Harvest season is upon us in spite of the unseasonably warm September temperatures. Please keep in mind important safety measures and consider taking a break to remind those helping you to stay aware of potential accidents. Page 7 offers a link to YouTube with resources for on-farm training. Be sure to take advantage of these as appropriate for your operation and farm activities.

Meeting season is fast approaching and the PRO-DAIRY Program has announced it’s three part Cornell Dairy Executive Program. This program, in its twelfth year, is a great opportunity for dairy producers and agri-service personnel alike to further develop their leadership and management skills. See Page 2 for information.

Looking to reduce energy costs on the farm? Lighting continues to be one of the easier and often times more cost effective means to reduce this farm expense. Page 3 & 4 offer some options for upgrades to lighting systems along with some pitfalls to avoid.

If you have a home poultry flock or know someone who does, please share the resources listed on Page 5 as it relates to Avian Influenza. Biosecurity is even more critical for the smaller flocks and please don't forget about any domesticated geese and turkeys.

If you are considering generating your own electricity consider Solarize Cayuga. More information can be found on Page 6 but you need to act before October 31st.

Grant proposals from farms that showcase the diversity of New York agriculture are being sought by the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI). Proposals up to $150,000 will be accepted with the awards being announced in the spring. See Page 6 to learn more.

The EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) application cutoff has been announced by NRCS—NY. For the cutoff date and all other pertinent information turn to Page 7.

Beef Quality Assurance is consumer oriented and can help producers raise their profitability plus your checkoff dollars support this program. Take advantage of a workshop in Marcellus, more information can be found on Page 7.

PRODUCERS—EXTEND YOUR GROWING SEASON UNDER PLASTIC
Learn How at This Public Meeting

High tunnel agriculture can be a simple, relatively inexpensive, but potentially effective way of protecting high-value crops from the effects of lower temperatures, excessive wind and rain, in addition to offering some protection from insect pests and foliar diseases, as well as wildlife damage.

Current users of high tunnels and those interested in learning more about using high tunnels to produce valuable crops are invited to attend a public meeting on October 8th, 2015 starting at 7 p.m. at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County’s Education Center located at 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn. Judson Reid, Extension Vegetable Specialist with the Cornell Vegetable Program Team will be the featured speaker. Judson’s main focus is on cultural practices, small farm operations and season extension techniques.

There is no charge for attending the evening meeting. For more information, contact Agriculture Resource Educators Judy Wright at 255-1183 (ext. 234) or Keith Severson at 255-1183 (ext.225).
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Below is a list of upcoming events that we thought might be important to you! If you ever have further questions or need to clarify any information, you can always check out our website http://blogs.cornell.edu/cceccayuga, go to the Ag Calendar under the Agriculture tab on top. We try our best to keep information as up-to-date as possible so that you have a quick, easy reference available 24/7. Of course, you can always call our office with any questions or concerns you might have at 315-255-1183.

October

October 5—8. **International Farm Transition Network Annual Meeting and Farm Succession Facilitation Training.** Held at the Ramada Inn, Ithaca, NY. Registration is limited. Lunch and materials are included with registration. For more information go to www.pafarmlink.org or call Darlene Livingston (daliving@pafarmlink.org) at 717-705-2121.

October 8. **Growing Vegetables Under Plastic** a public meeting to be held at CCE Cayuga County Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY. Begins at 7 p.m. No registration necessary. More information can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

October 24. **Old Fashioned Halloween** Held at the Ward W. O’Hara Agricultural Museum & Dr. Joseph Karpinski Education Center of Cayuga County, 6880 East Lake Road (Rt. 38A); Opposite Emerson Park, Auburn, NY. From 12 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Costume parade, Trick or treat, Games and More. For more information go to the calendar on our website at http://blogs.cornell.edu/cceccayuga.

October 26. **Beef Quality Assurance Workshop** Held at Shepard Settlement Farm in Marcellus, NY from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. More information can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

October 29. **Opening the Barn Door: Communicating With the Public About Your Animals and Your Business.** Sponsored by New York Farm Bureau. Held at the Doubletree by Hilton, 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Temple Grandin. Go to NYFB.Org for registration information or contact Lisa Ovitt at 1-800-342-4143.

November

November 10-12. **Farmers Market Managers Professional Certification Course.** Held on the SUNY Cobleskill Campus and offered through Farmers Market Federation of NY. Course curriculum covered for the three days will include all aspects of maintaining and growing a successful farmers market. For more information or to register go to http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com/fmmpropay.

November 19. **CCE Cayuga County Annual Meeting.** SAVE THE DATE! More information will follow.

