



Press Release  
June 2010  
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## **Experience the Latest in Ag Research and Best Practices at Cornell Center during 2010 Empire Farm Days**

Seneca Falls, NY - Crops, livestock, fruits, vegetables, wine, lawns, manure management, high tunnel agriculture, gardens, garden pests, the maple industry – you name it, the Cornell Center at the August 10-12, 2010 Empire Farm Days, the Northeast's largest outdoor agricultural trade show, has it.

Empire Farm Days is a one-stop shop for learning about the diverse and unparalleled resources available for farmers, gardeners and landowners from the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Starting at 9 am each day, Cornell experts on farm management, next-generation transitions, value-added agriculture, and product marketing will be available to answer your questions and provide resources.

Of special note, "The 2010 Empire Farm Days 'Ask the Experts' area at the Cornell Center will focus on sustainable and local food production, bioenergy resources, and veterinary medicine," says Cornell Center coordinator Gemma Osborne.

The "Hot-Topics" booth, a recent and popular addition to the Cornell Center, will feature Cornell faculty and extension educators on critical issues facing New York growers and residents, such as food safety and security, agriculture labor management and the continuing problem of late blight.

### **Many Topics of Interest at Cornell Center**

**Sustainable and local-food production.** Experts from Quality Milk Production Services, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York will discuss state-of-the-art production practices, how to transition to organic milk production and certification processes. Representatives of Lake Organic Grain of Penn Yan, NY, will answer questions on organic grain production.

**What is the future for bioenergy and green energy?** Are switchgrass, corn, soybeans and wheat the energy crops of tomorrow? How do methane digesters convert manure gas to energy? Cornell University's biological engineers and representatives of the Northeast Sun Grant Initiative at Cornell will provide an update on farm-based energy production, feedstock and conversion processes development and equipment and systems design.

**Have animal health questions?** Take the opportunity to pose them to experts from the Department of Clinical Sciences at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Learn through play!** Visitors are encouraged to bring children for a visit to the interactive Cornell Kids' Corner. Staffed by the Cornell Ag in the Classroom program, the Cornell Kids'

Corner provides hands-on learning about agriculture through activities, crafts, demonstrations and storytelling.

**More than 30 different booths:**

Some of the programs scheduled to take part in the Cornell Center include:

- Agriculture Education
- Animal Science
- Cornell College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
- Cornell Ag and Food Technology Park
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Cornell Farmworker Program
- Cornell Maple Program
- Cornell Sheep Program
- Cornell Soil Health Lab and Agro-One Soil Lab
- LEAD New York
- New York Agriculture in the Classroom
- New York Ag Innovation Center
- New York FarmLink
- New York FarmNet
- New York Farm Viability Institute
- New York FFA
- New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva
- New York State Seed Testing Lab
- Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network
- Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic
- Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project

New York cheeses, apples, wines, fresh-roasted corn and food products developed with Cornell expertise will be available for attendees to sample.

A Cornell alumni & friends reception will be held on Wednesday, August 11 from 2:30-4 pm at the Center with Cornell University administrators and faculty. Ice cream from the Cornell Dairy Store will be served.

The event covers 300 acres and is expected to draw more than 600 exhibitors representing 3,000 agricultural entities and 70,000 farmers. For more details, contact Empire Farm Days Manager Melanie Wickham, 877-697-7837, [mwickham@empirefarmdays.com](mailto:mwickham@empirefarmdays.com).