



News From CCE

By Barb Neal, CCE Tioga

CCE Tioga Seeks Community Input for Improving our Community Food System

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County (CCE Tioga) has received support from Cornell University for a summer intern to help implement a pilot of the "Community Food Systems Development Framework for Change."

The framework was developed by Amanda Philyaw Perez, MPH, DrPH of Arkansas University. This framework looks at the food system as a whole, breaking it down into the four major areas of production, coordination, markets and consumption.

It provides a comprehensive approach for local communities to assess and document what exists, to identify gaps, and to learn about current options and resources, which are critical steps in developing improvement strategies and potential grant proposals. Five surveys have been developed following the framework. **We are asking all Tioga County residents to complete the Consumer Survey**; we also ask that farmers / growers to complete #2 – Producer Survey as well.

The more we know about our food system, the better CCE can help all of us have access to fresh, locally grown food.

Consumer Survey https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXLA5WXB54Y7g6V

Producer (Farmer) Survey- https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9pmLqhihQJ579Q1

Please complete the surveys by August 6th, 2018.

For more information or to get a printed copy of a survey to fill out (that is OK, too!) , please contact our office at 607-687-4020 and talk to a member of our Community Foods Systems Project Team: Andy Fagan, Barb Neal and Anna Birn.

Thank you in advance for completing this short survey!!

Tioga folks are the best!



Inside this issue:

- Shade trees
- Growing Cherries in High Tunnels
- Upcoming events and classes
- Funding for Farmers
- And more!

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Classes and Workshops in Tioga County

Bulbs in the Garden September 4, 6 pm to 7:30 pm Bulbs are such a welcome sight after a long winter, and the time to plan for this spring burst of color is now. Learn about the different bulbs that you can plant in your garden, how to purchase bulbs, and plant and maintain them. We will finish the class with a hands-on demonstration of bulb planting.

Planting Garlic September 27, 2018 5 pm to 6:30 pm

Garlic is one of the easiest plants to grow and you will love having a supply of home-grown garlic throughout the year. Garlic is planted in the fall and harvested the following summer. Learn how to plant garlic in this fun, hands-on class. We will plant a bed of garlic in the community gardens next to Tioga Opportunities on Sheldon Guile Boulevard. There is no charge for this class and children are welcome. Meet at the Longmeadow pavilion next to the community garden (9 Sheldon Guile Blvd, Owego)

Note: there is a \$5 per person charge for the classes and classes will meet at the CCE Tioga classroom (unless otherwise noted). Call our offices at 607-687-4020 to register for the classes, or email Barb Neal at ban1@cornell.edu.

Dress: All of these classes have an outdoor component, so please dress for the weather.



Taste of Chemung

September 27, 2018; 6 – 8 pm Community Arts of Elmira, 413 Lake St, Elmira, NY 14901. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County (CCE Chemung) would like to cordially invite you to 7th Annual Taste of Chemung. The event will take place this year on Thursday September 27, 2018 from 6 to 8pm at Community Arts of Elmira. The Culinary Program from the Greater Southern Tier BOCES Bush Campus will be preparing a bountiful array of dishes made from locally sourced farm and food products. Local wineries and breweries will also be on hand to provide tasting of select beverages. Live music as well! All proceeds from this event will go towards the educational programs offered by CCE Chemung. Tickets go on sale starting Monday July 11, 2018. You can get the tickets by stopping by the CCE Chemung Office at 425 Pennsylvania Ave, Elmira, NY 14904 or the CCE Chemung table at the Wisner and EastSide Markets in Elmira. Ticket cost is \$35 per person in advance and \$40 per person the day of the event. If you would like to be a sponsor for the 2018 Taste of Chemung, please contact Andy Fagan, Executive Director at CCE Chemung, at 607-734-4453 ext 231 or ag-fl@cornell.edu.



For more specific information about the Chemung County Master Gardener program, please contact Jingjing Yin at 607-734-4453 or 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.