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WANTED: 30 GREAT DAIRY LEADERS

- Motivated to improve business management skills to lead a dairy business into the future
- Inspired to achieve excellence through personal growth
- Appreciate the value of networking with other producers and industry leaders

The Cornell Dairy Executive Program (CDEP) provides professional, cutting-edge management training for progressive dairy producers in New York and across the country. This unique yearlong program develops leadership and decision making skills that are necessary to run a successful dairy business with individuals who have 5 or more years of dairy experience in a decision making position. With input and support from producers and agriservice, this program is designed to enhance understanding of the fast-changing dairy industry. By coming to this program, you will continue to develop the necessary leadership and business management skills to lead your dairy business into the future. More detailed program information, including program fees, can be found online at http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/dairyexec.

For more information, contact Jason Karszes, Cornell PRO-Dairy Program at (607) 227-0694 or jk57@cornell.edu. Application Deadline is October 15!

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Testimonials

“The Academy made me really take a step back and look at the big picture: how and where do you want to be.”

“Very fortunate to have the opportunity to attend The Academy and very beneficial to my future and the future of my farm.”

“It’s easy to think sometimes that you are the only one going through personal and professional challenges, but talking with others at The Academy shows that you can get through it because they are.”
Common Upgrades for Lighting Systems

From: Penn State Extension

Lighting is often one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy use on a farm. While lighting upgrades can be a great energy saving measure, there are a few pitfalls you have to avoid. We'll discuss some of the more common problems you can avoid without too much trouble.

So, you've been to the store lately, and you see all kinds of new "energy efficient" lighting advertised for sale. They sure look good on the shelf, but will these new things actually work and save you money on the farm? The answer to the question is "probably." In fact, lighting is often one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy use on a farm. While lighting upgrades can be a great energy saving measure, there are a few pitfalls you have to avoid. We'll discuss some of the more common problems you can avoid without too much trouble.

Common Upgrades for Lighting Systems

1. Replace incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent or LED replacement lamps. This can be an easy way to save on your lighting costs—incandescents are the real energy hogs of the lighting world. Savings of 60 to 70% are not uncommon when upgrading to fluorescents or LEDs.

2. Replace T12 fluorescent lamps with T8 or T5 fluorescents. T12 lamps are generally less efficient than the thinner T8 and T5 lamps. Plus, the thinner tubes often have better color rendering characteristics. Savings of 10 to 25% are not uncommon.

3. Replace mercury vapor lamps with high pressure sodium, metal halide, or LED. Mercury vapor lamps are an old technology that you sometimes see in "historic" outdoor fixtures in the farmyard. Replacing them is almost always a good idea, from an energy point of view. High pressure sodium lamps give a distinctive "orange glow" that some people like while others dislike, but the light source is rugged, long lasting, and has high efficiency. Metal halide lamps give off a more bluish white light that renders colors better, but they are not quite as rugged or efficient as high pressure sodium.

4. Replace worn out or inefficient fixtures with new, high efficiency models. It's not just the efficiency of the light source that matters. If the reflector and/or lens are worn out or if they are poorly designed, they will absorb light rather than reflect and transmit it, resulting in poor efficiency. One study of greenhouse fixtures found that the optical efficiency of the reflector and lens of new fixtures varied from 45 to 61%.

This value only drops as the fixture ages, lenses become cloudy, and reflectors grow pitted. Check the condition of your fixtures, and replace the ones that are obviously worn out or are "trapping" most of the light they produce.

5. Add automatic controls. Occupancy sensors, timers, photocells, and other fancy controls are readily available to turn lights down or off when not needed. These automated controls almost always reduce energy use, simply because most of us forget to turn off the lights more often than we'd like to admit.

Pitfalls to Avoid When Upgrading Lighting

As with many things in life, there are lots of ways to mess up a lighting upgrade. Here are a few of the more common pitfalls to watch out for when considering what to do on your farm.

1. Spending big money on lights that are rarely used. If a light is only used for an hour or two per day, chances are that it won't pay off to replace it with a high efficiency lamp. Let's say that you have a closet with a 60-watt incandescent lamp in it that is turned on about 10 minutes each day. You can replace that incandescent lamp with a 13-watt compact fluorescent and get about the same light output for much less energy use. However, it will take (under typical conditions) almost 9 years to recoup the cost of buying that compact fluorescent lamp. You are better off concentrating on lamps that are being used many hours out of the day.

