



News From CCE

By Barb Neal, CCE Tioga

Supporting Cooperative Extension

September is a great time to support your Cooperative Extension educators and staff by attending the Taste of Tioga or Taste of Chemung. You will have a wonderful evening of delicious locally sourced food, good music and great conversation—it is a fabulous way to support your community. See the “ads” in the newsletter for details.

You may not be aware that Cooperative Extension is much more than agricultural and horticultural expertise. Our offices teach young families how to be good parents, we help at risk young adults find work training and jobs, develop future leaders through our extensive 4H programs and even help you have a more efficient home, saving you money. We teach folks about good nutrition for themselves and their children and partner with many other community groups to improve the lives of folks in our counties.

You also may not be aware of the breadth of our work in the Agriculture and Horticulture departments. To give you a glimpse to the goings on in our offices, here are just a few of the things we have done in the last few weeks:

- Gave processing information for a woman who wants to can meat
- Helped a farmer with an application for safety equipment on her farm
- Signed up local farmers to participate in a farmers’ market at a huge conference in Watkins Glen
- Did pH tests for two homeowners who were trying to figure out why their lawns were not healthy (answer: pH was way off)
- Spread the word that late blight was documented in the county
- Worked with the Southern Tier Nursery and Landscape Association to start planning for their big education day
- Coordinated with other educators to kick off this year’s Master Gardener training

So call your extension office and buy a ticket or two to these great events—attending will help us keep on doing this good work.

Inside this issue:

- Samurai wasps
- Breeding Sheep
- Leaf “litter”
- Ladybugs in your house
- NYS Grown and Certified
- And more!

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Classes and Workshops in Tioga and Chemung 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.

Workshop: Using Bulbs in the Landscape

September 19, 2018; 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Flowering bulbs are an important addition to any landscape or garden. Join Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County to learn how to prepare your soil and effectively plant bulbs for spring color. You will learn different types of bulbs and their planting and maintenance tips.

Speaker: Ken Wida, Chemung County Master Gardener

Place: Steele Memorial Library (IT room), 101 E Church



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 agfl@cornell.edu.



Street, Elmira, NY

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

Please register with CCE Chemung at 607-734-4453, or jy578@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.



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!.



Gardeners—do you love fresh, healthy food but hate weeding?

We have been amazed at the production of great amounts of veggies from simple raised garden beds. Sure, you may not get the quantity of vegetables from a raised bed as compared to veggies grown in the ground, but when you factor in the minimal labor it takes to grow in raised beds, we think they are winners!

Here is a photo I took of my friend's community garden in Florida—they grow in barrels cut in half with drainage holes drilled in the bottom. Some of the beds are raised up so folks who have trouble bending over can still help with the gardening.

What other types of raised bed gardens work? We have had great success using rough cut lumber sourced locally from local sawmills—typically 4' by 8' beds with 1 1/2 inch thick and 8-10" depth boards. A few well placed screws at the corners and you are in business!

Also pictured is the raised planter bed at a local nursing home. What a treat to see the lettuces and greens growing so well.

As the weather cools, consider building or constructing a raised bed or two and next year you will enjoy lots of great food!



Scientists sic samurai wasps on stink bugs

By [Krishna Ramanujan](#) |Cornell Chronicle

July 2, 2018



Photo: Elijah J. Talamas/USDA

Samurai wasps (*Trissolcus japonicus*), native to Asia, are now found in many parts of the United States.

“Samurai Wasps vs. Stink Bugs” is not the title of the latest Avengers film. But it does describe new efforts by Cornell scientists to control a household nuisance and agricultural pest.

The flat-bodied, thin-legged brown marmorated stink bugs invade homes in the winter and infest crops in the summer, in particular apples, sweet corn and stone fruits such as peaches, cherries, plums, nectarines and apricots.

Native to Asia, brown marmorated stink bugs (*Halyomorpha halys*) were first detected in Pennsylvania in the 1990s before spreading up the East Coast. In 2010, the right environmental conditions caused their numbers to skyrocket. Every four or five years in New York state, stink bugs will hatch two generations in a single year, one in the spring and another in August, which leads to exponential population growth.

