

Editorial

An Enduring Partnership for Prosperity

Collaborative partnerships with NY state growers are vital to the success of the Experiment Station in Geneva. Working with the NY fruit industries on diverse research and extension programs in breeding, plant growth and management, disease and pest management, food safety and value-added product development will continue to be major components of our portfolio that contribute significantly to the NY economy.

The downturn of the global economy is impacting everyone but should not impede us from seeking opportunities to strengthen our programs and relationships. This year we look forward to the release of outstanding new apple varieties as well as the development of new models for the management of those varieties by industry partners. The evolution of our approach in this relatively new endeavor is progressing through open forums that help to further solidify the Cornell-industry partnership. Major objectives are to enhance industry profitability and return critical financial support to the breeding programs.

Another step toward enhancement of our partnership was the establishment in 2007 of the NYSAES Advisory Council, comprised of several leaders of New York's diverse food and agriculture industries. We are pleased that among our Council members are fruit growers Jeff Crist, Walter Blackler, Bob Brown, Brian Nicholson, and Jim Bittner. The Council provides strategic guidance to the Station and College leadership by serving on specifically-targeted task forces to address current and future issues of the Station.

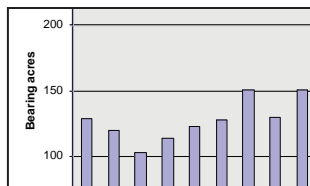
Another major accomplishment has been the establishment of the Herman M. Cohn Professorship held by Susan Brown and subsequently the establishment of the Cornell Tree Fruit Genomics Initiative Susan directs. We will welcome the Initiative's first faculty member, Dr. Kenong Xu, in January. Kenong will conduct research that is expected to add significantly to our understanding of how specific apple genes affect fruit and tree quality attributes. In addition he will have a 30% extension responsibility, allowing him to develop biotechnology education programs for diverse stakeholder audiences.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the New York Apple Research and Development Program, NY Berry Growers Association, the NYFVI and all of the other grower-driven organizations for their continued support through prosperous and challenging years alike. Year after year, these grower associations, together with the NY Department of Agriculture and Markets, have played major roles in sustaining the outstanding efforts of Cornell faculty and staff at the Experiment Station in Geneva. It is truly a pleasure to collaborate with colleagues who appreciate the importance of research and are so willing to give of their time and funds to support research and extension. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

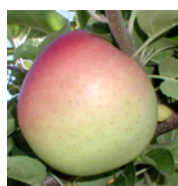
Thomas J. Burr
Director, New York State
Agricultural Experiment Station
and Associate Dean,
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,
Cornell University



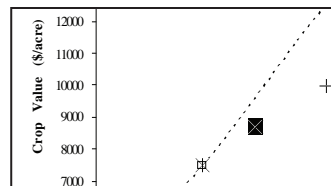
3



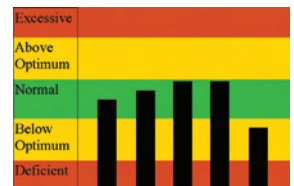
7



11



19



25

Contents

3 Scab-resistant Cultivars (Varieties)
Susan Brown and Kevin Maloney

7 Monitoring and Measuring Fruit Farm Businesses
Alison DeMarree¹ and Gerald White²

11 Some Antique Apples for Modern Orchards
Ian A. Merwin

19 Chemical Peach Thinning: Understanding the relationship between crop load and crop value.

Jason L. Osborne and Terence Robinson

25 Soil pH is More Important Than Fertilizer for Blueberries
Molly Shaw

COVER: Mechanical harvest of blueberries.
(Photo by Kathy Heidenreich; inset photo courtesy of USDA/ARS)