Continued on Page 4 ...
2. Buying cut rate lamps or fixtures that don't perform or don't last. We've heard some reports of new high efficiency lamps that don't hold up well in farm conditions and fail long before their rated lifespan. Similarly, poorly designed or built fixtures can rust, fade, or accumulate heat that contributes to premature failure of the lamps. Watch out for off brands, and make sure that lighting systems are suitable for farm duty. If you plan to clean your barn and lights with water, make sure that the fixtures are properly lensed, gasketed and are rated for "wet" service.

3. Forgetting about maintenance. Sometimes, the best tool for improving your lighting system is a rag and a little elbow grease. Dirt accumulation on lamps, reflectors and lenses can wreak havoc with a lighting system, and farms are some of the grimiest, dustiest places around. Be sure to clean your lighting system at least twice per year to maintain good performance.

4. Using too little lighting. Too often, lighting installers base their designs on the initial output of brand new, clean fixtures in a shiny new barn. This might be o.k. for the first week or so of operation, but after that, dust, grime, and the aging of the light sources will reduce output, causing substandard lighting conditions. Because of this, a lighting system should be designed to initially produce more than the recommended illuminance level, so that when it is old and dusty, it can still perform up to standard. This is important to do even if you do clean your lighting system regularly. If you are concerned about over lighting during the initial weeks of operation, you can use dimmers or selective switching to bring the initial illuminance down to the recommended values.

Planning is underway for the fourth year of the Cornell All Forage Fed Bull Test. Gain on last year’s 140-day test was a success with an average gain of 2.1 lb on a diet of ensiled forages and mineral. Monthly updates were provided to consignors and other producers with the information posted to: http://beefcattle.ansci.cornell.edu/. The 25 bulls were body conditioned scored and weighed every 28 days. Hip heights were measured to determine frame scores. Breeding soundness and carcass ultrasound exams were performed at the conclusion of the test.

New York is well positioned to take advantage of the growing demand for pasture-finished beef due to its rich grazing resources and proximity to large urban markets. One of the keys to profitable production is the use of genetics that will result in a quality product within a feasible timeframe. Raising animals through a second winter presents challenges both from an economical and production standpoint. The forage based test is a cost-effective option to help breeders and buyers assess and compare bull cohorts raised under commercial conditions.

Comments from one of last year’s consignors Roy Brubaker, Blue Rooster Farm in East Waterford, PA, says, “For not a whole lot more than what it would cost me to feed our young bulls, the test provided a full range of data from ADG to ultrasound and breeding soundness; all within the context of an all-forage diet which is how we raise our cattle. But the value of having good data at an affordable price is only the tip of the iceberg. What matters even more to us is the collective learning opportunity the test provides for those interested in providing both objective information and real genetic value within the grass-finishing segment of the beef industry.”

The upcoming year’s test will be 112 days. Discussion is underway to add an optional 84-day grazing component. Delivery dates are January 8 and 9 with the test beginning January 15. Nomination form with a non-refundable $50 deposit is due by October 15. If you are interested in consigning or want additional information, contact Nancy Glazier at (585) 315-7746, nig3@cornell.edu or Mike Baker at (607) 255-5923, mjb228@cornell.edu. Test rules and forms can be found at http://beefcattle.ansci.cornell.edu/eventsprogram.
The summer is winding down, but for many on the farm, business is picking up. Seasonal workers are being added and young people are getting their first opportunity to pitch in. As activities on your farms increase, the Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance wants to help keep farmers, the environment, and our buried infrastructures, safe.

Pipelines and other utility operators have a number of different above ground facilities located along the right-of-way. Farm-taps, valves, meter stations, regulator stations, rectifiers and other exposed facilities situated along farm fields are at an increased risk of damage as vegetation grows taller and the days get shorter. Sitting atop towering farm equipment can compound visibility problems, so awareness of the presence of these protrusions is critical. New and seasonal workers need to be made aware of the presence of above and below ground facilities. Pipeline operators need to keep above ground facilities well marked, and farmers need to note their presence to anyone operating equipment to keep everyone safe.

Recently conducted pipeline industry research has helped to better understand behavior, motivation, and awareness of farmers and ranchers. The Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance recently shared a startling fact that while two-thirds of farmers are aware of the call before you dig (811) services, less than one-in-five have ever called before digging. One common excuse given is “I didn’t have time to wait around for them to locate the lines”, however the research tells a different story:

Q) When planning a digging project, which of the following best describes how far in advance you plan your project?

- More than a month: 10%
- About a month: 19%
- About a week: 24%
- A few days: 41%
- Never plan in advance: 6%

PASA reports that with 94% of the respondents, there is potentially enough time to make the call and have the lines marked before their digs.