Adding annuals to your perennial garden

By Elaine Caso, Chemung County Master Gardener

Annuals add color! Although the perennial bed also has color and the blooms are gorgeous the blooms last for a limited time. Annuals bloom all summer.

First as with any garden activity, plan.

What colors do you have? What colors will enhance your garden? Perhaps the color chart will help with the planning. Visiting the annual section of the garden shop will help know what is available. Is it for the front of

the bed or for the back, is it for filling in space, maybe



just to add texture? Consider height as if planning for an original garden.

Consider soil also. Will the annuals have the same acid/base requirements as the perennials? Testing can be done at some garden centers but also at Co-operative Extension.

Do the annuals need the same amount of moisture as the perennials?

Consider also, need for light. Many annuals thrive in full sun and would not do well with shade plants.

After careful planning, you will be delighted to have a strong color base in your perennial bed all summer.



Love gardening? This is a great year to become a Master Gardener! We have a blend of at-home study and face-to-face

hands-on workshops starting in September. Call Barb

at 607-687-4020 or email her at ban1@cornell.edu. Master Gardeners learn lots about gardening and growing plants, and then use that knowledge to improve their communities—we do beautification projects, teach folks how to grow their own food, do lots of children's events, and more! Fun, fellowship and the pride of volunteering—all can be yours! Call Barb today!

Tioga Gardeners: Calling all vegetable gardeners and canners! The Tioga County Fair invites you to submit your prize produce or jams/jellies or pickles to the county fair! The deadline to submit your application is coming right up—August 2nd. Learn more by reviewing the fair's Premium Booklet: <http://www.tiogacofair.com/files/2018PremiumBook.pdf> Let's let this be the year you enter the fair—go for the blue ribbon!

Editor's note: Every week, I update the Late Blight page on our website. Check regularly to learn whether late blight is in your area. You can always call our CCE offices to learn how to manage this disease.

<http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/pests-ipm/late-blight-update>



NYS cherry growers could harvest sweet profits with tall greenhouses

By [Susan Kelley](#), *Cornell Chronicle*

Cherry producers in New York state and the Great Lakes region don't have it easy. They face extreme temperatures in the winter, and in the summer, excessive rain can ruin the fruit. But if they can manage to avoid those risks, they stand to cash in: Cherries are one of the most profitable fruit crops, and there's a growing demand in the Eastern U.S. for locally grown cherries.



Cherry trees bloom under the protection of a high tunnel. Photo by Gregory Lang University of Michigan.

Several long-term strategies can mitigate growers' financial risks, from crop insurance to weather insurance to high tunnels – tall temporary greenhouses that extend up and over the cherry trees and protect them with plastic sheeting or netting.

But not much is known about which strategy offers the biggest bang for the fruit growers' buck. New Cornell research offers growers guidance – and potentially significantly higher profits.

Cherry growers looking to mitigate weather risks could double their long-term net return per acre by using high tunnels, according to the study, for two reasons. Trees grown in high tunnels tend to produce bigger fruit, and that fruit matures faster than it would if it were grown in an open field.

That means higher quality cherries available earlier in the season. While other growers are still waiting for their fruit to ripen, growers using high tunnels are already picking and selling cherries at a premium price, the researchers said.

“Growing high-value fruits in a protected environment could be the future for New York growers,” said co-author [Bradley Rickard](#), the Ruth and William Morgan Associate Professor in Applied Economics and Management. “Normally we don't think of growing fruit crops in a greenhouse. We're saying it's definitely possible to do it, and it might even make economic sense to do it.”

Added lead author and doctoral candidate Shuay-Tsy Ho, M.S. '12: “We're thinking of it long term, so you invest and then it pays off after 15 to 20 years. And these tunnels could be applicable to other high-value fruit crops that also have significant weather risk.”

