle does not take physical strength, it takes your mind. You need to be smart, aware, and present to effectively move cattle. While cattle handling should be low stress, it also requires you to know how to apply effective pressure at the right time.

There are three types of pressure that a person can use on cattle – driving, drawing, and maintaining.

Driving pressure is just what it implies – it is pressure used to move or "drive" cattle away from us to a specific location. Driving pressure can be a person, a crowd gate, or a dog.

Drawing pressure is the opposite of that, and can be slightly harder to achieve. Drawing pressure involves getting the attention of the animal and having the animal walk towards that pressure. Drawing pressure

can be the sound of pen gates opening or the sound of the vacuum pump, or movements by a person to draw animals closer to them.

The third type of pressure, maintaining pressure, involves being able to maintain the animal's attention, without having them move towards or away from that pressure. Maintaining pressure can be the hardest to achieve, as it is asking the cow to wait to make a decision on which way it will go.

When working cattle, they have two options: they can react to a situation, or they can think about the situation before they respond. Rather than having cows that use only their instinct and react to every situation, we can work with our cows to have them think about a situation. Over time, this tendency to have cows think first before reacting can be trained. Depending on how they are handled, however, cows can switch back and forth between thinking and reacting. This makes every moment working with animals a learning experience, as the handler can recognize movements that either engage the cow's brain or switch it off.

Different situations call for different kinds of pressure. Driving pressure is effective for moving cows to the parlor. When moving animals quickly, a handler can use their movement behind the cow to allow the cow to watch them move from the left side of the cow to the right side of the cow. Because a cow's eyes are located on the side of their head, a handler can utilize this when handling by "switching eyes" on the cow. A cow would prefer to stop and turn to look at the handler, but by moving from one side to the other and switching eyes, the cow is continually propelled forward. If the handler just worked from one side of the cow, the cow would eventually stop and turn at least her head, if not her whole body, to fully see the handler. The handler can maintain this forward movement by constantly applying pressure from eye to eye behind the cow.

When getting cows up off their beds, handlers will often stand next to the cow and tap the stall divider or speak to the cow to encourage her to get up. A different strategy explained by Curt involves the handler rocking back and forth from left leg to right leg to encourage the cow to stand up and back out of her stall. This constant movement applies different pressure to the cow that will drive her up and back out of the stall, rather than allowing her to stand and wait for further pressure from the handler. The constant movement keeps the cow just a little bit out of her comfort zone, and she will back out of her stall with little encouragement other than the rocking.

Sorting cows utilizes drawing pressure to be most effective. Many handlers will work cattle in close proximity, with that area getting smaller and smaller as more animals are

sorted out of the group. Using drawing pressure allows a greater area around the group of cows. The cow's attention is drawn to the handler as he or she backs up and away from the group. Cattle will spread out and even move towards the handler. Driving pressure can then be used to make a certain cow go the desired direction.

The amount of pressure used in any given situation is about the balance of the cow in that particular moment. If the handler is between a cow and the herd, her balance point is actually behind the handler with the rest of the herd. Using the point of the shoulder of the cow is too close of a balance point, and will likely be ineffective on this cow. She will probably try to move past the handler because the shoulder is too close to the handler to make her move any other way other than to move to the herd. Distance should be factored in when trying to effectively move this cow, and pressure used earlier on to allow for this point of balance being so far behind the handler. The handler should always try to maintain the cow in the "thinking" part of her brain.

The handler wants her to use her mind first, then her feet. The handler should work with her and her balance points in that moment to turn her when sorting and get her to stop with both front feet and ears forward when approaching the handler. This movement shows she is "thinking" rather than reacting. The handler's movements and pressure will allow her to walk past if she's thinking, rather than running past if she's reacting. Working with heifers to train them on this can be helpful in avoiding injuries from cattle. Allowing cattle to run past a handler only teaches them to disregard space; maintaining that thinking action in the cow allows the cow to grow and respond more calmly the next time she's in that situation.

As a handler, there are other situations that might be useful to consider. When loading cows on to a trailer, the loading height should be as level as possible. Also, the surface appearance should be as consistent as possible from the barn to the trailer. For example, putting shavings on the floor of the barn and shavings on the trailer eases the transition from one to the other. In addition, many handlers have found that having the engine of the truck that is attached to the trailer being shut off is helpful.

Additional time and patience should be used to move cows when they are overstocked, in the sick or lame pen, or under heat stress. In any of these situations, the movement of the cow is compromised, whether by her health or physical constraints within the pen. Allowing for ample time to move these cows will benefit all parties, as it will be less stressful and movement more intentional.

