

News letter of the NYS Association of County Agricultural Agents

**2000 NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL AGENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING ---  
OCTOBER 25, 26 & 27, HOTEL SYRACUSE --- DON'T MISS IT!**

This year's annual NYS Agricultural Extension Agents Annual Meeting is being held jointly with the ACCEE conference where NYS 4-H Agents and Epsilon Sigma Phi will also be meeting. The meeting runs Wednesday through Friday at the Hotel Syracuse. Registration information can be found at the conference webpage: <http://dev.cce.cornell.edu/accee2000>; hard copies of the conference program have also been distributed.

Following are Conference Highlights of Special Interest to Agricultural Extension Educators, Staff and Faculty:

**Wednesday, October 25**

11 am - 1 pm Registration  
1:00 - 2:30 pm Opening Session  
3:00 - 4:00 pm ACCEE Annual Meeting

**4:00 - 6:00 PM NYS Ag Agents Meeting MEETING TOPIC: Follow-up on June 7 System Conference Discussion with Nathan Rudgers, George Lamont, Daryl Lund, Merrill Ewert**

Many issues and challenges were raised at that meeting...this is our opportunity to collectively consider those issues and develop strategies for a response. Having an honest open dialogue was revealing to many...some feeling defensive, others feeling the need to act. The Ag Agents Association on behalf of all agricultural extension educators is committed to ACT. *Renewing our Commitment to New York Agriculture* was the theme of our June 7 discussion...now our theme is *Acting on the Commitment*. All extension faculty, field staff and educators who want to get involved in follow-up dialogue are invited to attend this afternoon session (even if you decide not to come for the conference).

6:30 pm Dinner

**Thursday, October 26 Workshops & Tours**

There are many great topics being offered of general interest to all extension staff. For agriculture educators, in particular workshops of interest are:

**8:30 - 10:00 am Genetically Modified Foods: The Issues for Agriculture and Consumers**

GM foods are becoming a major public issue which will effect agricultural research, development and markets. Farmers and consumers need to understand the science, the implications, and choices to be made. Our role is to help our constituents make informed choices, therefore, we must be prepared to engage in public dialogue and respond to this issue with science-based factual information. This workshop will explore the science and offer examples of how we can respond to this issue. Workshop Coordinator: Ed Staehr, CCE Onondaga County

10:30 am - Noon **Agricultural Economic Development: Collaborations, Opportunities, Challenges, Keys for Success**

Fueled by the County Ag & Farmland Protection Planning process and the need for pro-active efforts to Grow NY agriculture, local and state government, the college, and private groups are becoming involved in agricultural economic development. This workshop will address extension's role in ag development and include a panel of practitioners to discuss successes and challenges of AED work at the community level, followed by resources, Q & A. Workshop Coordinators: Maureen Maloney-Robb, R. David Smith, Monika Roth

12:15 -1:30 pm Lunch & Depart for Tours

1:00 - 5:00 pm **Visit the Syracuse Regional Market and Plainville Turkey Farm**

Participants will see renovations at the Regional Market and have a chance to see the market in action. At Plainville Farms, see an innovative turkey processing plant and a new visitor center, which educates the public about agriculture. Many business and marketing lessons to be gained from both of these stops. Tour Coordinator: Ed Staehr

5:30 pm Social Hour

6:30 pm **New York State Association of County Agricultural Agents Awards Dinner**

Join us to recognize the accomplishments of your peers and in celebrating the work of all extension agricultural educators. The awards program will include: information on the awards available to ag educators, short reports on projects receiving awards this year, presentation of the NYSACAA In-house and Out-house awards for contributions to extension work, and presentation of the publications awards. New members of the Ag Agents Association will also be inducted at this meeting. We guarantee that this will NOT be a boring Awards Program! Don't miss it. Surprises are planned.

Friday, October 27

8:30 - 10:00 am **NYSACAA General Membership Meeting**

We have lots of important business to discuss and look forward to everyone's input.

**AGENDA**

Welcome  
Secretary's Report - Minutes of last meeting - approve  
Treasurer's Report - approve  
President's Report  
Northeast Director's Report  
Committee Reports  
New Business  
    Approve 2001 Budget  
    2005 NACAA Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference  
    Approval of Committee Appointments  
Election of Officers & Installation  
Initiation of New Members

10:30 - Noon **Conference Capnote Speaker**

This is a full agenda which offers not only the opportunity to attend some great sessions, but the most important opportunity of all is to have time to get to know your fellow extension workers and share ideas and information.

