



CROP UPDATE -May 02, 2024



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Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



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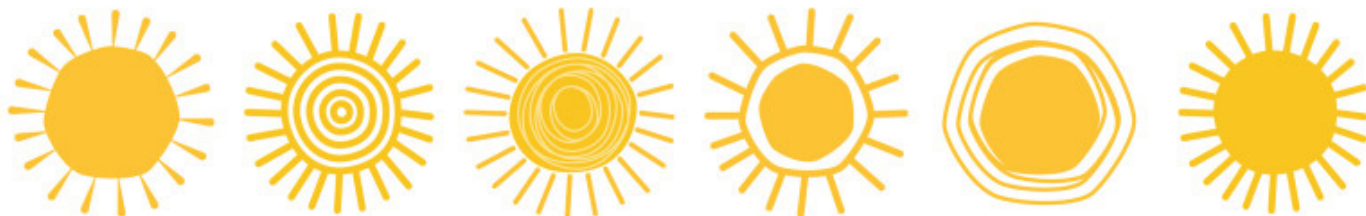
In this copy:

H2A & Asylum Seekers- Andrew Holden- [page 5](#)

Frost Dage Reporting -Jennifer Russo- [page 6](#)

PA Update-Bryan Hed- [page 13](#)

SLF, Grape Flea Beetle, Climbing Cutworm, Spray Calibration- Megan Luke- [page 16](#)



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The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extensions in Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara county NY and in Erie County PA.

Upcoming Events



May 8, 2024 10:00am Coffee Pot Meeting
Sprague Farms, 12435 Versailles Rd. Irving NY 14081

May 15, 2024 10:00am Coffee Pot Meeting
Brian Chess Farm, 10289 West Main Rd. Ripley NY 14775

**Did you attend the Spotted Lantern Fly Meeting on May 1, 2024?
Would you please fill out this survey and let us know how we did?**

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3WoSQ79ex05kzki



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Business Management

Andrew Holden, Business Management Educator, Penn State University, LERGP

H-2A and Asylum Seekers

Finding on-farm labor has often been a difficult task in recent years. Programs like H-2A were designed to help alleviate some of those difficulties, but also come along with their own unintended complications. Today I wanted to share some information on this topic from both Cornell and the State of Pennsylvania. One is looking at asylum seekers and the relation to H-2A rules, and the other is asking for feedback from those using H-2A currently, or those who have considered doing so.

The Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development has been sharing information recently on hiring asylum seekers for farm labor. They have shared in the last few months that some asylum seekers from Central and South America are becoming authorized to work in the U.S. They can receive a document called an [Employment Authorization Document \(EAD\)](#). This document is acceptable for employers as an [I-9 List A document](#) establishing both identity and eligibility to work. It was also shared that, “New York state established a [website where employers can register](#) their interest in finding and hiring asylum seekers. Look for the “[Business Inquiries](#)” button to register your business as interested in finding asylum seekers”.

A question that has been brought up in response to the information about hiring asylum seekers, is would this new cohort of potential farm laborers affect those using H-2A on their operation. The idea being that H-2A requires employers to hire “qualified and eligible” U.S. workers. Agricultural Workforce Development has found that, If they are granted work authorization, usually with an Employment Authorization Document, then for purposes of the H-2A program they become “eligible individuals” and U.S. workers.” If you are considering using H-2A or currently do and have questions regarding this information, please contact me to discuss.

You can read more from the latest article “[H-2A and Asylum Seekers](#)” by Richard Stup in [The Ag Workforce Journal](#).

For our Pennsylvania growers, The PA State Workforce Development Board’s Ag Committee and PA Department of Agriculture created a survey for ag employers, focused on the H-2A and H-2B visa programs. Their goal for this survey is to identify challenges and barriers of the programs and to identify opportunities for the state to provide assistance and guidance.

The Department of Agriculture is asking ag employers with knowledge and experience of the programs to complete the survey and provide feedback and input into your experiences. Employers who have not utilized the program are also invited to participate in this survey to provide input on why they have not or cannot use the visa programs. This is an anonymous survey that will be used to inform and guide the state’s work going forward. Any feedback is greatly appreciated.

The survey can be found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H-2A_H-2B_Survey. Please complete the survey and share with anyone else who may be interested by **May 15th**.

Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

In the Vineyard

Last week I wrote about the potential frost freeze event in our region and unfortunately, some of our vineyard blocks experienced serious damage. Low temperatures in the Lake Erie Region dropped below freezing in many locations last week. The weather is going to warm up and we should be able to visually see the extent of the damage by next week. I have already reached out to Ag & Markets, and others for tools to help document this event for those affected. Below is survey asking how many acres you have, what varieties, and what your assessment of the levels of damage that might have occurred is. The LERGP will be out over the next several days to try to get a sense of how buds came through these low temperature events, but we would also appreciate hearing from growers about their initial assessments from their own vineyards as well. We have asked growers to respond to the survey that we sent out via text message, and it can also be accessed through this link: [Click Here for Survey](#). It isn't a long survey, but this information is critical for me to report to Both New York State and Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture if we should need a disaster declaration and for industry projections. Please click on the link to access the survey or refer to the link in your text message.

[How many acres of vineyards do you farm?](#)

[Please provide the breakdown of acreage of cultivars \(i.e. 20 acres of Chardonnay, 200 acres of Concord\)](#)

[Please send your best estimate of number of damaged acres for each cultivar.](#)

[Where are your vineyard blocks located within our region?](#)

The following photos are of vineyard blocks located on Route 20 in Chautauqua County 12 miles apart from each other and taken only 30 minutes apart of each other.

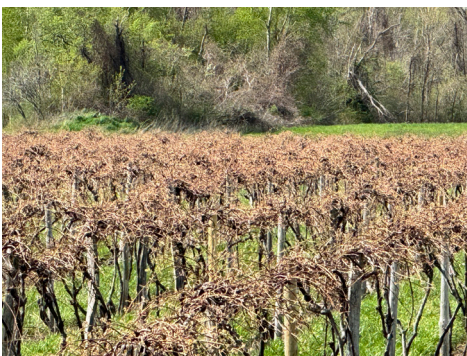


Table 1 below has all of the weather station data for the dates of the Frost/Freeze event.

	Date (Local Time)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Wind Spd (mph)
North East Lab, PA	4/22/2024	44	54.5	33.6	3.7
	4/23/2024	56.9	66.2	47.5	9.8
	4/24/2024	42.9	49.6	36.1	6.3
	4/25/2024	39.1	46.6	31.6	5.3
	4/26/2024	46.8	58.9	34.7	7
Harborcreek (Esc), PA	4/22/2024	42.5	52.7	32.4	5
	4/23/2024	54.1	63.4	44.9	8.6
	4/24/2024	41.5	48.2	34.9	4.7
	4/25/2024	39.1	46	32.3	6.2
	4/26/2024	50.9	65.9	35.9	8.9
Harborcreek, PA	4/22/2024	43.5	55.2	31.8	3.7
	4/23/2024	56.1	65.8	46.5	8.5
	4/24/2024	43.3	49.6	37	6.7
	4/25/2024	39.5	46.9	32	5.5
	4/26/2024	50.1	63	37.2	7.3
Westfield (South), NY	4/22/2024	42.2	54	30.4	4.1
	4/23/2024	56.3	64.8	47.8	9.6
	4/24/2024	43.7	50	37.4	5.1
	4/25/2024	39.4	48.6	30.2	4.4
	4/26/2024	48	63.9	32	8.8
Westfield, NY	4/22/2024	42.2	54.3	30.1	3.1
	4/23/2024	55	65.6	44.5	7.8
	4/24/2024	43.8	49.3	38.3	1.4
	4/25/2024	38.8	47.9	29.6	3.6
	4/26/2024	46.8	62	31.5	7.4
Versailles, NY	4/22/2024	42.9	54.5	31.3	4.6
	4/23/2024	55.6	65.3	45.9	8.8
	4/24/2024	43.5	48.9	38.1	4.3
	4/25/2024	40.9	52.7	29.1	3.2
	4/26/2024	47.8	65	30.6	5.8
Silver Creek (DBL A), NY	4/22/2024	43.5	55	32	4.5
	4/23/2024	54.9	66.9	42.8	7.7
	4/24/2024	44	49.5	38.5	4.5
	4/25/2024	40.3	51.3	29.3	3.9
	4/26/2024	48	65	30.9	5.7
Sheridan, NY	4/22/2024	45.3	56.7	33.8	3.1
	4/23/2024	57.4	66.6	48.2	9.2

