



Cornell University

Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station (Ithaca)
Cornell Cooperative Extension
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station (Geneva)

P.C. Update

A periodic electronic newsletter to members of the Applied Research and Extension Program Councils of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station in Ithaca (CUAES), and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva (NYSAES)

*This issue of **P.C. Update** covers the following topics of interest to Program Council members, including:*

- Future PC “Modus Operandi”*
- PWT Reports Viewable on the WWW*
- PWT Special Projects Supported*
- Competition for Federal Support High*
- Proposed Federal Budget Again Seeks Changes for Research Support*
- Cornell Now a “Sun Grant” College*
- Easier Way to Learn about CALS Research and Impacts*
- State Invasive Species Task Force Reports*
- Update on Community Economic Renewal Efforts*
- NY 4-H Teens Meet with the Senator*
- Youth in Action Grant Awarded*
- Rural Visioning in NYS*
- QLIF Update*
- A&FS Update*
- Voiland to Leave*
- Past Issues of P.C Update*

New Approach Outlined to Convene Program Councils and Enhance Their Input, Operations

In a letter sent to the Program Councils the week of March 27th, the directors of the CUAES, CCE and NYSAES summarized steps that would occur this year and next to begin re-convening the councils and make better use of their leadership and input. The changes to be made were based on a thoughtful review of past PC conference evaluations, web surveys, and comments offered by council members and others since 2002.

In short, the key points of the letter were:

- Council members will continue to provide relevancy reviews of proposed research and extension projects that seek federal funding from the stations and CCE, and will continue to be wholly involved in defining the priorities that frame calls for project preproposals;
- Steering committees for each of the 5 councils will convene 1-2 times/year, while each council will have an annual conference. Joint plenary conferences,

involving all 5 councils, may happen when appropriate, and be focused on special issues or topics;

- Appointments/reappointments of council members will be reviewed and made anew in 2006. Staggered terms of 1, 2 or 3 years will be introduced;
- Academic department representatives on the councils (typically a department chair or extension leader) will be appointed as *ex officio* members.

The five PC Liaisons (who are also the CCE Associate or Assistant Directors for the 5 major program areas) will soon be working with their respective council steering committees to review membership and seek input on how and when to convene committee meetings and council conferences.

2005 PWT Annual Reports Accessible on the Web

Annual (2005) reports from all active Program Work Teams (PWTs) have been submitted and are available at <http://cuaes.cornell.edu/PWTPublic/public.htm>. PWTs, the majority of which were first established in 2001 based on a recommendation outlined in CCE's "Committed to Excellence" Plan, are self-driven affinity groups of faculty, campus and county educators, and external stakeholders who focus on planning, development and delivery of educational programming on specific topics/issues statewide. As the 2005 reports show, the great majority of teams are still very active and engaged, despite the ending of regular annual operational funding from administration.

PWT Special Needs Support Awarded

Sixteen (16) Program Work Teams requested and received additional support from CCE for "special needs" projects they will undertake in 2006. A listing and summary of the various activities/projects that the teams will pursue with this support can be found at http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/pwt/05-06_spec_needs.htm.

Preproposal Submissions Up for Federal Formula Funding

The open period for Cornell University faculty and other eligible academic staff to submit preproposals for 2006–07 Hatch/Multistate, Smith-Lever, McIntire-Stennis, and Animal Health federal formula funding (FFF) ran from October 1 through November 21, 2005. According to the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station (CUAES), which coordinates the preproposal submission and review process, the number of preproposals received was up significantly.

“The submission website received 156 preproposals, some 40 more than the previous year,” said Michael Voiland, assistant director of CUAES and Cornell Cooperative Extension. “The database showed that the pool of preproposals included 108 research support requests, 17 extension support requests, and 31 requests for integrated (research and extension) support,” said Voiland. “Competition for federal formula funding will again be very intense this cycle, with the ratio of ‘dollars requested’ to ‘dollars available’ at almost two to one.” Overall, over \$4 million of funding was requested by faculty; approximately \$2.2 million is available.

The preproposal review process is now well along. Reviews have been submitted by CCE, CUAES, and NYSAES-Geneva leadership, as well as by off-campus stakeholders (mainly serving on the five Program Councils) and the applicants’ department chairs. Preliminary funding decisions should occur in early May, with notification of all applicants typically taking

place the second week of that month. All research and integrated preproposals will require full proposal development and USDA review before approved projects are funded. The funding start date is October 1, 2006, with projects typically funded for three years.