Registration is available for the whole conference or for one day. Full conference registration is \$180 (includes breaks, receptions, breakfast, lunch, dinners, speakers); one day including meals is \$100. Send registrations to Herkimer County, checks payable to ACCEE. Check the conference website for details.

***2005 NACAA ANNUAL MEETING & PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE COMES TO NEW YORK...GET ON BOARD NOW!!***

An exciting time lies ahead---NYSACAA will be hosting the 2005 National Ag Agents Conference. Those of you around in 1981 will remember what fun we had hosting this event. We look forward to everyone's participation on committees so that we can put on a really great event in 2005...one that visitors will remember as fondly as the last time we hosted the conference in New York.

Your board of directors have been reviewing sites that would be suitable within New York State. The list was narrowed down to Buffalo and Syracuse. Here are the advantages and disadvantages for each city:

- **Syracuse Advantages:** close to Cornell, good roads, better convention center, more central to some states, convention center closer to headquarters hotel, Ed Stahr is willing to serve as AM/PIC committee chair, close to Thousand Islands.
- **Syracuse Disadvantages:** area of town, not as flexible, convention center costs will be higher, shuttle costs will be higher, will need more hotels, hotels farther apart.
- **Buffalo Advantages:** nicer airport, Niagara Falls, no shuttle costs, Canada, Adams Mark Hotel, non-union hotels, Joan Petzen is willing to serve as AM/PIC Chair, easier to get from one point to another.
- **Buffalo Disadvantages:** Adams Mark further from convention center, located on the edge of the northeast region, further from Cornell, room rates higher.

If you attend the annual meeting in October, you will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on which site should host the 2005 meeting. At the August board meeting, the board voted to recommend to the body that the 2005 AM/PIC be held in Buffalo. HOWEVER, Ed Staehr and Paul Westfall are still working with each city to revise the bid package. Both Ed and Paul will be at this year's annual meeting and will give an update on what the final bid package is for each city. **Your vote counts. Make every attempt to attend this important meeting.**

**November Ag Production Week Inservice --- and Annual Ag Agents Association Spaghetti Dinner**  
Ag Production Week is being held later this year...after Thanksgiving. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 28 - Thursday, November 30. Program information will be forthcoming.

Our annual NYS Agricultural Agents Association Dinner will be on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 5:30 PM IN RILEY-ROBB HALL**. In addition to dinner we will also take this opportunity to recognize our award recipients...especially the in-house/out of house award winners and the publications awards. See you there!

***IT'S DUES TIME!***

It is time to once again to ask for your financial support of this organization. There are a wide variety of benefits for being a member of the ag agents association at the regional, state and national level. The dues are \$50 for a yearly membership. Please send you dues to Charlie Mazza, state treasurer. Charlie will also be happy to take your dues money at the ACCEE conference and at the spaghetti dinner in November. At the November dinner, we will have the annual early bird drawing.

### ***ASSOCIATION BUSINESS...GET INVOLVED!***

In New York our practice has been to rotate various state committee chair responsibilities by district every three years. It is time to make the rotation. Your association needs your help by providing leadership to one of these committees. If you are interested in being the state chair, contact your district director. The listing of the directors is on the first page of this issue of "Clippings."

The committee rotation and who is currently serving as state chair are:

Orientation - **Western** (Ken Carnes, Capital District)  
Extension Programs - **Southern Tier** ( Paul Lehman, Western District)  
Communications - **Capital** (Mike Baker, Finger Lakes)  
Professional Excellence - **Northern** (Walt Nelson, Southern Tier)  
New Publications Award - **Finger Lakes**  
Public Relations - **Southeast** (Anita Deming, Northern)  
4-H Youth - **Central** - (vacant)

We also need a chair for the Recognition and Awards committee. This is a very important committee, which makes the annual selection for DSA and AA Awards. The Recognition and Awards chair can be any DSA winner from throughout New York State. This committee does not rotate from one district to another.

A Life member state committee chair is also needed. If you know of an "Ex-Buster" who might be interested, let Steve Hadcock know.

We will also be selecting a new treasurer this year to replace Charlie Mazza.

Anyone with an interest in serving in the above capacities should contact Steve Hadcock at [seh11@cornell.edu](mailto:seh11@cornell.edu) by October 15.

### ***PUBLICATIONS AWARDS NOMINATIONS -***

*Is there a favorite new extension publication that has made a difference in your work???*

If so, we want to hear from you!! Please submit your nomination to Monika Roth at [mr55@comell.edu](mailto:mr55@comell.edu) by October 15! This is an opportunity to recognize the work of faculty members who contribute to extension work.