“By 2012, we saw a 20 to 30 percent loss in apple production from the damage caused by brown marmorated stink bugs” in Dutchess and Orange counties, said Peter Jentsch, a senior extension associate and director of the Hudson Valley Research Laboratory in Highland, New York.

Samurai wasps (*Trissolcus japonicus*), native to Asia, are now found in many parts of the United States. The wasps lay their eggs inside the brown marmorated stink bugs’ eggs, killing developing nymphs and hatching as adult wasps.

“As a biocontrol agent, the wasp is not only very effective at reducing the population of brown marmorated stink bugs, but [it is] the least environmentally damaging of all the options for controlling this pest in both the urban and agricultural system,” Jentsch said.

Last year, Cornell researchers trapped wild samurai wasps in Marlboro, New York, and reared new colonies. They then released the wasps as a biocontrol agent on 24 farms in 32

agricultural sites throughout New York in Orange, Ulster, Dutchess, Columbia, Wayne, Ontario, Orleans and Monroe counties. They also placed stink bug eggs around the perimeter of orchards and vegetable fields to see if the wasps would parasitize them.

Initial findings revealed 70 percent of the wasps survived after release across the sites surveyed, and wasps parasitized the eggs placed by the researchers in two of the sites. This year, the scientists will determine how well wasp populations survived the winter; the researchers will assess the wasp’s ability to control brown marmorated stink bugs in New York in the years to come.



Photo: Elijah J. Talamas/USDA

Samurai wasps lay their eggs inside the brown marmorated stink bugs’ eggs, killing developing nymphs and hatching as adult wasps.

In addition, researchers are in the process of investigating “attract and kill” stations for homeowners and growers to tackle stink bugs, using a pheromone to attract the bugs to netting embedded with pyrethroid insecticide, which kills them.

Jentsch has been working with Art Agnello, professor of entomology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, New York, and Cornell Cooperative Extension specialists to create a statewide, county-based map that shows presence and distribution of brown marmorated stink bugs. Using [an invasive mapping system](#), the researchers set traps to see where the stink bugs have passed a threshold of 10 adult insects per trap. The system incorporates those data to create a color-coded map of the presence of brown marmorated stink bugs within each county.

The data also contribute to national stink bug tracking efforts, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

“We are trying to generate information of a national as well as a statewide presence in New York,” Jentsch said.

A [Jentsch Lab blog site](#) also links to a [brown marmorated stink bug identification page](#) so users can correctly identify the insect before treating their crops.

Leaf “litter”

Becca Rodomsky-Bish Habitat Network <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/leaf-litter/>

There is no waste in the natural world. Every part of every living and nonliving thing recycles into molecules that serve a purpose in ecosystems. Leaves are no exception. We’ve learned to think of leaf litter as a problem to be hidden in our landscapes. In places where there is a distinctive Fall, with deciduous trees losing their leaves en masse, we scrape them off our lawns and out of our gardens, bag them, and send them to waste management. Leaf-litter



plays many important ecological roles. Below we highlight some of the ways leaves are secretly at work in your gardens and parks.

Leaf litter can be a critical element of soil. Leaving

leaves to decompose replenishes soil by releasing carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and other inorganic compounds. The decomposition process can also foster interesting forms of life, like fungus, which often thrive in decaying leaf material.

Leaf litter also helps to retain moisture and regulate temperature. This is important in cold regions where organisms live under leaf litter during the winter, and where plants can receive some protection from extreme temperatures under a blanket of leaves.



Leaves provide homes to a variety of living things from the smallest bacteria to the largest macroinvertebrates. In the image above, a caterpillar has sealed itself inside a leaf. It will remain inside until the spring. Several invertebrates, like butterflies, will lay their eggs in leaf litter, using it as a [nursery](#). Raking up these leaves and sending them away in the Fall has the unintended consequence of removing some of next year’s garden butterflies and moths.



As a home for many different invertebrates, leaf litter is an important foraging space for birds, small mammals and carnivorous insects. Pulling back the leaves on a forest floor will reveal a world of interactions, like image above of a caterpillar overrun with ants. These habitats are so critical some bird species’ declines have been linked with decreased invertebrates on the forest floor as in the case of the Wood Thrush, a migratory song bird that forages for insects and snails on the forest floor in the Northeast.