	Date (Local Time)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Wind Spd (mph)
Ripley (St Ln), NY	4/24/2024	44.3	50	38.5	2.8
	4/25/2024	40.2	51.1	29.3	2.4
	4/26/2024	47.5	65	30	6.6
	4/22/2024	42.5	54.7	30.2	3.3
	4/23/2024	56.3	65.3	47.4	8.1
	4/24/2024	42.9	49.7	36.1	3.3
	4/25/2024	40.4	49.6	31.2	1.6
Ripley (Esc), NY	4/26/2024	48.3	63.9	32.8	7.2
	4/22/2024	43.8	57	30.6	3.9
	4/23/2024	55.6	64.9	46.2	5.7
	4/24/2024	42.7	49	36.4	3.8
	4/25/2024	38.9	46	31.8	5.8
Ransomville, NY	4/26/2024	49	63.9	34.2	8.8
	4/22/2024	44.9	57	32.7	3.3
	4/23/2024	56.3	65.6	47.1	5
	4/24/2024	40.3	49.1	31.4	3.3
	4/25/2024	39.5	49.4	29.5	2.8
	4/26/2024	44.3	61.1	27.4	7.8
Portland (LERGP W), NY	4/22/2024	44.7	54.1	35.2	4.4
	4/23/2024	57.5	66.4	48.6	9.8
	4/24/2024	43.7	50	37.4	5.3
	4/25/2024	39	48.6	29.5	5.5
	4/26/2024	49.3	63	35.6	8.8
Portland, NY	4/22/2024	42.6	53.6	31.7	4.2
	4/23/2024	56.9	65.6	48.2	8.5
	4/24/2024	43.4	49.3	37.5	5.1
	4/25/2024	39	48.4	29.5	5.4
	4/26/2024	48	63	33	8.1
Newfane (Chat N), NY	4/22/2024	44.6	56.3	32.9	4.6
	4/23/2024	54.7	64.9	44.4	8.5
	4/24/2024	40.8	49.5	32	5.1
	4/25/2024	38.4	48.7	28	2.5
	4/26/2024	41.5	56.9	26.2	8.6
Lockport, NY	4/22/2024	45.5	55.8	35.2	5.3
	4/23/2024	54	64.8	43.3	6.9
	4/24/2024	43	48.2	37.9	5.7
	4/25/2024	40.9	48.9	32.9	3.6

	Date (Local Time)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Wind Spd (mph)
Hanover, NY	4/26/2024	47.5	62	32.9	7.3
	4/22/2024	43	53.2	32.9	4.5
	4/23/2024	54.3	65.5	43.1	7.5
	4/24/2024	43.5	48.7	38.3	4.6
	4/25/2024	40	50.7	29.3	4.3
Forestville, NY	4/26/2024	48.3	65	31.5	7
	4/22/2024	42.8	52.8	32.8	5
	4/23/2024	55.9	64.6	47.2	9.7
	4/24/2024	43.3	48.9	37.8	4.8
	4/25/2024	40.5	49.4	31.6	4.6
East Westfield, NY	4/26/2024	49.8	65	34.6	8.5
	4/22/2024	43.1	53.4	32.8	8.3
	4/23/2024	57.5	67.2	47.9	15.7
	4/24/2024	43.3	50.4	36.3	8
	4/25/2024	39.5	47.7	31.2	6.2
East Ripley, NY	4/26/2024	49.3	63.9	34.6	9.4
	4/22/2024	42.9	54.1	31.6	4.8
	4/23/2024	57.2	65.1	49.3	10.9
	4/24/2024	44	50	38.1	6.3
	4/25/2024	39.6	48	31.3	5.1
East Fredonia, NY	4/26/2024	46.7	60.6	32.7	10.1
	4/22/2024	40.7	52.1	29.3	5.3
	4/23/2024	53.2	64.5	41.9	10
	4/24/2024	43.5	49.1	38	3.9
	4/25/2024	39.5	50.4	28.6	2.3
Dunkirk, NY	4/26/2024	47.9	65	30.7	7.1
	4/22/2024	44	55	33	
	4/23/2024	58.5	69	48	
	4/24/2024	46.5	52	41	
	4/25/2024	41	52	30	
Brocton (Esc), NY	4/26/2024	49.5	63.9	35	
	4/22/2024	42.3	54.1	30.5	3.9
	4/23/2024	54.5	64.5	44.6	6.5
	4/24/2024	42.8	48.7	36.8	3.1
	4/25/2024	38.8	48.3	29.2	5.3
Brant, NY	4/26/2024	48.3	63	33.6	8.8
	4/22/2024	42.1	54.1	30.2	4.4
	4/23/2024	56	66.9	45	9