Young heifers should also be allowed more time and patience when handled. Time spent with these groups of animals will help in the long run, especially if we take the time to train them to "think" rather than react. Many handlers have been knocked over by heifers losing their footing as they run by and slip on manure. Keeping these heifers thinking will minimize their reactions and make move-

ment more deliberate and less chaotic.

Some dairy farms also utilize bulls. While this is not recommended from a safety standpoint, a farm that runs bulls in their pens should properly train their employees to handle them appropriately. When working with bulls, handlers should be able to turn the bull with minimal driving pressure. Bulls should be worked with to maintain that relationship and space requirement of the human, but above all else, handlers need to be vigilant and pay attention to any changes in attitude or demeanor of the bull. Once a bull fails to respect the driving pressure and space requirement of the handler, that bull should be out the door.

Cows should know the difference between when they're being worked and when they're not being worked. For instance, we don't want cows to get up every time we enter the pen, but we do want to effectively get them up to move them to the parlor when it's their time to be milked. Adopting a mannerism when you're moving cows is helpful to let them know what to expect. This can be in the way the handler carries him or herself, eye contact with the animal, utilizing that rocking movement to back cows out of a stall, and making a certain noise when driving pressure is being used.

A good stockman doesn't do the same thing every day no matter the situation. They adapt to the cow and the situation and utilize different amounts and forms of pressure to achieve movement. Keep this in mind as you are moving cows next time and be aware of the type of pressure you are applying and how the cows are reacting. Remember, mind first, then feet.

*This post was co-authored by Lindsay Ferlito and Betsy Hicks, Dairy Specialists with Cornell Cooperative Extension.*





## **Pond Workshop**

**June 12, 2019; 4 to 6pm**

**GST BOCES BUSH Campus**

**459 Philo Rd, Elmira, NY 14903**

**Building 3: Rooms 306 & 308**

### **Topics:**

- Site Selection
- Pond Construction
- Aquatic Weeds & Weed Control
- Algae Control
- And More

Free to attend. Class size limited to 25 individuals, ages 12 years old and up. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to pre-register, please contact Shona Ort at 607-734-4453 ext 227 or [sbo6@cornell.edu](mailto:sbo6@cornell.edu).

**This workshop is a collaboration of CCE Chemung, Chemung SWCD, and GST BOCES Conservation Program.**



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## GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES APPLICATION WINDOW IS OPEN FOR GROW-NY FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL COMPETITION (*Excerpt*)

\$3 Million Competition Aims to Transform Food and Agriculture Industry in Upstate New York

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the application window is now open for round one of the Grow-NY food and agriculture competition. The competition is focused on growing an enduring food and agriculture innovation cluster in New York's Finger Lakes, Central New York and Southern Tier regions. The competition, which will run for three rounds, will offer a total of \$3 million in funding for each round to innovative high-growth start-ups that are focused on the food and agriculture industry. Applications are open to start-ups from across the globe competing to win a \$1 million top prize, two \$500,000 prizes and four \$250,000 prizes.

"New York's agricultural industry is one of the best in world, and the Grow-NY competition will attract innovative start-ups focused on this industry to put down roots in Upstate New York," Governor Cuomo said. "By bringing in new companies to find new ways to transform our state's food and agricultural industry, we are continuing to bolster these regional economies and foster growth in this critical industry statewide."

Funding for the Grow-NY competition will be provided through the Upstate Revitalization Initiatives connected with the three regions - Finger Lakes Forward, CNY Rising and Southern Tier Soaring. More information about Grow-NY is available here <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=575d21d9-0b7b19e7-575fd8ec-000babda0031-ff5a8c1f2b625aab&u=https://grow-ny.com/>.

Applications for the Grow-NY competition will be accepted through July 15, 2019. From those applications, up to 20 semi-finalists will be selected and will enter a mentoring and business development phase from August to November. They will pitch their businesses to a panel of industry judges at the Grow-NY Food and Agriculture Summit, a public symposium and tradeshow set for November 12th and 13th at Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Based on these pitches and accompanying business plans, the judges will announce the seven winners who will receive prize money based on the following five criteria:

- \* **Viability of Commercialization and Business Model:** the potential for the entrant to generate revenue and maintain a cost structure that allows for a competitive and sustainable business, demonstrate technological readiness or innovate to fulfill its value proposition;

- \* **Customer Value:** the degree to which the entrant is providing something for which customers are willing to

pay, and addressing a substantial market;

- \* **Food and Agriculture Innovation:** the extent to which the entrant is pushing what's considered state-of-the-art in the food and agriculture industries, and contributing to Upstate New York's status as a global leader in innovation in these markets;

- \* **Regional Job Creation:** the potential for creating high-quality jobs in the Grow-NY footprint; and

- \* **Team:** the quality and completeness of the team and its readiness to deliver.