The removal of leaves from suburban and urban homes and community areas is a common practice. But, it doesn’t have to be. Choosing to leave your leaves where they fall is your right as a property owner. As long as leaves are not posing a threat by creating slippery conditions on sidewalks or roads, they can lie where they fall.

TIPS: SOME COMMUNITIES HAVE RULES REGARDING RAKING LEAVES WHEN THEY FALL. IN THESE SITUATIONS WE RECOMMEND GENTLY RAKING LEAVES INTO LARGER PILES, SECURING WITH LIGHT FENCING, AND USING THEM AS:

- 1. Mulch around large trees or shrubs and garden beds.**
- 2. Layers in your compost pile.**
- 3. [Leafmould](#) for soil drainage and enrichment.**



Rethinking leaves in our yards could mean instead of Fall “maintenance” they can be an investment in the long-term vibrancy of a yard ecosystem. You might be rewarded with improved soil composition for healthy plant communities as well as increased biodiversity of butterflies, moths, and other beneficial insects.

Habitat Network is a **great** place to learn about environmental landscape practices and design. Check it out! <http://content.yardmap.org/>

Did You Prepare for Breeding Season?

By Melanie Barkley, Penn State Extension Educator, Livestock Expertise

Original Source: <https://extension.psu.edu/did-you-prepare-for-breeding-season>.

Good shepherds should be focused on good management practices, high performance sheep and meeting the needs of customers.



Rams should be examined prior to breeding season to insure there are no lost opportunities due to poor performance.

Throughout the year you make decisions to support or improve performance, but are there areas in your operation where you are overlooking some lost opportunities? Lost opportunities are those areas that could be tweaked to further improve production or performance. Let's take a look at the breeding season to determine if there are opportunities to improve performance in that area.

A large factor that affects profitability in a sheep operation is the lamb crop. This involves anything from birth weights to growth to efficiency. Breeding season is a critical time so that we insure not only that ewes get pregnant, but that they also produce twins. We not only want high conception rates, but those conception rates need to be high during the first heat cycle.

Prior to breeding season, rams should be evaluated for breeding soundness. Start with a physical examination by evaluating both body condition and structural soundness. Rams should have a body condition score of 3 to 3.5 on a 5 point scale. Rams that are too thin will have less stamina throughout the breeding season, while fat rams may have less vigor. Either way, rams are less likely to settle ewes in the first heat cycle. They are even less likely to settle ewes in the first heat cycle if they have structural problems and are not physically able to mount ewes. Don't forget to take a look at their feet to make sure they are free of foot rot.



Check a ram's scrotum and testicles for tone and size. Testicles should feel firm, but should not have any lumps or abscesses, which could indicate an injury or disease. Larger scrotal circumference is correlated with greater semen volume and sperm viability. Scrotal circumference also correlates to siring ewes that reach puberty earlier than ewes produced by rams with smaller scrotal circumferences.

Semen quality is also important. There should be adequate numbers of healthy sperm and cell motility should be high. This can be checked by collecting semen and analyzing under a microscope. If you aren't willing to go through the collection process, at least use a marking method so you can monitor any repeat breedings.

What could this cost if rams aren't in top condition? If lambs gain an average of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound a day and it took an extra 17 days to get that ewe pregnant, you have lost 12.75 pounds per lamb right off the top (because in theory she lambed 17 days later than ewes that settle in the first heat cycle). This could be even more weight if your average daily gain is higher. Now, factor in \$2.50 as a value per pound for your weaned lambs and you have lost \$31.87 per lamb. Multiply that by the number of lambs you sell each year and you have an expensive lost opportunity!

Let's take this a step further. Suppose that ram is not in top condition for breeding and now instead of siring twins, he sires singles. The average lamb in my area at weaning can easily bring \$150. How many ewes produce lambs each year in your operation? Again, that is an expensive lost opportunity! Check out the publication "[Breeding Soundness Examinations of Rams and Bucks](#)" for more information.