For a glimpse of the annual FFF cycle process, in calendar format, go to http://cuaes.cornell.edu/CUAESWeb/FFF_Calendar0607.pdf

Federal Budget Proposal Again Seeks Major Changes in Federal Formula Funding Allocations to Experiment Stations

As in 2005 and now again in 2006, the annual federal budget proposal submitted by the President has attempted to end (or significantly reduce and change) federal formula funding of state agricultural experiment stations (SAES). The proposal to restructure formularized funding for applied research (as authorized under the federal Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, and Animal Health acts and administered through the SAES) has been vigorously opposed by the land grant university community. The FY05-06 proposal was soundly rejected by congressional appropriators, and, at the present time, land grant institutions are asking Congress to again reject a different but no less troubling proposal for the FY06-07.

To date, the President and USDA have not suggested any significant change to extension (Smith-Lever) formularized funding, but it is believed that calls for change on the extension side could arise in future executive agency budgets.

Cornell University has strenuously opposed changes to the applied research funding formula, while, at the same time, the university's official position calls for dialogue between the USDA and land grant universities to bring greater competitiveness and merit-based review into the research funding process. Key Cornell goals within this debate have been to avoid disruption or interruption of on-going and future research activities, and to develop an improved system of funding allocation that will continue to insure experiment station responsiveness to state and local needs and issues.

Cornell Selected as Regional Sun Grant Hub

In a time of skyrocketing gasoline prices and concerns over global warming, Cornell University is helping to spearhead the next green revolution by using plants to produce energy, industrial chemicals and green materials. Awarded more than \$8.2 million in federal funding over four years through the recent signing of the federal Transportation Bill, Cornell has been tapped by the federal government as one of five Sun Grant Centers of Excellence -- regional hubs that will take the lead in researching the use of plant biomass in energy and chemical production; for education and outreach activities; and for soliciting and funding proposals that focus on using renewable agricultural resources to produce heat, electricity, biofuels, natural products, such as biopesticides and bioherbicides, and industrial chemicals.

"With our global community entering a less certain oil future, over the next 10 to 25 years, there will be a major transition to agricultural-based bio-industries," said Larry Walker, professor of biological and environmental engineering and Cornell and director of the Northeast Sun Grant Center.

Cornell, the land-grant university of New York state, is the lead university for the Northeast Sun Grant Center of Excellence, which serves 14 states and the District of Columbia, from Maine to Maryland to Michigan. That makes Cornell one of only two universities in the nation, along with Oregon State University, now designated by the federal government in all of the four categories of land, sea, space and sun grant institutions.

The full news release is available online at www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Sept05/SunGrant.institute.ssl.html. Additional information about the Northeast Sun Grant Center is available at www.nesungrant.cornell.edu.

New CALS Web Portal Helps Shed Light on the College's Impact and Reach

A new portal page on the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' web site now provides easy access and information on close to 600 examples of the College's innovative research, teaching, and outreach projects that are making a difference in the real world. Based on annual faculty reports, the portal and its stored information is searchable by keyword or full text, and is ready to be explore by geographic focus, subject area, academic priority area, faculty name, and other means. So take a look at the portal (<http://research.cals.cornell.edu/index.jsp?home=6>) and discover the multitude of ways in which the College is developing leaders and improving lives on campus, in New York State, across the nation, and throughout the world.

State Invasive Species Task Force Report Recommends Ways to Keep the State Vigilant and Active Against Harmful Plants and Animals

The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Agriculture and Markets delivered the Final Report of the New York State Invasive Species Task Force to the Governor and Legislature on schedule last fall. The Report describes problems associated with invasive plants, animals and pathogens. It discusses existing efforts by government, conservation groups, and industry. It also makes recommendations about how New York can more effectively combat this growing and expensive threat.

Invasive species are non-native species that can cause harm to the environment or to human health. As a threat to our biodiversity, they have been judged second only to habitat loss. Invasives come from all around the world and the rate of invasion is increasing along with the increase in international trade that accompanies globalization. Since the Task Force began its work in 2004, at least seven new species have invaded New York.

Invasive species have caused many problems in the past, are causing problems now, and pose threats to our future. Zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, Chronic Wasting Disease, West Nile Virus, Asian Long-horned Beetle, Swede Midge, Purple Loosestrife, Giant Hogweed, and Black Swallowwort are familiar to many New Yorkers. These and a wide variety of other invasive species harm our ecosystems, our food supply, and our "built environments," including gardens, landscaping, industry, and infrastructure. Invasive species can also adversely affect recreation and human health.