The study, “[Alternative Strategies to Manage Weather Risk in Perennial Fruit Crop Production](#),” is published online in *Agricultural and Resources Economics Review*. Ho and Rickard's co-authors are [Jennifer Ifft](#), assistant professor of applied economics and management, and [Calum Turvey](#), the W.I. Myers Professor of Agricultural Finance. All the authors are in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management.

The study looked specifically at sweet cherries and how growers can most cost-effectively deal with excess summer rains, which can crack cherries by splitting the skin open. Two mechanisms are at play, Ho said: Rain drops hit the fruit's skin and split it, and the roots soak up so much water that the skin cracks.

“Then for food safety reasons and cosmetic reasons, that cherry will no longer be marketable” Rickard said. “In New York state, there have been cases where growers lost the whole crop due to cracking.”

In the study, the researchers developed a framework to evaluate three risk management strategies – high tunnels, crop insurance and weather insurance – for small- to medium-sized fruit crop growers in the Eastern United States.

For each strategy, they came up with an annual net per acre return over a 20-year period. They did this by creating a simulation model using historical data from the past 20 years in New York state and Michigan on weather patterns, frost, temperatures, yields, costs and market prices. They crunched these numbers with various levels of coverage of both types of insurance, and different levels of price premiums for the tunnel strategy.

The study found the high tunnels strategy has the capacity to double the long-term net return per acre, assuming the market would pay a higher price for earlier, high-quality



Plastic sheeting covers cherry trees growing in a high tunnel. Farmers can adjust the sheeting to create optimum growing conditions. Photo by Gregory Lang/University of Michigan

fruit. High tunnels work well because they are covered in plastic sheeting or netting that can be removed or partially rolled up, so the grower can better control temperature, sunlight, moisture and pests. The research team also found both crop insurance and weather insurance performed better than no strategy at all.

The framework in the study could be used to assess similar questions for other perennial specialty crops – such as apricots, plums and grapes – in humid continental climate regions where producers have the option to invest in alternative production technologies and buy insurance, the researchers said.

The study was supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Buy the Plants Growing at the Cornell Botanic Garden

Visitors to [Cornell Botanic Gardens](#) who are inspired by the diverse beautiful plants in its cultivated gardens, arboretum and natural areas now have a way to bring those plants to their own garden spaces.

ShrubBucket, distributor of high-quality perennials from the region's top producers, has launched the [Cornell Botanic Gardens online store](#).

ShrubBucket serves gardeners in [parts of New York state and Connecticut](#). Cornell Botanic Gardens' visitors living in those areas can choose from hundreds of plants reflected in Cornell Botanic Gardens' collections, order them online, and have them hand delivered to their home or business. A portion of every plant purchase benefits Cornell Botanic Gardens.

"Having visited the gardens since I was a young child, I felt that the one missing element was not being able to purchase plants you were excited about discovering," said Rick Hedrick, founder and CEO of ShrubBucket. "This partnership is a win-win for everybody – especially those who are inspired by the plants at Cornell Botanic Gardens. It brings the visitor experience to the gardens full circle."

Plants available for purchase through the Cornell Botanic Gardens online store are selected by the botanic gardens' expert horticulture staff to best reflect the spirit and values of the gardens and natural areas. Home gardeners can search and filter plants by criteria including those that attract pollinators, butterflies and birds, drought tolerance, and season of interest, among others.

Shady Business

Paul Hetzler, Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County

Sometimes it's good to have a few burly associates for protection, because when the heat's on and you need to lie low for a while, you can always turn to those shady friends for relief. You know the ones I'm talking about—those big guys with solid builds that no one pushes around. Yeah, the trees. They're cool.

When the thermometer hits eighty and keeps climbing, any shade is welcome. If you're lucky enough to have mature trees where you live, not only can you get a break from the sun, but the air temperature will be five to ten degrees cooler than out in the open, natural air conditioning.