So, if your ram isn't in the best of shape, what about your ewes? Did you make sure they were in adequate body condition and were on an increasing plane of nutrition prior to and at least several weeks into breeding season? Are they able to move freely about the pasture without limping? This can affect not just your lambing percentage, but if nutrition isn't adequate throughout

pregnancy, this could mean weak lambs at birth, lower birth weights and even a higher death loss. If lambs do survive, what effect did nutrition have on the quantity and quality of colostrum? It can be hard to put a dollar figure on this lost production, but even a 1% improvement in death loss in a small flock of 25 ewes can equal \$37.50 at weaning if lambs are worth \$150.

Are there other areas in your operation where you could improve lost opportunities? Even though it may seem very small, all these small lost opportunities can add up to a lot at the end of the year. So, take a few moments and look through your management plan to identify those areas that could be tweaked for improved production and profitability!

Halloween Accents

By Paul Hetzler, CCE St. Lawrence

What's oval-shaped, mostly orange, and is a common sight around Halloween time? Everyone knows the answer to that: *Harmonia axyridis*, obviously. Better known as the multicolored Asian lady beetle or lady bug, this insect, while beneficial to gardens, is no treat when it masses by the hundreds on and in homes in the fall.

First brought to the US in 1916 to control pests on pecan trees and other crops, the orange and black lady bug, darling of small children everywhere, didn't turn into an ogre until the mid-1990s. Actually, there's evidence to suggest that the current population is a new strain accidentally released at the Port of New Orleans around 1993. Whatever their origin, they're in season now along with corn shocks and jack-o'-lanterns.

Lady bugs don't carry disease, damage structures, suck blood or sting, and they eat harmful garden pests. However, they stain, give off a foul odor when disturbed and will even pinch one's skin on occasion. It's their sheer numbers, though, swarming an exterior wall, huddling in a corner of the garage or coating the inside of a picture window, which unnerve and irritate so many people.

Managing lady bugs, it turns out, can cut your heating bill. They're looking for someplace warm to spend the winter and if a draft can get in, so can they. Caulk around windows, vents and where cable or other utilities come through the wall, and seal between the foundation and sill. Ensure that door sweeps/ thresholds are tight and check for cracked seals around garage doors. Install screens on attic vents and inspect all window screens.

If the beetles are already indoors, don't swat or crush them or they'll release a smelly, staining yellow de-

fense fluid. For a variety of reasons including the lady bugs' habit of seeking inaccessible areas, indoor pesticide use is strongly discouraged. Instead, use a broom and dustpan, vacuum cleaner or shop-vac. Try using a knee-high nylon stocking inserted into the hose and secured with a rubber band as a reusable



“mini-bag.” Just remember to empty it as soon as the vacuum is turned off. You can also make a black light trap; instructions can be found at: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2001/010130.htm>

This fall, researchers will be decorating giant pumpkins as multicolored Asian lady beetles in hopes of frightening the actual lady bugs away. If you see a 300-pound lady bug on Halloween, don't swat it.



Photos from the Bugwood website.
www.ipmimages.org

— EXPERIENCE —
TIOGA



Farm To Feast 2018



Feast on an array of dishes made with locally grown foods.
Sample selections from local wineries and breweries.
Listen to live music and Taste Tioga!

Friday September 7th, 6 to 8:30pm at Tioga Downs

Try our new Overnight option!

For More Information: Call 607-687-

a fundraising event

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Tioga County

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment oppor-

— ALL NEW —

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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
607-687-4020



Helping You Put Knowledge To Work

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and individuals with Disabilities and that provides equal program and employment opportunities.

New York Grown and Certified Program Hello small farmers!

By Zack Baker, Tioga County Economic Development & Planning

Looking to differentiate your products or sell to larger markets? The New York Grown & Certified (NYG&C) program is a voluntary marketing initiative by NYS Ag and Markets intended to strengthen consumer confidence in NY food products, as well as take advantage of demand for high-quality and locally grown foods. Joining NYG&C shows New Yorkers that your farm follows safe protocols and environmentally responsible practices.