Q) Please list the risks you are aware of that are associated with digging on your property.

- Hitting buried lines: 81%
- Terrain concerns: 25%
- Personal Injury: 7%
- Equipment: 7%

While farmers and ranchers identified hitting buried lines as a risk when digging, they did not associate that risk with damage to their equipment or personal injury.

We see that there is usually time for the farmers and ranchers to call 811 before digging; the challenge is getting them to remember it and make that call a part of the planning. They are aware that hitting a buried line is a risk but you could conclude that because they don’t perceive that risk will result in equipment damage or personal injury, they are not taking the time to make the call.

### Useful Links Before you Dig

**New PASA Website**
[www.PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com](http://www.PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com)

**Pipeline Info**
[www.pipeline101.com](http://www.pipeline101.com)

**Call Before You Dig Info**
[www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com)

**Excavation Safety**
[http://www.excavationsafetyguide.com](http://www.excavationsafetyguide.com)

**National Pipeline Mapping System**
[https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer](https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer)

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### AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

With the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in Central and Western U.S., biosecurity for both commercial and home poultry flocks has become an important topic. Poultry flocks in New York State have not yet experienced an outbreak of Avian Influenza. It is important that all poultry flock owners observe proper safety measures and cleaning protocols to keep the risk of exposure low. Information on combating this highly contagious virus can be found at both the New York State Ag & Markets website ([http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/ai/AIpoultry.html](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/ai/AIpoultry.html)) and the United States Department of Agriculture website ([http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov](http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov)).

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County has put together a packet of information and will be distributing to known poultry flock owners. If you are interested in receiving this information, please contact our office at 315-255-1183 ext. 234. Printable copies of the brochures and pamphlets contained in the information packet are also available on our website for your convenience go to [http://blogs.cornell.edu/ceccayuga](http://blogs.cornell.edu/ceccayuga).
Cayuga County residents and businesses are able to take advantage of a discount on solar panels installed on their properties through the new Solarize Cayuga initiative. Solarize Cayuga is part of a larger Solarize CNY program being administered by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board in conjunction with local community volunteers in five upstate counties: Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego.

Solarize Cayuga streamlines the process for potential solar customers by educating them about the details of solar panels, selecting reputable solar installation companies through a competitive process to ensure they meet established criteria, and informing customers of potential financing options as well as available state and federal financial incentives.

The Solarize Cayuga program is offering a series of free community workshops throughout Cayuga County, where interested property owners can learn how solar photovoltaic (PV) energy systems work, what the solar power potential is in our region, how the Solarize program works, and what solar incentives and financing options currently exist to make PV systems even more affordable. To find a workshop in your area, go to: solarizecny.org. Solarize Cayuga program attendees will also be introduced to the two program-approved solar contractors.

Interested parties are encouraged to sign up to receive a free, no-obligation site assessment to determine the suitability of their property for solar panels. If their site proves suitable for solar power, they will be able to purchase a solar installation at substantial cost savings from a Solarize Cayuga program-approved installer. The Solarize Cayuga program has a limited time enrollment period, ending October 31st.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) – which is underwriting Solarize programs throughout our state and which currently offers financial incentives for PV systems - indicates that the prices offered through our Solarize Cayuga program are about 15% below the state market rate for comparable solar energy systems.

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**NYFVI Request for Proposals: Farmer Relevant Projects Wanted. Impact Required.**

The New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI) is seeking proposals for its competitive grant program. Applications for funds are due by November 15, 2015.

NYFVI is a farmer-led nonprofit organization dedicated to helping New York farms become more profitable. The NYFVI competitive grant program connects farmer-identified needs to practical research and education solutions for positive farm-level impact.

NYFVI seeks projects that reflect the diversity of NY agriculture, incorporating diverse production sectors, farm sizes, production practices, and geographic regions. Emphasis is placed on funding projects that demonstrate:

- State-, region-, or industry-wide emphasis and application
- Farmer-identified needs and opportunities, with demonstrated support from producers
- Farm-level impacts within the life of the grant
- Cost-effectiveness and value

NYFVI will be funding projects in a single program known simply as “Farm Viability”. The projects may range from improving operational practices through applied research and education to developing new routes to market for product. Proposals up to $150,000 will be accepted. Awards will be announced in the spring.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to read the full request for proposals at www.NYFVI.org. All applications must be submitted online at db.NYFVI.org. Questions or help with proposal development can be sent to: info@nyfvi.org.