A Draft Report was released for public review during the summer of 2005. Public information sessions were held in six locations around the State. More than 70 written comments were received before the official comment period closed in September 2005. The Final Report reflects many of the concerns expressed during the public review. It can be viewed or downloaded on-line at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmmr/habitat/istf/istfreport.html>

On the tails of the Task Force report, CALS has produced the new impact document, *Meeting the Challenge of Invasive Species*. The 8-page publication overviews over a dozen distinct research and/or outreach efforts at the college that focus on combating the establishment, spread or effects of invasives in the Empire State. Copies are available through CUAES by contacting Ange Pauchard at app24@cornell.edu or by calling her at 607-255-2552.

CER Program Work Team Convenes, Offers Program Resource Information

The Community Economic Renewal Program Work Team (PWT) met in late February. The meeting, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, included many new Team members and centered around presentations on two efforts being supported by the PWT. Tim Cullenen, PWT co-chair, presented findings of a survey conducted to define and gauge current efforts of Main Street Revitalization in 70 communities in NYS. Warren Brown, former co-chair and director of the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER), presented on the Program for Consumer Demographic and Marketing Strategy. Warren discussed some of the findings of his analysis of sales performances for several communities, as well as the on-going development of a training curriculum. The PWT offered suggestions for distribution of the findings, future development and educational utilization, and targeted audiences for these interconnected initiatives. For more information contact Warren Brown at wab4@cornell.edu or Tim Cullenen at tac26@cornell.edu, or see information regarding Main Street Revitalization at: http://www.cardi.cornell.edu/main_street_revitalization/index.php

Teens at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC meet with Senator Clinton

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton met with a group of students from New York who were in Washington, DC as Teen Delegates to the National 4-H Conference. The students (Laura Kauppi from Corfu, Casey Cazer from Canandaigua, Kathryn Davis from Troy, Brian Driscoll from Schuylerville, and Mike LeClaire from Fort Edward) were in the nation's capital to attend this annual conference and visit with their congressional representatives.

"I was so impressed with the students and I was very pleased to have the opportunity to congratulate them on being selected to attend the National 4-H Conference and to welcome them to Washington," Senator Clinton said. "They have my full admiration, not only for their commitment to their individual communities and our collective future, but for their interest in understanding what makes our system of government work. I hope this trip has been both a learning experience and a source of inspiration for them as they continue to serve their community."

The National 4-H Conference is a working conference, where youth from across the nation, at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture, gather to share ideas and form recommendations in guiding future 4-H youth development programs nationally and in their communities. As part of this year's conference, 4-H delegates headed to Capitol Hill to visit with their congressional representatives.

The students' trip was facilitated by the Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program and funded in part by the New York State 4-H Foundation.

New York State 4-H Receives MetLife Youth in Action Grant

In September, CCE-Rensselaer 4-H educator Janice Fox and CCE-Chemung 4-H teen Brian Bonci represented New York at the John Deere Leadership Academy held in Washington, D.C. As a result of their participation they were inspired to develop a proposal for funding that was available to states that participated in the academy. Because of their commitment, New York State has been awarded a 2006 MetLife Youth in Action grant supported by MetLife Foundation, in the amount of \$3,000. The funds will be used in New York to support the state

strategic goal of having an active youth voice in program determination, implementation, evaluation and policy development.

Congratulations to Janice and Brian, with support from JoAnne Baldini in the state 4-H office, for their work in developing this youth leadership proposal.

Visioning Project Seeks Informed Rural Policy Making

Cornell University serves as a resource for research and extension that benefits the citizens, communities, and economic well-being of NYS. Case in point: many rural residents across NYS have been participating in a project this past winter and spring called the *Rural Visioning Project* (RVP). RVP is a collaborative effort involving Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Community & Rural Development Institute, the Department of Development Sociology's Rural New York Initiative, and the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources (NYS LCRR). The goal of the RVP is to identify issues and challenges in the state's rural communities and regions, and to inform policies and practices so as to create a vibrant rural New York State. A RVP Advisory Committee includes one member from each of the five Program Councils.