To qualify for the program, producers must meet the following criteria:

- Products are grown and produced in New York State
- Farms participate in a third-party food safety verification program, if applicable

Producers participate in an environmental management program

More information and applications for each eligible commodity can be found at <https://certified.ny.gov/>.

Ag and Markets is also providing grant funds to help farmers meet the necessary food safety requirements for the program. Farms producing eligible commodities can apply for up to \$50,000 to satisfy food safety concerns related to New York Grown & Certified. A 10% cash match is required, and smaller requests are encouraged. This could be a great opportunity to upgrade equipment and/or pursue new market opportunities. For more information on the process and funding, contact Zack Baker, Tioga County EDP at (607) 687-8263 or bakerz@co.tioga.ny.us.

We are excited to announce open registration for the 2018-2019 season of online courses for small farmers of all experience levels.

Our suite of courses cover a range of technical and business topics any farmer needs to succeed. Experienced farmers and extension educators guide students through six-week courses that include weekly live webinars, videos, and resources. From the comfort of your own home, connect with instructors and other farmers and access all the content at a flexible pace. If you aren't able to attend the webinars in real-time, they are always recorded for later viewing.

Course costs range from \$195 - \$295, which entitles two people from a single farm to attend. Discounts for early sign up and multiple course sign-ups are available, as well as a special discount for veterans. Participants who complete a course are eligible to be endorsed for a 0% interest loan through kiva.org.

From aspiring to experienced farmers, there is a course for nearly everyone. There's a handy chart on our on course homepage to direct you to the right course for you: <http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/online-courses/annual-course-calendar/>

You can check out the listings on our site for more information on a particular course and the instructors. Also, you can learn more about registration, payment, computer requirements, and more on our Frequently Asked Questions page.

If you still have questions, you can contact our online course managers:

Erica Frenay at ejf5@cornell.edu

Steve Gabriel at sfg53@cornell.edu

New Farmers—are you thinking of starting a commercial farm? The first place to go is to your Ag Educator at CCE—Barb Neal in Tioga County and Shona Ort in Chemung County. We will be happy to work with you as you begin your small farm journey. See page one for contact information.



Leaf doctor makes the rounds

Krishna Ramanujan, *Cornell Chronicle*

December 18, 2017



Some Android users have been wondering, is there a leaf doctor in the house?

The answer is a resounding yes.

Leaf doctor is a free app developed by Cornell and University of Hawaii at Manoa researchers that analyzes a photograph of a damaged leaf or fruit and quantifies the percentage and severity of disease visible. By downloading this tool to a smart phone, researchers and extension agents can use it conveniently in the field.

The app was first introduced in 2015 on iPhones, iPads and iPods, while the Android version has been in development. Now Samsung, Google and LG phone owners can [download the app from Google Play](#).

Since the app will calculate the percentage of an image that is occupied by a user-specified shade of pixel, it could potentially be used to determine the extent of diseased plant populations from an aerial photograph of a field or it could be programmed to analyze images for ecologists, geographers and biologists.

Slow Moving Vehicles—What we need to know

The Tioga County Agricultural Resource Group will be hosting Sheriff Ron Spike from Yates County on Wednesday September 12th from 1:30pm until 3:30pm to conduct a slow moving vehicle training. Tioga County is home to many farms, and most recently has become home to some Amish communities. Our goal is promote awareness of slow moving vehicles and how we can all work together to keep our community members and roads safe. Sheriff Spike will give a 75 minute presentation on a variety of different slow moving vehicles, and there will be a question and answer session at the end. Over the last couple years Sheriff Spike has instructed the Governors Traffic Safety Committee on the topic, along with the Finger Lakes Law Enforcement Academy, local office of Emergency Management, the Essex County Sheriff and State Police, and the Nation Center for Rural Road Safety. This training is suitable for local police agencies, local town/village officials, local town/village highway superintendents, members and neighbors of the farming community, and local agencies that work directly with the farming community.

Please RSVP to confirm your attendance to Miranda Imer at Palmerm@co.tioga.ny.us or 607-687-3553.