Date (Local Time)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Wind Spd (mph)
4/24/2024	43	48.9	37.2	4.3
4/25/2024	41.5	52.7	30.2	4
4/26/2024	48.5	65	32	6.7

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PA Update

Bryan Hed, Research Technologist, Lake Erie Grape Research and Extension Center

Weather and Phenology: At the North East PA lab by the lake we accumulated 114 growing degree days (gdds) and 4.46" precipitation in April; quite a bit warmer and wetter than our long term average. Warmer weather over the past 5 days has moved shoot development ahead, but there are many vineyards with massive levels of frost damage, particularly on the eastern end of the grape belt in New York. However, I am also seeing damage to vineyards in Harborcreek and North East, along route 20 in PA. There are no killing frost temperatures forecast over the next week or so, but we won't be "out of the woods" for a while yet.

Diseases: Currently, Concord shoots at our location by the lake are 1-2" in length, but vineyards farther inland will be more developed. As we jump past that 3" shoot stage, inflorescences become exposed and vulnerable to the Phomopsis fungus. Rain releases spores of Phomopsis from overwintering sources (wood; and the older the wood, the more potent the spore source) creating the opportunities for development of this disease on new green tissue, that can leave scabby black lesions and cankers on the first few nodes/internodes of shoots and, most importantly, on inflorescences. That first spray of captan or mancozeb will need to be present on susceptible tissue before the next wetness/rainfall period occurs, in order to prevent infections (captan and mancozeb have no "reach-back" activity). Spring infections on cluster stem tissue can result in fruit rots during later stages of ripening, as the pathogen moves into berries months after the infection period took place. Progression of the pathogen into berries during ripening causes fruit to shell before or during harvest.

Frost damaged vineyards are another story and may pose a variety of challenges depending on the degree of damage. Primaries - if there are enough of them - may still be worth protecting at 3" and beyond. But secondaries will not be out enough to spray just yet in vineyards that suffered heavy primary losses.

While fruit are forming, they are generally at risk of direct infections until a couple weeks or so after bloom, when inoculum sources normally get 'milked out' for the remainder of the season (no spores = no disease). The more rain we get, the faster spore sources will become exhausted. But obviously more rain means more infection periods and more difficult conditions under which to control the disease with fungicides. Heavy infection at the base of the shoots (Figure 1) may result in weakening of the shoot and

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shoot breakage under windy conditions. Leaf infections are far less serious, appearing as pinhead sized black spots surrounded by a yellow halo (Figure 2), but they do indicate the presence of an overwintering source of the Phomopsis fungus.



Fig. 1 Lesions at the base of the oldest internodes result in scabby areas that weaken the shoot.



Fig. 2 Leaf infections of Phomopsis cane and leaf spot on Concord grape. These are rarely consequential, but they do indicate the presence of overwintering inoculum in the trellis.



Fig. 3 Phomopsis fruit rot on ripe Vignoles and Niagara grapes; from infections of the cluster that occurred months earlier.

Phomopsis management with fungicides should begin at about 3-5" inches of shoot growth, but this is a ball-park figure. In early spring, this stage of development is a swiftly moving target, so monitor your crop daily and watch weather forecasts, paying close attention to the prediction of lengthy wetting periods during this early shoot growth period. ***This early shoot growth spray will, in most years, be the most important spray for Phomopsis.*** Mancozeb products, Captan, and Ziram are the 'go to' materials for Phomopsis control, but as I mentioned above, they have no "reach back" activity and have to be applied before an infection period, to do their job. You don't have to use full rates of these 'protectants' for that first early shoot spray. Timing that first mancozeb or captan spray is often a 'crap shoot'; you don't have to use maximum rates, but it's an important part, perhaps the most important part, of a 'standard' spray program for Phomopsis.