A series of ten listening sessions have been held around the state inviting discussion around different issues and challenges, such as local economic development, energy, rural health care, agriculture and food systems, etc. A web survey has been utilized to gather information on these issues; all interested parties are urged to participate in this on-line activity at: (<http://atcdb.cit.cornell.edu/survey//wsb.dll/tac26/rvpsurvey.htm>). The information gathered via the survey and the listening sessions is available via the *Rural New York Initiative* website at <http://rnyi.cornell.edu>, and will be compiled into a final report later this summer.

RVP seeks to inform policy and programs via the legislative process later this year. To that end, a symposium has been scheduled for July 19-21 in Syracuse, N.Y. Participants will be asked to use the information gathered in the initial phases of the project, develop concrete policies, and offer programmatic suggestions to move rural communities and regions of the state forward.

Quality of Life PC: Items of Interest

The following are just a few program highlights of possible interest to members of the Quality of Life for Individuals and Families PC.

The Family Economics and Resource Management Program Work Team (PWT) has a new faculty lead co-chair. Professor Joe Laquatra, Department of Design and Environmental Analysis, will join Anna Gifford of CCE-Tompkins County, who is continuing as off-campus co-chair. The PWT will be emphasizing money and energy management in the upcoming months. It is also sponsoring an in-service training for extension educators in May 2006 that will feature an overview of curricula, highlights of the new consumer bankruptcy laws, housing issues, audience motivation approaches, and an opportunity to partner with the U.S. Department Labor.

The Parenting Education PWT, co-chaired by Professor Rachel Dunifon, Policy Analysis and Management and Denyse Variano, CCE-Orange County, is reviewing curricula for relevance to contemporary research and implementing evaluation plans to capture program outcomes.

The Division of Nutritional Sciences Cornell NutritionWorks project has exciting new additions to its professional development website project at www.nutritionworks.cornell.edu. Newest offerings focus on the dietary guidelines, the new *MyPyramid*, childhood obesity, and schools. Participants can hear three World Food Prize laureates discuss the link between

agriculture, nutrition, and health, as well as presentations from the June 2006 College of Human Ecology conference on "The Ecology of Obesity." These include presentations on "Strategies to Address the Obesity Epidemic," Obesity, Physical Activity, Eating, and the Built Environment," and "Socioeconomic and Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Obesity."

Update from New Ag and Food Systems PC Liaison

Chris Watkins, new CCE Associate Director and program liaison for the Agriculture and Food Systems PC, reports that he is still getting up-to-speed on his new responsibilities. Chris was heavily involved—and engaged the PC—in review of Federal Formula Fund preproposals, sending out 109 preproposals to his off-campus council members and other stakeholders. He was most appreciative of all council members who assisted him and were involved in that major undertaking. "And I have now seen firsthand how those relevancy reviews are used in a proactive way to move toward final funding decisions on extension, integrated (extension and research) and research projects," he reported. Chris also indicated that he was looking forward to meeting with the council to introduce himself personally to its members, and also to discuss ways of improving the review process.

Voiland Off to North Carolina

Mike Voiland, Assistant Director for Research and Extension for the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cornell Cooperative Extension, will be leaving that role, effective July 1, 2006, to direct the North Carolina Sea Grant Program.

Voiland has been actively involved in PC and PWT administrative and communications efforts since the councils and work teams were first conceived and established in 2001. He has been the editor of *P.C. Update*, and also has played roles in coordinating the federal formula fund preproposal review and decision-making processes, and in reporting annually to USDA on research impacts and CUAES-CCE-NYSAES stakeholder engagement efforts.

Voiland will serve as executive director of the University of North Carolina system's Sea Grant Program, which involves 16 UNC institutions and Duke University. He will relocate to the North Carolina State University campus in Raleigh, NC.

Keeping Up-To-Date!

Program Council members are encouraged to visit the Program Council/Program Work Team website to stay in touch—between issues of *P.C. Update*—with happenings of relevance and interest to their PC role. The URL is <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/admin/program/pwts/>.

Also, previous copies of this newsletter, dating back to the inaugural issue of May of 2004, are available for viewing via the WWW. Feel free to click on any of the specific issues highlighted below, or just go to http://cuaes.cornell.edu/CUAESWeb/links_page.htm and follow the links to the back issue of *P.C. Update* of interest.

[May 2004 Update](#)

[July 2004 Update](#)

[October 2004 Update](#)

[February 2005 Update](#)

[June 2005 Update](#)

[July 2005 Update](#)

[November 2005 Update](#)