

# NEW YORK FRUIT QUARTERLY

## Editorial

### Stepping Down and Looking Back

By the time you read this, I will have stepped down as director of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station after 13.5 years in the position. I have seen many changes in the Station, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the fruit and vegetable industries that the Station serves during my 31 years in Geneva. Perhaps the greatest changes have occurred in the fields of scientific knowledge and agricultural and food technologies.

Because of the relatively strong financial support provided by the state government for the State University of New York (SUNY), which is where the Station receives most of its funds, I think of the 1960s as the "golden years." When I arrived in Geneva, SUNY provided 85 percent of the Station's budget. Ten percent was funded with formula funds provided by the federal government. These percentages have diminished to around 50 and 5 percent, respectively—a significant reduction.

Reductions have also affected personnel. In 1974, there were 68 professors and 200 staff paid on State funds, including those at the Vineyard Laboratory in Fredonia and the Hudson Valley Lab in Highland. Those numbers are currently at 46 and 123, respectively. Thirty years ago, State funds were adequate to pay employees, hire seasonal help, support the operating costs of faculty programs, allow the Station to maintain the physical facilities, and purchase laboratory and field research equipment. Those were the "good old days."

In 1974, the Station and the College were shocked when the SUNY budget was cut. The golden years were over, and the decline in SUNY appropriations has been almost an annual occurrence since then. Faculty must now obtain external funds to help support their technicians, and the percentage of their technician's pay provided by the Station continues to decline each year.

Susan Henry, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is well aware of the situation at the Station, and knows it is exacerbated by the lack of tuition income to offset SUNY cuts at Geneva. Prior to appointing a search committee for the next director, she has appointed a committee to prepare a "white paper" to identify the issues facing the Station. I am also encouraged by the concern for support for the Station expressed by so many members of state government and leaders of the fruit and vegetable industry.

At the same time that economic pressures have led to budget cuts at the Station, changes have occurred in the fruit industry. Most of you are well aware of the challenges of global marketing, increased competition, and shrinking profit margins. Environmental concerns are significant, new pesticides must be carefully managed, pest resistance to some older pesticides is commonplace, and regulatory actions affect us all. The industry has met many challenges and more continue to develop.

Even as the fruit and vegetable industries faced their own budget realities, they continued to contribute funds for research to meet priority needs—and we at the Station appreciate that support. The Apple Research and Development Program, the Grape Production Research, and the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program are prime examples of fruit industries helping themselves and the Station.

At the same time, the Station and the college have done as much as possible to wisely use resources to assist the industry. The Tree Fruit Task Force, started in April 2002, is one recent endeavor. A report from that group appears in this issue.

In closing, I would like to say it has been a pleasure to work with so many of you during my career at Geneva. I have particularly appreciated your help in keeping the Station focused on its mission to the fruit and vegetable industries. Working together will be as important as ever as we strive to overcome the many challenges ahead of us. The future of the Station is an important area of common concern.

James E. Hunter

## CONTENTS

### Tree Fruit Task Force Progress Reports:

<b>Market Awareness &amp; Decision Making</b> Cathy Sheils, Alison DeMarree .....	3
<b>Market Structure</b> Jerry White .....	3
<b>Leadership Development</b> Marc Smith .....	4
<b>Production Technology and Fruit Quality</b> Terence L. Robinson, Christopher B. Watkins...	6

### Antioxidants of Apples

Jeanelle Boyer, Rui Hai Liu .....	11
-----------------------------------	----

### Reduced Application Rates of Provado for Management of Leafhoppers and Aphids on Apple

R. W. Straub and P. J. Jentsch .....	17
--------------------------------------	----

### Water Conditioners and Surfactants Enhance Growth Control, But Have Little Effect on Fruit Cracking of Empire Apple Caused by Apogee

Jim Schupp, Terence Robinson and Win Coughill, Jr. ....	21
---	----

### Effects of Spotted Tentiform Leafminer and European Red Mite on Apple Leaf Function and Crop Development

Kuo-Tan Li, Jan P. Nyrop, and Alan N. Lakso. . .	29
--	----

FRONT COVER: A booklet profiling 19 New York apple growers (pictured here) was published and sent to all apple growers in November. The booklet is one of the chapters of the "Apple Workbook," a project of the Cornell Tree Fruit Task Force and FarmNet due to be published in January. See related story, p.3.

PHOTO CREDIT: Joe Ogradnick/NYSAES/Cornell and Christian Di Lalla/Photography/ NYC.

## NEW YORK FRUIT QUARTERLY

VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 4 • WINTER 2003-2004

This publication is a joint effort of the New York State Horticultural Society, Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, and the New York State Apple Research and Development Program.



### Editors:

Terence Robinson and Steve Hoying  
Dept. of Horticultural Sciences  
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station  
Geneva, New York 14456-0462  
Telephone: 315-787-2227  
Fax: 315-787-2216

Subscriptions: \$20/year. Contact Karen Wilson,  
NYSHS, PO Box 462, Geneva, NY 14456  
or call: 315-787-2404

Advertising: Warren Smith: 845-255-1442  
Production: Communications Services,  
NYSAES, Geneva