NEW YORK FRUIT QUARTERLY

Editorial

Cornell Cooperative Extension: Responsive, Innovative, Collaborative

The fruit industry is undergoing a period of tremendous investment, both pre- and post-harvest. Continued plantings of New York's finest varieties, as well as new exciting varieties such as Honeycrisp, are taking place rapidly with application of the most progressive information on all aspects of horticultural management including site selection, planting systems, and pest and disease control. Technologies to maintain quality and control decay during packaging and storage are also being actively researched on behalf of the industry. The confidence of the apple industry in its future is reflected in large investments in state-of-the-art controlled atmosphere storages and packing plants in New York in the last few years.

Extension has played an important role in helping the industry evolve and adapt as global needs change. Extension faculty and educators have introduced new technologies and processes that help producers successfully face the competition. Through numerous collaborative efforts, extension has helped the industry meet Eurogap and other food safety standards that have enabled continued export of apples to overseas markets. These same principles and standards will be critical as we face greater scrutiny in the US market as a result of food safety concerns.

Every issue of the *New York Fruit Quarterly* presents the results of high quality, innovative applied research and extension projects conducted by faculty, staff, and educators in departments and units at Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Associations. The overwhelming response and commitment of these professionals to addressing the needs of the fruit industry in New York is commendable. Cornell faculty and extension educators purposefully and successfully blur department and county lines so that they can best serve the fruit industry with high-impact integrated research and extension programs. Strategic collaboration towards development of innovative solutions continues to be the key to success for our agriculture programs. These collaborations are strengthened by strong linkages between researchers, extension educators and industry partners such as the NY Horticultural Society, the NY Apple Research and Development Program, advisory groups, and work teams.

As I visit with Extension Directors at peer institutions, Cornell's wealth of resources available to stakeholders is often noted and admired. Cornell fruit resources on and off campus are outstanding. Written information is available online 24 hours a day through a comprehensive web site: **http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/**. These resources could not have been created without the collaborative contributions of many people.

I am proud to serve as the Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension and to be a vocal advocate for the high-impact quality fruit programs delivered in New York. We face challenges and opportunities in the future as we seek to maintain a vibrant and successful extension system, and we continue to seek new ways of doing business that will enhance our capabilities to serve the fruit industry.

These endeavors require inputs from all facets of the industry. Your continued support, collaboration and participation in advisory councils, program work teams, and boards are very much needed. I hope that you will continue to work with us to enhance our programs. People in New York and beyond will enjoy a plentiful supply of delicious and healthy fruit for decades to come as a result of current investments in fruit programming conducted by Cornell's research and extension professionals.

Helene Dillard, Director
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CONTENTS

FRONT COVER: High density sweet cherry trees on Gisela 6 rootstock with a large crop in the 5th leaf.

BACK COVER: Apple plants 6 weeks after inoculation with fire blight bacteria. Right: ordinary Galaxy plants with 80% of their shoot length blighted. Left: addition of an extra copy of the natural apple gene, *MpNPR1*, has increased the plants' resistance to fire blight (only 31% blighted).

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