Speaking of which, if you use an air conditioner, having shade trees on the south and west sides of your home will reduce your cooling costs by at least thirty percent, and possibly as much as fifty percent. It's like getting an electric-bill rebate except you save the stamp. Deciduous trees are ideal because they shield you in summer but allow sunlight through in winter when you want it.

On those blistering summer days when you think it's too hot to work outside, you're not alone—trees share your outlook. Photosynthesis, that remarkable process that turns carbon dioxide and sunlight into sugar (thereby keeping the trees alive) and oxygen (thereby keeping us alive), actually shuts down above eighty-five degrees. All that solar energy going to waste! Incidentally, leaves can get that hot in the full sun even when the air temperature is cooler, kind of like how a roof gets scorching in the sun.

This is why the inner canopy is essential. Far from being unlucky residents of a less-desirable neighborhood, leaves that are shaded and cooled by the upper canopy are key players in a tree's survival, as they're the only ones on the job when it's too hot for their upstairs neighbors to work. So it's best not to get overly enthusiastic with pruning. Trees don't want their inner canopy "cleaned out."

Hopefully you're drinking plenty of water in the summer heat. It might surprise you that trees can run short of water. While we tend to think tree roots dive deep in search of a cool drink, ninety percent of tree roots are in the top ten inches of soil, and ninety-eight percent are in the top eighteen inches.

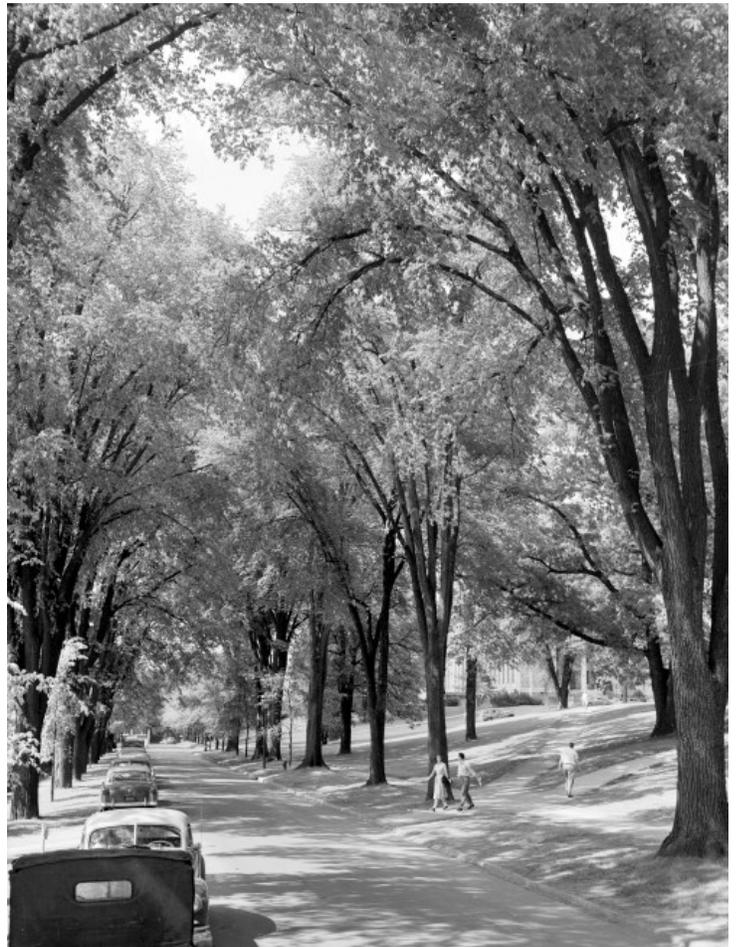
Lawns recover from severe water shortage in a matter of weeks. Trees, however, take years. Drought stress weakens a tree, making it more vulnerable to diseases and insects. While many shady characters don't take well to a good soaking, your tree will appreciate a thorough weekly drench.

Here's to a healthy, hydrated summer on the shady side of town for you and your associates.