The next issues we will need to plan for are black rot and powdery mildew. First off, a captan or mancozeb spray at 3-5" shoots for Phomopsis will also provide control of early black rot infections. Black rot is generally only a problem in juice vineyards at early shoot stages, if you had serious issues with black rot last year. In such cases there may be clusters of infected, mummified fruit hanging in your trellis and plenty of black rot infected berries on the vineyard soil, poised to release their spores during early rain periods. Early black rot infection will manifest itself on leaves in the fruit zone, just inches from developing fruit. Infected leaves in the fruit zone will go on to release more spores of the fungus during, and just after, bloom, when fruit are most susceptible, making it harder to control this disease when its most critical to do so. If your vineyard was relatively clean of black rot last year, then this disease should not be much of a concern at this time.

Juice vineyards will not need sprays for powdery mildew until that 10-12" shoot stage or even the immediate pre-bloom spray, depending on weather and the amount of disease in the vineyard last year. However, wine vineyards of *Vitis vinifera* or susceptible hybrids, that had lots of powdery mildew disease last year, may benefit from spraying this early. Sulfur would be a great option for this early spray on varieties that are not damaged by it. Do not delay powdery mildew sprays past 8-12" shoots for susceptible hybrids and *Vitis vinifera* grapes.

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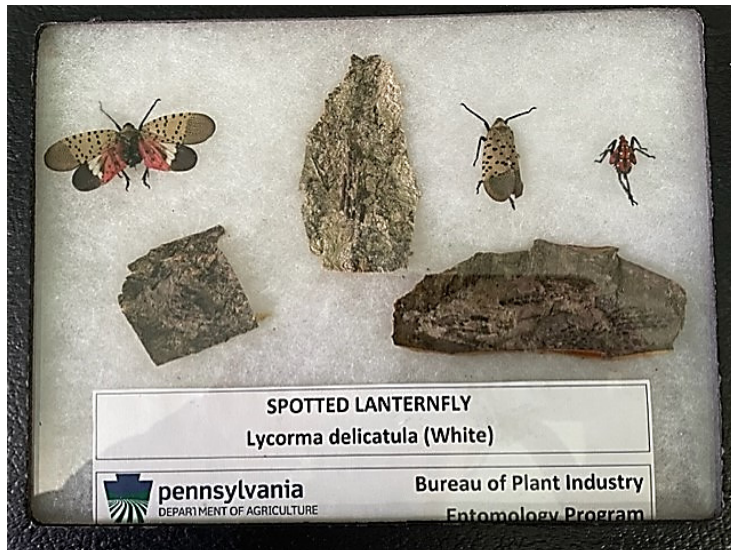
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PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

An enormous thank you to everyone who came out for the Coffee Pot Meeting kick-off yesterday at Burch Farms Country Market! It was a VERY busy day, with many informative presentations about the realities of what our industry may experience when spotted lanternfly makes its appearance in our vineyards. I will be including a write-up of the state and processor approved materials for management and the phenology slide that I shared at the event in next week's Crop Update.



Spotted lanternfly Riker mount

Many growers in Pennsylvania managed to avoid damage in last week's < freezing temperatures, but I have received some concerning calls. Please reach out to us if you experienced significant damage, I am keeping track of reports and will pass along the information to relevant parties.

Most concords are past the time to scout for grape flea beetle (GFB) and climbing cutworm, HOWEVER if your vineyards experienced damage in last week's freeze your secondary or tertiary bud may still be at risk. These pests feed on swollen buds and have an economic treatment threshold of 2% damage to buds. By about 1/2" growth the threat of economic loss from these pests is negligible. Keep an eye out for this pest while assessing your vineyards in the coming week. Some hybrids with fruitful secondary buds that tend to overcrop may be able to handle higher damage levels without a reduction in overall yield but with a reduced yield already in the works, it may be worth it to apply an insecticide to prevent further damage while the vines recover.

Grape flea beetle – GFB, also known as “steely beetle”, (*Altica chalybea*) overwinter in the adult stage and emerge as grape buds begin to swell. Beetles are small (3/16”) and metallic blue in color (Figure 1). The most significant injury caused by this pest is due to overwintering adults feeding on swollen grape buds, often consuming enough tissue to destroy the developing primary bud (Figure 2). The largest populations of flea beetles are most often around wooded or overgrown edges of vineyards. Scout vineyard rows bordering these areas frequently during the bud swell stage. Examine canes for injured buds and for the presence of adult beetles. Beetles are most active on warm, sunny days and will jump like a flea when disturbed. Treatment threshold is 2% bud damage.

