

NEW YORK FRUIT QUARTERLY

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Editorial

Maintaining the New York Apple Research Order



*"From season to season,
trees bridge one generation
to the next."*

Having recently read these words by a gifted, but anonymous writer, I recognize how appropriate they are to the legacy entrusted to our apple growers. We are the stewards of the next generation and our skilled nurturing continues the cycle.

These are severely trying times for the apple industry. The pressures placed upon our state and nation by the tragic events of September 11th, the actions of NAFTA, the importing of apples from China and other foreign countries, coupled with instant communication and rapid world-wide transportation have created a major impact on the industry. Much of this impact has been negative for New York growers, but we must focus attention on our positives. The New York apple industry has a large inventory of productive orchards, storage, packing, shipping, and marketing capabilities to deliver an excellent product to the consumer.

As we move from season to season, one thing we can be certain of is change. How we handle that change will be our greatest challenge. Twelve years ago, New York growers banded together to create the New York Apple Research Order to help deal with change. This resulted in an outstanding collaboration between Cornell University, the Geneva and Hudson Valley research stations, and Cornell Cooperative Extension, which has concentrated on the needs of the industry. Through the years the outstanding work of researchers in pomology, plant pathology, plant breeding, rootstocks, post harvest physiology, apple processing, genetic research, new product development, and disease resistance has provided us with a reservoir of knowledge and skill unmatched anywhere. From 1996 to 2001 alone, 47 different projects were funded, with a total grower investment in excess of \$750,000.

We must now assess our strengths, recognize our weaknesses and respond in a unified manner to address the future as an apple industry. To that end, we on the Apple Research and Development Board urge you to support the re-vote on the apple marketing order this year. If we continue to work together to reach common goals, perhaps this generation will bridge to the next as the trees bridge from season to season.

Please vote to maintain the ARDP this year.

Anthony Moriello
Apple Grower
Chairman, ARPD

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