Want to know more about the trees growing in your yard? Check out this tree benefits calculator: <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/>

The Tree Benefit Calculator allows anyone to make a simple estimation of the benefits individual street-side trees provide. This tool is based on [i-Tree's](#) street tree assessment tool called [STREETS](#). With inputs of location, species and tree size, users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual basis.

The Tree Benefit Calculator is intended to be simple and accessible. As such, this tool should be considered a starting point for understanding trees' value in the community, rather than a scientific accounting of precise values.



The Ostrander Elms that used to grow along East Avenue on the Cornell University campus.

TEAM Tioga Welcomes New Member

TEAM Tioga welcomes new staff member Zackary Baker, who joined the Tioga County Economic Development and Planning staff on June 11th. Zackary will take on the newly created position of Agricultural Development Specialist.

Zackary is a recent graduate of Hamilton College where he received his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Economics and Minor in Government and Mathematics. He has interned with the US Department of Commerce, Hamilton College and the Tioga County Industrial Development Agency.

Zackary is a native of Tioga County and graduated from Tioga Central High School. He is currently residing in Owego.

Welcome Zack Baker!

Tick Survey for Farmers

The Community IPM Program (part of NYSIPM) was funded by the NY State Senate Task Force on Lyme and Tick Borne Disease to create an educational campaign about the risks of tick exposure and tick awareness for New York. Community IPM addresses non-agricultural pest issues for every New York resident, including farmers. This survey is a research project to help us understand what tick issues and concerns NY farmers are facing on their farms and home properties. By completing this survey you are agreeing to participate in this research. Your answers are completely anonymous and will help us understand how serious the issue is and how to raise awareness with the farming community.

For more information about this survey or about ticks and tick prevention or control, please contact Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann at jlg23@cornell.edu.

Please fill out the survey (just 10 questions!) here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7rnd6r>

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Management Survey for Commercial Producers

A nation-wide survey is currently underway to gather information from farmers and growers on the economic impact of the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) on agriculture. The objective of the survey is to better provide you with the help you need in managing this pest. We'd like to find out when BMSB became a problem for you, where you currently get information on how to control them, how much damage you have suffered, your use of and interest in various management practices, and your feelings about bio-

logical control methods and their potential for your operation. The results of the survey will be used by Extension programs across the United States to fine tune management advice for the BMSB and help prioritize research and outreach activities.

If you'd like to participate, the survey should take you about 20-25 minutes to complete. Your individual survey responses will be confidential and the data collected will only be reported in summaries. Your participation is voluntary and you can decide not to answer a given question if you choose.

The link to the on-line survey along with more information about the survey can be found on the StopBMSB.org website (<http://stopbmsb.org/go/BfxA>).



Save the date: 12-14 October 2018 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium

The main symposia presentations will be on Saturday 13 October with a few on the afternoon and possibly the evening of Friday 12 October and a workshop on Sunday morning 14 October.



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Farm To Feast 2018



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2018 Tioga County NY Farmers' Markets

BUY LOCAL Taste the Freshness!

Owego, NY*

Tuesdays & Fridays - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
RiteAid Parking Lot, Main Street & Central Ave
June 12 to October 30
John Purdy 607-642-8439 bradenson@msn.com

Candor, NY

Thursdays - 3:30 to 6:30 PM
Candor Town Hall, Route 96
June 14 to September 27
Carol Murphree carol.murphree@gmail.com

Spencer, NY*

Saturdays - 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Nicholas Park on Route 34, Spencer
June 2 to September 29, rain or shine
Stephanie Hafli 607-589-7496 hafli@yahoo.com

For more information about Farmers' Markets, Agriculture, Gardening, and Nutrition contact:
Cornell Cooperative Extension Tioga County
607-687-4020
56 Main Street, Owego, NY 13827
<http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/>

Some markets in Tioga County have vendors who accept SNAP (EBT) benefits and participate in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) which provides coupons for WIC recipients and seniors over age sixty.