*Editor's note: This is an excerpt from a press release. If you would like to apply for this competition, please let your agriculture educator (Barb or Shona) know and we will try to help you with the application.*



It's the time of year when bees swarm, and the reaction of most people is to get scared and pull out bug spray. Not so fast, says Cornell University's pollinator network, which also offers alternatives.

Emma Mullen, Cornell's Senior Honey Bee Extension Associate, advises that if you see a swarm, report it so that a swarm catching beekeeper can come and take them to a place where they'll have a better chance to survive. Cornell has published as county by county list of bee keepers who'll come to help (most will offer the service for free) **Swarm-catching beekeepers in New York** state can be found here: <https://pollinator.cals.cornell.edu/resources/removing-your-swarms/>

Why do bees swarm? It's a way for the bees to expand their numbers: Mullen says a queen will leave the hive with daughters, and they swarm on a branch or other structure while they decide where their new home will be. If you see a swarm, you should report it as soon as possible, so the insects can be moved to safety.

Most swarms occur between mid-May and mid-July in New York, though they can happen as late as September. It's believe that over the past ten years, New York has lost between 42 and 68 percent of its bee colonies EACH YEAR.

Though swarms may look scary, they offer hope for the bee's future, which is vital to our food production. Think twice before you reach for the bug spray....

## Heat, not drought, will drive lower crop yields, researchers say

By [Amanda Garris](#) | *Cornell Chronicle* May 28, 2019

Cornell researchers have weighed in on a high-stakes debate between crop experts and scientists: Which of climate change's challenges – higher temperature or stress from drought – poses the greater threat to U.S. rain-fed agriculture?

“There is a big divide in this field, and we thought there must be some way to resolve this puzzle,” said [Ariel Ortiz-Bobea](#), assistant professor of applied economics and management and CoBank/Farm Credit East Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow in Production Economics and Sustainability.

Using decades' worth of data from government and other sources, the researchers predict that climate change-induced heat stress will play a larger role than drought stress in reducing the yields of several major U.S. crops later this century. That has major implications for crop management as well as plant breeding.

The researchers' findings are reported in “[Unpacking the Climatic Drivers of U.S. Agricultural Yields](#),” published May 24 in *Environmental Research Letters*. Contributors included [Toby Ault](#), assistant professor of earth and atmospheric sciences; postdoctoral associate Carlos Carrillo; and Haoying Wang, assistant professor of management at New Mexico Tech.

While simulations based on mechanistic crop models anticipate water supply will substantially drive future crop yields, statistical models – which capture the relationship between observed crop yields and weather – have not.

“My hypothesis was that empiricists like myself have not been able to accurately measure the water available to plants,” Ortiz-Bobea said. “If one cannot measure water availability, then one cannot measure its effect on yield properly. . . . [D]rought tolerance and heat tolerance are associated with different traits in plant breeding, and it requires significant time to incorporate them into new varieties.”

Ortiz-Bobea and his team incorporated information from three sources to develop a statistical crop yield model for six crops: maize, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, spring wheat and winter wheat. They tapped more than three decades of crop yield records from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, weather data from the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University, and hourly snapshots of soil moisture content at nine-mile intervals across all of North America from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA.

The researchers' analysis revealed that soil moisture alone was the best predictor of year-to-year variations in yield across the past four decades. Harvests were particularly

sensitive to drought stress in the middle portion of the growing season. For example, reducing soil moisture by 30% from historical averages was linked to an 18% reduction in maize yield. However, slightly dry conditions appeared beneficial for some crops around harvest.

“When we improved how we measure water availability, we were able to tease out nuances within the growing season, such as that wet conditions and dry conditions have different effects, depending on the crop's growth stage,” said Ortiz-Bobea, a 2017-2018 Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts fellow with Cornell's [Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future](#).

The team then applied its statistical model to climate change scenarios ranging from mild to severe. The analysis projects that temperature, which the authors interpret as heat stress, will be the primary climatic driver of crop yields in 2050 and 2100. Under the mildest scenario, yields for the six crops are predicted to decrease by 8% to 19%, relative to a world without climate change. Under the most severe scenario, the projected yield reductions range from 20% to 48%.