Leaf damage later in the season is typically not of economic concern.

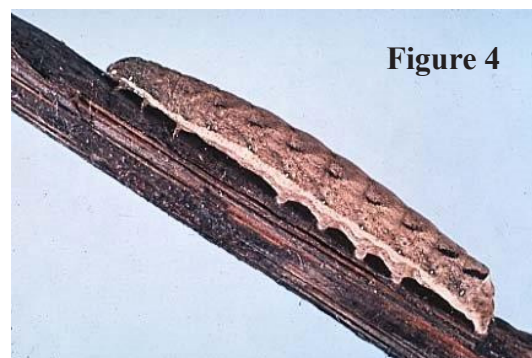
Grape Flea Beetle fact sheet: [located here](#)



Photos by Eric Burkness, University of Minnesota

Climbing Cutworm – Nearly a dozen different species of cutworm larvae have been documented in vineyards and all of them may feed on grape buds during the swell stage (Figure 3). The larvae are immature stages of several noctuid moths. The spotted cutworm (*Amathes c-nigrum*) is frequently observed in New York and Pennsylvania. Larvae of all species have similar coloration: brown to gray with darker stripes or dots along the body (Figure 4). Larvae hide under leaf litter or weeds beneath vines during the day and climb vines to feed at night. Vineyards on sandy soils or with grass and weed cover under the trellis are at greater risk for injury. If bud injury is detected, examine weeds/soil beneath vines, as well as the vines themselves (including the bark) for presence of larvae with a flashlight after dark to confirm cutworm damage.

Climbing Cutworm fact sheet: [located here](#)



Photos from Cornell Climbing Cutworm fact sheet (linked above)

Spray equipment calibration: Calibrating your spray equipment is the best way to ensure that your equipment is delivering the label indicated quantity of pesticide material to the target area. Many new sprayers have computer driven methods of calibration, while older equipment may require manual adjustments.

If you have a sprayer that requires manual calibration, I am available for **on-site** appointments in April and May to perform calibration on your equipment. This service is **FREE** for Pennsylvania growers and ALL LERGP members, regardless of which state you are in. Please contact me as soon as possible to schedule your appointment as spaces are limited this year*.

* If you requested to be added to the contact list last year, I will be contacting you in the next couple of weeks to confirm an appointment date and time.

We have not received our printed copies of the 2024 NY and PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes. I will keep you informed of when those become available and will do my best to get those in your hands as quickly as possible. I will post my office schedule and bring copies to Coffee Pot Meetings as needed once I have them.

Contact information:

Mobile (*call or text*): (716) 397-9674

Office: (814) 825-0900

Email: MFL5873@psu.edu

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2024 LERGP Coffee Pot Meeting Schedule

May 1, 2024 9:00am	SLF Meeting- Burch Farms 9210 Sidehill Rd. North East, PA 16428
May 8, 2024 10:00am	Sprague Farms 12435 Versailles Rd. Irving NY 14081
May 15, 2024 10:00am	Brian Chess Farm 10289 West Main Rd. Ripley NY 14775
May 22, 2024 10:00am	Schulze Vineyards & Winery 2090 Coomer Rd. Burt, NY 14028
May 29, 2024 10:00am	Kirk Hutchinson 4720 W. Main St. Fredonia, NY 14063
June 5, 2024 10:00am	LERGREC Field Day 662 N. Cemetery Rd, North East, PA 16428
June 12, 2024 10:00am	Betts' Farm- Soil Health Day 7366 East Route 20 Westfield, NY 14787
June 19, 2024 10:00am	NO COFFEE POT MEETING
June 26, 2024 10:00am	Zach & Alicia Schneider 771 Bradley Rd. Silver Creek, NY 14136
July 3, 2024 10:00am	Liberty Winery 2861 US Route 20 Sheridan, NY 14135
July 10, 2024 10:00am	NO COFFEE POT MEETING
July 17, 2024 10:00am	Chateau Niagara Winery 2466 West Creek Rd. Newfane, NY 14108
July 24, 2024 10:00am	Grower Demo Day at CLEREL 6592 West Main Rd. Portland, NY 14769
July 31, 2024 10:00am	Mason Farms 8603 West Lake Rd. Lake City, PA 16423