Updated April 3, 2018

*No EBT available at these markets



When you purchase local foods you enjoy some of the freshest, best-tasting foods available. Plus, when you buy locally you support the local economy and help keep land in agriculture.



Many markets accept FMNP, WIC, senior coupons, and Just Say Yes.

Shopping Tips:

- ◆ Arrive early for best selection.
- ◆ Bring a re-useable shopping bag.
- ◆ Bring cash, WIC checks, senior and/or FMNP coupons. Most vendors don't accept credit cards.
- ◆ If you are out for the day, bring a cooler.
- ◆ Talk to farmers to learn about their farm and their growing practices.
- ◆ Tell the vendors what you like and what you are looking for.
- ◆ Try different varieties and recipes.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Tioga County

tioga.cce.cornell.edu
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Tioga County, New York Fair kicks off on August 6

DATES: Aug. 6 – Aug. 11

LOCATION: Tioga County Fairgrounds, Marvin Park, Route 17C, Owego, N.Y.

--All-inclusive admission and new rides featured this year—

OWEGO, N.Y. – The Tioga County Fair Board is pleased to announce some exciting changes for this year's fair, held Aug. 6-11 at the Tioga County Fairgrounds located in Owego, N.Y.

An all-inclusive admission fee has been set this year at \$10. This new admission fee includes the gate, the rides, the shows and the grandstand entertainment, along with three nights of demolition derby action.

"It's time for the fair to grow," said Fair Board President, Jonathan Marks, adding, "We have new rides and a new price."

The fair opens on Monday with the Sire Stakes on the track, 4-H activity and free admission. The rides will open on Tuesday at 5 p.m., and then at 2 p.m. each day for the remainder of the fair.

The rides this year are being provided by Gillette Shows, which is exciting news for fairgoers. The Midway and rides are the same featured at the former Apalachin Firemen's Field Days and the Broome County Fair.

An expanded schedule of daily activities is also featured at this year's fair.

Board members have worked in their department to bring in new features and to grow the fair.

Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H members have an ambitious schedule, with animal shows taking place all week, agricultural and horticulture activities, a Dairy Day, the Clover Café, and much more. You can find their schedule online at www.tiogacofair.com.

There will be live entertainment on the Show Stage this year beginning on Wednesday, and continuing through Saturday. Bug Tussell is one of the bands featured, along with several other local and regional bands to include Next to Kin, Friends with Benny's, Nelson & Murdock, and Last Call.

The fair is also bringing back a beer and wine tent for this year's fair, which will be located near the Show Stage.

Guests can also enjoy the grandstand shows throughout the week to include the popular "Dash for Cash" on Tuesday, and a new event, the "Buckaroo Rodeo," also on Tuesday.

The popular demolition derby will be taking place three evenings this year at the fair!

This year's derby features qualifying heats on Wednesday, Aug. 8 with finals scheduled on Friday, Aug. 10.

New this year is a Team Demolition Derby scheduled on Thursday, Aug. 9. All three derby nights start at 7 p.m. Also new at the fair this year, there is no separate admission to the grandstands to watch the derby.

For derby regulations and information, visit www.tiogacofair.com/files/2018derbyentry.pdf

But that's not all, folks! There will be an all day petting



zoo, and the Zoo Mobile and Animal Adventure will be at the fair. Be sure to visit www.tiogacofair.com for the full schedule of events.

The fair will wind down on Saturday with the Antique Tractor Pulls taking place in the morning. On Saturday afternoon, the Atlantic Coast Old Timers Vintage Auto Racing Club will display antique Midget and Sprint Cars in front of the Grandstand.

They will be allowed track time beginning at 5 p.m., so expect to see a number of different types of cars take to the track. This is an exhibition only, so don't expect the blood curdling thrills of old, but the roar of the midgets will return! No charge for Grandstand seating.

Other shows and displays include horse shows, rabbit shows, a Baywings Falconry Show, Veggie Car Races with Newark Valley FFA, an Owego Fire Department Chicken BBQ, vendors, crafters, and much more.