The greatest losses are forecasted for maize and spring wheat, but more resilient crops such as sorghum, which is half as sensitive to high temperature as maize, will experience less damage.

Co-author Ault noted climate change projections show that many of the food-producing counties in the United States could become drier in the summer even if rainfall increases. In a changing climate, this could motivate farmers to plant earlier, but that approach to adaptation can be thwarted by heavy rains during the late spring, as many regions are experiencing this year.

“The work highlights two major challenges for adapting to a changing climate,” Ault said. “First, how do we deal with increases in temperature that through higher evaporation rates could surpass increases in precipitation? And second, how can we start to envision an agricultural system of the 21st century that is equipped to handle the remarkable shifts in seasonality that might occur?”

The study was partially funded by the Atkinson Center through its Faculty Fellowship for the Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts program.

*Amanda Garris is a freelance writer for the Atkinson Center.*



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## News, Notes and Workshops for Tioga and Chemung County Farmers and Gardeners

### Wild Mushroom Walks and Talks

Sunday, July 21, 2019, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM The Art of Foraging for Fungi.

Sunday, October 20, 2019, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Mushroom hunting, identification and their uses.

Join Dominic Costa and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County to dive into the Art of Mushroom hunting. Knowing the forest and the plants that inhabit those eco systems will allow you to search in the right location for each species of mushroom. Classes are Sundays from 1pm-3pm. \$25 registration fee per session or if you register for all 3 sessions you will get a free book Mushrooms of the Northeast. Contact: Call Roger Ort at 607-535-7161 for more details. To register please follow this link: [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/wildmushroomwalksandtalks\\_244](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/wildmushroomwalksandtalks_244)

### Funds Available to Help Farmers Address Climate Change Impacts

Governor Cuomo announced an additional \$5 million has been added to the Resilient Farming Program in an effort to combat the effects climate change has on agriculture. There is currently \$2.3 million available to help farmers reduce their environmental impact and recover from extreme weather conditions. Eligible projects include waste storage, water management and soil health. Learn more and apply by May 13.

### 2019 Cornell Maple Camp

July 23- 26, 2019. Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County. Cornell Maple Camp provides intensive, hands-on training for beginner and less experienced maple producers. The 4-day curriculum begins with sugarbush assessment, then builds sequentially through all phases of maple syrup production from sap collection to boiling, bottling and sales. Participants will gain the skills necessary for the safe, efficient and profitable production of maple products. Classroom sessions will be held in the Schuyler County Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Montour Falls. Field sessions will take place in the Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in Van Etten. The cost for the training and meals is \$250 per person. A group discount is available at the rate of \$250 for the first registrant and \$200 for each additional registrant. Additional information and the online registration are available at the links below. Contact Aaron Wightman at [arw6@cornell.edu](mailto:arw6@cornell.edu) with questions or comments.

Registration here: [https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_e5y3aB9tQETjKrH](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e5y3aB9tQETjKrH)

Agenda here: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/cornellmaple/files/2015/03/2019-Cornell-Maple-Camp-Agenda-2-27cx1uy.docx>

### Save the Date! Taste of Chemung 2019

On Thursday September 26, 2019 from 6 to 8 pm, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County (CCE Chemung) will be having their annual Taste of Chemung. This event will take place at the Community Arts of Elmira (413 Lake St, Elmira, NY 14901). Ticket cost prior to Thursday September 26, 2019 will be \$35 per person or \$30 if 4 or more tickets are purchased together. All tickets purchased the day of the event will be \$40 per person. The tickets will go on sale this summer. Please contact Shona Ort at 607-734-4453 ext 227 or [sbo6@cornell.edu](mailto:sbo6@cornell.edu) to receive the announcement of when tickets go on sale.

### Growing a Woodland Farm and Homestead June 14-16

This 3 day class takes place at 3 amazing locations, Well-spring Farm (with Steve Gabriel), Edible Acres (with Sean Dembrosky), and Twisted Tree Farm with me. For more information or to register visit <http://events.wellspringforestfarm.com/>

### 2019 New York Christmas Tree Farmers Summer Meeting to be held in Marion

*CTFANY Summer Meeting lets members and growers Connect, Learn, and Grow*

SALEM, NY. June 3, 2019 -- The Christmas Tree Farmers Association of NY (CTFANY) is pleased to invite members and other interested growers to its 2019 Summer Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, July 11, through Saturday, July 13. Every summer, the members of the organization travel to a different member's farm to network, share, learn, and catch up with each other after a busy winter season.

