

NEW YORK FRUIT QUARTERLY

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Editorial

Giving Credit to the Experiment Station

I should have known! The fruit growers of New York have ready and easy access to the finest fruit research and extension facility in the world! Even I didn't understand its importance to agriculture until I spent the summer working in and around the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, N.Y. Only after working closely with the people at the Station on a one-to-one basis did I grasp how totally dedicated they are to you, the New York agricultural producer, and your concerns. If it is of concern to you, there is someone probably working on it at the Experiment Station. If there is no one actually working on the problem, then someone is certainly thinking about how to find the time and resources to solve that problem for you. I am extremely proud just to be associated with this program.

The one thing that became crystal clear to me as I worked with Terence Robinson, Bob Andersen, and Susan Brown is how hard they work on behalf of the fruit industry. Finding funds and running successful research programs are extremely difficult things to do. And it has recently become even more difficult. A significant portion of their programs are unselfishly run on a shoestring budget to satisfy the practical wants and needs of our industry. This can truthfully be said of every faculty member within Horticultural Sciences and, indeed, within all the departments at the Experiment Station.

The Station's faculty are supported by people whom we can never credit enough—the many dedicated people working behind the scenes, including the technicians, farm crew, communication services, and Station and departmental administrators who somehow put it all together and make it work.

I would strongly disagree with anyone who would argue we do not need this resource. The many visitors from around the world attest to the reputation of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and the quality of its work. The Station's record of achievement is unparalleled, and the need for further technological development is even more important for agriculture in the future.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the New York fruit industry for allowing me to spend the last six months on "sabbatical" at the New York State Experiment Station in Geneva. I really enjoyed learning new things and working on in-depth projects that would be impossible to do under normal circumstances. Hopefully, the fruits of my labor will translate into new ways for our industry to remain strong and profitable.

*Steve Hoying
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FRONT COVER: Bird damage to crops has always been a problem. Bird control was practiced by Native Americans in 1853 to protect their crops. Today scare-eye balloons and netting are used to limit bird predation. PHOTOS: J. Ogrodnick/NYSAES/Cornell. ILLUSTRATION: Courtesy The Granger Collection.

BACK COVER: Large numbers of apples are tested using an electronic pressure tester (EPT) to accurately determine differences in firmness among 1-mcp treated fruit. See the "Grow New York" article on page 21 for complete results. Inset: A gas chromatograph is used to determine internal ethylene. CREDIT: J. Ogrodnick/NYSAES/Cornell.

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