Find them on Facebook, and visit www.tiogacofair.com for updates!



Fresh Market Vegetable Grading and Packaging

Are you interested in farm to school or selling to institutional markets? Maybe you'd like to know more about grading and packing your fresh market produce right in the field? Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County in partnership with the Cornell Vegetable Program & the Cornell Baskets to Pallet Program, is offering a hands-on, on-farm experience designed to prepare farms in NY, both beginning and experienced, to enter new markets.

We will be at Catskill Cattle Co (96 Laurel Bank Ave, Deposit, NY) **on Tuesday August 21st from 2-5pm**. Learn how to grade vegetables and package for different markets. Hand-on training with peppers, summer squash, sweetcorn, tomato, potato, cabbage, and kale will occur.

The field day is open to 25 participants; preference given to active or retired NYS Military Veterans on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee is \$15/person or \$20/farm, veterans may apply for stipend to cover cost of attending. For more information or to apply contact Laura Biasillo, CCE Broome County at (607) 584-5007 or email lw257@cornell.edu.

Register at: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/veggradingpacking2018_203

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

The Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteer program continues to expand and build on its success as a premier peer-to-peer woodland owner support network. Over the past year we have expanded support to volunteers, improved monitoring of woodland owner needs and requests, and streamline documentation for impacts. We need your assistance to identify woodland owners to serve as candidates for the training of new volunteers. Please identify 1 or 2 woodland owners that are sincerely interested in sustainable woodland management and who we can train to help them spread the word about woodland management resources.

MFO volunteers do not offer technical assistance, perform management activities, or give professional advice. Rather, they meet with owners to listen to their woodland goals, concerns and questions; volunteers then offer sources of assistance, and encourage them to work with professionals. The success of this program is grounded in the power of approximately 150 peer woodland counselors.

Volunteers can be from any background, young or old, resident or absentee, large or small parcels, with varied woodland experiences. Candidates receive a bit of forest management training, but the program is primarily designed to help them develop as volunteers for peer-to-peer counseling to encourage sustainable woodland management.

The 2018 training will be September 26-29 at the Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in Van Etten, NY (www.arnotforest.info). The \$125 (\$200 per couples) fee helps defray the cost of publications, food, and equipment for the 4-day training. Volunteers may stay at the Arnot at no additional cost. The training combines classroom and outdoor field experiences on a variety of woodland management and educational topics.

To learn more about the MFO program, check out the website at: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccemfo/>

Veteran in New York? Farming?

The Cornell Small Farms Program would like to remind Veterans in New York that scholarships are available to attend workshops and online courses through our 'Farm Ops' Program. 'Farm Ops' also offers intensive trainings and regional networking opportunities. To receive news about specific opportunities, sign up for our Veterans-in-Ag Listserve or contact Project Manager Dean Koyanagi. Learn more about the project by [clicking here](#).

NYS Tax Credit for Food Pantry Donations

Each year, Greenmarket farmers generously donate about 1,000,000 pounds of fresh produce to New York City food pantries as part of their Fresh Pantry Project. Now, **New York State farmers can receive up to \$5,000 in a refundable tax credit for helping to feed those in need.** To learn more about the tax credit click [here](#). To find the food pantry that collects at your Greenmarket, visit the [Fresh Pantry Project webpage](#). And if you want help coordinating with a pantry, or you know a pantry that does not yet participate, please contact [Cathy Chambers](#) or (212) 788-7900 x237.



August 18, 2018, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM FREE family event where we bring the farm to the city! Come enjoy popcorn, meet local farmers and their animals from the farm!

Hosted by the Chemung County Ag Promotion Committee. Fee Free and open to the public!