The program kicks off on Thursday July 11 at noon with tours of other members' farms in the vicinity of the host farm, and attendees are invited to gather at Woody Acres for a welcome reception following the conclusion of the day's tours. See the map and schedule on our website [www.christmastreesny.org](http://www.christmastreesny.org).

On Friday and Saturday, attendees can take in educational programming on a variety of topics during more than 20 workshop sessions, walking tours, hands-on demos, and meetings. There will be a special focus on the needs of new and beginning growers in the sessions on Saturday, but everyone is welcome to attend sessions both days. There will be opportunities to receive NYS-DEC Pesticide Applicator Credits for some of the sessions.

Session topics include capital gains treatment, glyphosate and other pesticides, agritourism, first aid and farm safety, opportunities available in wholesaling, decorating, and more.

In addition, attendees can meet with a CPA and local political officials. There will also be a vendor tent, where more than 25 vendors are expected to be present.

All workshops are open to members and non-members alike. People thinking of getting into Christmas tree farming as well as experienced growers are encouraged to attend. This will be an excellent opportunity to network with other growers and to learn from experts in the field.

The full schedule is available on the CTFANY website – [www.christmastreesny.org](http://www.christmastreesny.org). Information about registration and hotel accommodations is available on the site as well; there are other events happening in that region of New York State during this time period so attendees are encouraged to reserve a hotel room as soon as possible.

Founded in 1953, the mission of the Christmas Tree Farmers' Association of New York (CTFANY) is to empower our members in the development of the real Christmas tree industry. CTFANY provides information and opportunities for its members that include national visibility and stature, quality production, preservation, education, pride in our products, and customer satisfaction. We provide education to the public about the real tree industry, enabling the public to purchase and enjoy the benefits of farm fresh and fragrant real Christmas trees and evergreen products. At the same time, we protect the environment that surrounds us and enhance the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to New York's economy.

### **Join the Finger Lakes Graziers for a Pasture Walk and Learn About Soil Health**

June 18th- 1:00 p.m. - 4 p.m., Martin Fox Farm, 2967 East Sherman Hollow Road, Penn Yan. Fay Benson, SCNY Team and Nancy Glazier, NWN Team will be demonstrating the NY Soil Health Trailer. Discussion will cover water infiltration with differing grazing and cropping systems, how to look for compaction. We are hoping for good discussion on how to minimize and remediate compaction. Contact Nancy Glazier with questions, 585-315-7746 or [nig3@cornell.edu](mailto:nig3@cornell.edu). Supported by NESARE Project, Identification and Remediation of Compaction on Northeast Pasture Soils.

### **Juneberry Festival 2019**

June 20, 2019, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM On a locally run farm just east of Seneca Lake, the largest crop of Juneberries in New York State is about to be ripe. Growing beside the raspberries, blackberries, honey berries, black currants and figs that Juneberry Farm offers for visitors to pick and purchase, this fruit - which isn't a berry at all - gives the farm its name for good reason. For those curious about Juneberries, Juneberry Farm's Guy Lister is joining with SCCCE to host a Juneberry Festival where visitors can:

- Tour the farm and participate in a "you pick" experience
- Sample the fruit
- Sample Juneberry pie
- Discover recipes and information about Juneberries
- Try Silo Mac Express Food Truck using NYS products
- Enjoy live music

Questions? Contact Guy Lister at (315) 952-5060 held at Juneberry farm- 1st Street, Ovid NY 14521

### **Harvesting Schuyler's Heritage- Grapes and Wine**

July 11th at 6:00pm at Fulkerson Winery - Join free conversations with experts discussing the Schuyler's County's agricultural industries; past and present. Sayre Fulkerson and Tim Martinsen will be guest speaking. Please contact Phil Cherry with questions. [pc526@cornell.edu](mailto:pc526@cornell.edu) or call 607-535-7161.

**Kiwiberry Enthusiasts** The regional kiwiberry production guide and enterprise analysis is now available! To access it, go to: [www.noreastkiwiberries.com](http://www.noreastkiwiberries.com)

### **Cucumber Disease Management**

Cornell researchers have posted updated recommendations for managing Cucurbit Powdery and Downy Mildews. Recent changes pertain to fungicides. I have 2 updates for powdery mildew - one includes some research results that support the recommendations. Note that there are 2 versions of these updates: one for NY and one for elsewhere in the region since there are new fungicides not yet registered here.

Powdery mildew: [http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Cuc\\_PM\\_2016.html](http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Cuc_PM_2016.html)

Downy mildew: [http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Cuc\\_Downy.htm](http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Cuc_Downy.htm)



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