PaPhoto via <https://www.goodfreephotos.com/> Good Free Photos

Nut Bonanza & Fall Plant Sale

November 10 from 10am-5pm. Held at Twisted Tree Farm, 279 Washburn Road Spencer, NY. This family event is a celebration of the nut harvest. We'll be outdoors, roasting and cracking nuts all day, enjoying a bonfire, talking about trees and tasting things like acorns, American persimmons, chestnuts, hickory nuts, butternuts, hazelnuts and black walnuts. Suggested donation \$5-\$20 or bring a local food to share. Please visit www.twisted-tree.net for details or call 607.589.7937.

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.

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

New York Nut Growers Association- Fall Meeting

Saturday, September 15, 2018. Albers Tree Farm, 6499 Wilbur Creek Rd, Bath, NY. Lisbin Tree Farm, 3361 Parker Rd., Howard, NY. 9:30 am. Walking tours of seedling and clonal hazelnuts, hickories, apples, persimmons, black walnuts and one of the largest plantings of English walnuts in the Northeast. Master nut growers will discuss nut tree culture for both home and commercial use. For more details and to register please visit the NYNGA website at nynga.org.

2018 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium

October 12th thru 14th, 2018

<http://www.sheep.cornell.edu> (click on 2018 Sheep & Goat Symposium)

Hands-on Activities and Lectures on Friday, Oct 12th 2 pm – 6:00 pm

2018 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium Saturday, Oct 13th 7:45 am – 5:30 pm

National Sheep Improvement Genetic Program & Parasite Workshops w/FAMACHA certification on Sunday Oct 14th

Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 (GPS address: 507 Tower Rd. Ithaca, NY)

On Friday, Oct 12th the symposium starts off with hands on activities for new and experienced goat and sheep raisers starting at 2 pm. Registration will take place in the lobby of Morrison Hall followed by short walks to the Live-stock Pavilion for newbies and the Teaching Barn for experienced farmers. Farmers at the pavilion will rotate through four structured stations practicing important livestock skills under the guidance of trained professionals. Meanwhile, Dr. Mary Smith, DVM will teach a hands-on field necropsy workshop at the Teaching Barn aimed at more experienced goat and sheep raisers. Participation in the field necropsy workshop is limited to one member per farm. Advance sign up is required and space is limited. We will then return to Morrison Hall or the Cornell Vet School for three workshop options from 4 to 6 pm. Some walking may be required to get to these activities. Therefore, please notify us in advance if you will require transportation.

Saturday's lineup also includes both hands-on events and formal presentations. The hands-on events for new farmers will be a repeat of Friday's activities but with less structure and with Cornell students assisting. A short description of each workshop and activity is available online. Hands-on activities that require prior sign up to insure a space are noted in the Symposium Schedule and registration forms.

A Goat & Sheep Integrated Parasite Management workshop will be held on Sunday that includes FAMACHA certification. Other Sunday workshops include a hands-on workshop to learn how to identify and count the different parasite eggs in feces and a workshop on enrolling a herd or flock in the National Sheep Improvement Program's Genetic Evaluations.

Parking: Parking is free at Cornell in most lots on Saturday and Sunday. However, parking is not free until after 5 pm on Friday. Therefore, you will need to pay for parking if attending on Friday. If you have a smart phone, you can download ParkMobile app (www.parkmobile.com) to park either in the C/G/SC lot (PM Zone 4122) at the east entrance of Morrison Hall (for \$1.50/hr. or \$10/day) or in the TRB lot (PM Zone 4108) next to the Teaching Barn on Campus Rd (for \$0.75/hr or \$6/day). Another option is to purchase a 4-hr flex pass for \$6.00 (credit cards only) at the parking booth at 360 Tower Rd for the "South Morrison" parking lot (east side of Judd Falls Rd near the intersection with Campus Rd). More information about parking at Cornell can be found at <https://www.cornell.edu/visit/parking/>.

Go to <http://www.sheep.cornell.edu> (click on 2018 Symposium) to obtain the complete program and registration information. Please contact Barbara Jone, 607-255-7712 or bjj6@cornell.edu with any questions.



Helping You Put Knowledge To Work

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