SAVE THE DATE!!! Pawpaw 101: The Story of America's Forgotten Fruit

Oct 13th Plant Science Building room TBD and Cornell Orchard Lansing, workshop fee is \$30. What is a pawpaw, and why have most people never heard of it before? Andrew Moore offers a brief history of the pawpaw, the largest edible fruit native to the United States, and offers some explanations as to why it has been overlooked in modern times. He also provides an overview of the growers and producers working to raise the fruit's profile, and how the fruit tree can be reintegrated into our diets and culture. Andrew Moore grew up in Lake Wales, Florida, just south of the pawpaw's native range. A writer and gardener, he now lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the news editor and a feature writer for Pop City, a weekly news e-magazine in Pittsburgh, and his stories have been published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, The Daily Yonder, and the Biscayne Times. Pawpaw--a 2016 James Beard Foundation Award nominee in the Writing & Literature category--is his first book. Stay tuned for details, email Roger Ort with questions rlo28@cornell.edu

Funding Opportunities for Farmers

By Zack Baker, Tioga County Economic Development & Planning

Grant and loan funding is readily available for Tioga County farms looking to expand and diversify their businesses. Here is a snapshot some of the programs accessible to local farms:

NYSEG Capital Incentive Program

NYSEG continues to fund electric-related improvements made on farms across the state. The Agriculture Capital Investment Incentive Program provide financial support toward electric-related infrastructure improvements on either company-owned or customer-owned equipment up to \$100,000. The overall intent in many instances is to help the industry convert from single-phase to three-phase power to grow their business and install new technologies. For more details, visit <http://www.lookupstateny.com/AssistanceAndIncentivePrograms/programs.html> or contact NYSEG at NYSEconomic_Development@nyseg.com.

New Farmers Grant Fund

New York State has allocated \$1 million in the 2018–2019 state budget for the fifth round of the New Farmers Grant Fund. Its purpose is to provide grants to help beginning farmers improve farm profitability. The fund offers grants of up to \$50,000 for eligible beginning farmers participating in the production of an agricultural product at commercial farm operations statewide. Eligible project costs include leasing or purchasing farm machinery and equipment; constructing or expanding farm buildings or systems; and purchasing supplies such as root stock, seed or fertilizer. The application will be made available in Fall 2018. See <https://esd.ny.gov/new-farmers-grant-fund-program> for more information. Questions should be sent to Bonnie Devine at nyfarmfund@esd.ny.gov.

Rural Initiative Re-Investment Fund

The purpose of the Rural Initiative Program is to provide loans to expand the Southern Tier agricultural industry. The funding is available as a fixed rate loan that provides a maximum of 40% of the total project

cost, up to \$250,000. Projects and activities must be related to the growing, storage, processing, purchasing, promotion, and distribution of agricultural and forest-based goods. Funding may also be used to support intergenerational farm transfer and new farm establishment, as well as renewable energy related projects. For more information contact Zack Baker, Tioga County Agricultural Development Specialist at (607) 687-8263 or bakerz@co.tioga.ny.us.

Health Insurance for Farmers and Farm Workers:

AIM Independent Living Center IPA/Navigator program

Did you know? Farmers, growers, seasonal agricultural workers and their families may be eligible for low- or no-cost health insurance through NY State of Health.

AIM Independent Living Center has certified health insurance navigators in Chemung County to help individuals and families apply for coverage on the NY State of Health marketplace. Enrollment in Medicaid, the Essential Plan and Child Health Plus is year round, with eligibility based on income and household size. To complete an application with a navigator, please bring:

Identification

U.S. citizens: Driver's license or other form of ID; Social Security numbers and dates of birth for all household members.

Non-US Citizens: Passport, green card, birth certificate, nonimmigrant visa, approval letter from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Social Security numbers and dates of birth for all household members (if applicable)..

Income verification:

Farm owners should bring their most recent filed tax return.

Farm workers and seasonal workers should bring their four most recent paystubs (or two for bi-weekly pay).

To schedule a free appointment with an AIM Navigator, call (607) 962-8225 or (888) 962-8244. Days, evenings and Saturdays available.



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