Webinars are scheduled to help project leaders understand proposal requirements and develop successful applications. Webinars are scheduled: Wednesday, October 7th at 10 a.m. and Thursday, October 15th at 6 p.m. Registration for the webinars is at www.nfyvi.org. Be sure to follow NYFVI on Facebook for the latest updates.

The New York Farm Viability Institute receives generous support from the Governor and the New York State Legislature, through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Request for proposals anticipates a funding appropriation through the New York State Legislature in the 2016-2017 Budget.
US Ag Centers’ YouTube Channel Ready for Viewing on Safety

The 10 U.S. Agricultural Centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are uniquely positioned to promote safety solutions during National Farm Safety and Health Week (September 20-26), and year round.

The centers have pooled their expertise on a YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/USAgCenters, featuring 80 videos. The videos can be used by Extension agents, agricultural science teachers, producers, first responders, families and others interested in agricultural safety best-practices.

Topics include grain bins, dairy, tractor rollovers and heat illness. Five new videos were added recently, including four on needlestick injuries (two Spanish, two English), and one on hearing protection.

Agriculture is among our most hazardous industries, with a work-related death rate of 22.2 deaths per 100,000 workers annually, according to the most recent numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, far ahead of transportation (13.1/100,000) and mining (12.3/100,000).

The NIOSH Agricultural Centers are distributed throughout the nation to be responsive to the agricultural safety and health issues unique to the different regions. Links to these centers can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/agctrhom.html.

Beef Quality Assurance Workshop: BQA In a Day

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County (CCE) will be hosting a Beef Quality Assurance Workshop at the Shepard Settlement Farm located in Marcellus, NY on Monday, October 26th, 2015 from 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm.

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a national program that provides guidelines for beef cattle production. The program raises consumer confidence through offering proper management techniques and a commitment to quality within every segment of the beef industry.

Producers have embraced BQA because they have gained through increased profitability. As an educating program, BQA helps producers identify management processes that can be improved. BQA does more than just help beef producers capture more value from their market cattle: BQA also reflects a positive public image and instills consumer confidence in the beef industry. When producers implement the best management practices of a BQA program, they assure their market steers, heifers, cows, and bulls are the best they can be. Today, the stakes are even higher because of increased public attention on animal welfare.

Beef Checkoff supported BQA programs bring it all together. While the BQA Manual provides a framework for program consistency, the states still determine the best programs for their producers. BQA is an appropriate program for all beef producers as well as dairy producers.

For more information contact Erin Hull, Agriculture Outreach Educator at 315-424-9485 ext. 224 or email elh233@cornell.edu.

NRCS-NY Announces Application Cutoff Dates for EQIP

New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces October 16, 2015 as the application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

Through the EQIP program, NRCS offers financial and technical assistance to participants to implement practices which address priority resource concerns, including soil erosion, water quality and habitat degradation. Focus areas within the EQIP program include soil management, headquarters, habitat, forestry and grazing.

Applications accepted after October 16 may be considered for funding if additional application rounds are announced in FY 2016. If an eligible application is not funded in FY 2016, applications will be considered in FY 2017. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

Anyone interested in applying for an NRCS conservation program can visit their web site for information at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/financial/equip/?cid=nrcs144p2_027058.

You may apply by visiting your local NRCS field office. The Cayuga County NRCS Field Office is located at 7413 County House Road, Auburn, NY.
Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

BECOME A FRIEND OF EXTENSION...
For over 100 years, Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County has been providing programs and services that bring the resources of Cornell University and national Land-Grant university system to the local grass-roots level.

Your tax deductible donation will help us continue to deliver the high-quality innovative programs that are vital to our local agriculture producers, families and community.

We rely on a variety of funding sources for our educational programming from County, State, and Federal sources, as well as grants and fundraising. Your support will help us to continue our mission of Putting Research, Experience & Knowledge to work for all of Cayuga County.

For more information on becoming a Friend of Extension, go to our website at: http://www.blogs.cornell.edu/ceecayuga and click on the Show Your Support tab on top.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015
Cayuga County has been fortunate to continue to be able to offer Household Hazardous Waste disposal options for homeowners.

Our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event has been set for Saturday, October 24th from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. You must register for this event before October 22nd and once registered, you will be given a drop-off location with a scheduled drop-off time. Go to our website: http://blogs.cornell.edu/ceecayuga to register or call the CCE Cayuga County office at 315-255-1183 ext. 238.

This event is coordinated by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Cayuga County Department of Planning, Solid Waste Program Office and the Soil & Water Conservation District. Funding is provided by the Cayuga County Legislature, NYS DEC and NUCOR Steel.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-to-date pesticide recommendations. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are possible. Any recommendations herein are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying.