Everyone at CCE Cayuga County would like to wish you and yours a happy and safe Holiday Season.
We look forward to sharing new ideas and possibilities in 2017
and wish you all the best the coming year has to offer!

- We hope the winter season brings a little bit of extra time for everyone so that you are able to catch up with friends and neighbors at the upcoming classes and meetings being scheduled. Page 2 has a handy “cut and save” Calendar of Events to help keep all the important dates posted on the fridge for easy “at a glance” viewing.

- Changes to the US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Injury and Illness Reporting and Recordkeeping have taken place in the past two years. To help with the new changes, an informational webinar has been made available as well as recordkeeping resources and forms. Page 2 has all the information you’ll need to stay up-to-date with all these important changes.

- New York State’s Grown & Certified Program, launched in August, has funding available to help New York fruit and vegetable farmers become certified. Through the Environmental Protection Fund, money is available to help implement Agricultural Environmental Management plans. Also, a reimbursement of up to $1,000 is available for growers who participate in a third party audit of safe food handling practices. Pages 3 & 4 contain details to help get you started and explore New York State’s Grown & Certified Program.

- Cornell’s PRO-DAIRY Program has begun offering Dairy Cow Management Webinars in Spanish. For details on how to view these webinars see Page 4.

- Cornell Law School is again offering FREE Estate Planning Services to clients who meet income eligibility guidelines. For details and eligibility guidelines go to Page 4.

- 2016 saw Corn Silage Hybrid Variety Trials resume after a two year hiatus. Two counties participated in the limited study, Cayuga County being one. Results for the Cayuga County Trials can be found on Page 5.

- Watershed based plans outline a strategy to improve water quality within a watershed but can be confusing in that they are interchangeable with a couple of key differences. Page 6 has a short explanation of the differences between 9 Element Plans (9E) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and includes a helpful NYSDEC website to help differentiate between the two.

- New York Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) has announced application cutoff dates for the Conservation Stewardship Program. This year’s signup is noteworthy as there are some major programmatic changes in place. For more information regarding the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program see Page 6.

- Jam packed with ideas for farms new to inter-seeding and cover crops and for those who’ve been trying inter-seeding for a while, this year’s Soil Health Work Group topics have really great speakers that you are probably familiar with along with some new faces. Page 7 has the agenda and program being offered on Wednesday, December 14th here at our office.

Sincerely,

Keith Severson
Agriculture Resource Educator

Judy Wright
Agriculture Resource Educator

YOU ARE SELLING LOCAL MEAT…
BUT ARE YOU MAKING MONEY?

Attend a workshop on
Profitable Meat Marketing!
Thursday, January 19th
5:30—8:30 p.m.

Held at the: CCE of Cayuga County
Education Center
248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY
13021

- Find out if you’re covering costs —including your TIME!
- Develop a farm marketing strategy.
- Learn to reach customers using MeatSuite.com
- Use our NEW Price Calculator to price for PROFIT!

RSVP TODAY!

Click on the Registration button at:
http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccecayuga
or call 315-255-1183 to register.
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/cececyuga, 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.

DECEMBER

December 13............ Annual NRCS Local Work Group meeting for Cayuga/Onondaga & Oswego Counties held from 10 a.m. until Noon at the NRCS Field Office, 7413 County House Road, Auburn, NY. The local work group will focus on identifying agricultural and natural resource issues existing in your community and providing information and feedback to direct NRCS programs. This meeting is open to the public.

December 14............ Soil Health Work Group held from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the CCE Cayuga County Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY. $5 for lunch (pizza) or bring your own. 3+ CCA credits applied for, 1 DEC Pesticide credit. More information can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

JANUARY

January 5 ............... 185th Annual New York State Ag Society Forum. To be held at the Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway Syracuse, NY 13088. Historic 185th Annual Forum Focuses on Collaboration. Make plans to attend the historic 2017 Forum on January 5th in Syracuse, NY to learn, see and question speakers, panelists, exhibitors and guests who are driving the collaboration conversation. Register before December 16th for discount! For more information or to register go to: http://www.nysagsociety.org/forum/ or contact, Ann Noble Shephard at 315-727-5449 or ann@nysagsociety.org.

January 10.............. New York Certified Organic 2017 Meeting at Jordan Hall, Geneva Experimental Station, 614 W. North Street, Geneva, NY. No cost or need to register. Meetings start promptly at 10 a.m. Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass at the potluck lunch. Make sure to wear warm clothes!

January 12.............. Finger Lakes Corn Congress Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with presentations running from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2468 NYS Route 414, Waterloo. For reservations contact Cathy Wallace at 585-343-3040 ext. 138 or email: cfw6@cornell.edu. $35 for NWNY Team enrollees or $50 for non-enrollees.

January 17—19 ......... EXPO Empire State Producers Expo held at the OnCenter Convention Center, Syracuse NY. Includes NYS Berry Grower Protected Culture Workshop on Tuesday, January 17. More information can be found at http://nysvga.org/expo/information.

January 19.............. Profitable Meat Marketing Workshop held from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the CCE Cayuga County Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY. Register by going to our website http://blogs.cornell.edu/cececyuga and clicking on the registration button or call the office at 315-255-1183.

January 24-25........... Operations Managers Conference held at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool/Syracuse, NY. Operations management on dairy farms is integral to the success of the farm business. The Operations Managers Conference for Dairy and Field Crops provides an opportunity for people responsible for day to day activities to increase their management and operations skills while interacting with other managers. Registration can be found at https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/operation-managers-conference/registration.

January 26.............. NY Corn & Soybean Growers Association Annual Meeting held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool. For more information contact: Colleen Klein at 585-689-2321.

Cut & Save

OF NOTE

The US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has made changes to its Injury and Illness Reporting and Recordkeeping requirements in the past two years. Whether you are new to OSHA Recordkeeping Requirements or want an update on the changes, this webinar is for you.

Webinar Recording: https://youtu.be/NWVzEUk8AU4

OSHA Recordkeeping Resources: https://uwmadison.box.com/v/osharecords

OSHA Forms 300, 300A, and 301 available at: https://osha.gov/recordkeeping/RKforms.html

OSHA Poster available at https://www.osha.gov/Publications/poster.html
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced funding to help New York fruit and vegetable farmers join the New York State Grown & Certified program. $1.5 million is available through the Environmental Protection Fund to help farms implement an Agricultural Environmental Management plan, and a reimbursement of up to $1,000 is available for growers who participate in a third party audit of safe food handling practices. Farmers must participate in programs supporting good agricultural practices and environmental management to be eligible for New York State Grown & Certified, and this funding will help more farms join the certification program.

"New York farms produce world-renowned, high-quality food, and the New York State Grown & Certified program strengthens the link between producers and consumers and promotes environmentally sustainable and safe practices," Governor Cuomo said. "This funding will help more farmers certify their products to these higher standards and access the many opportunities offered by New York State Grown & Certified."

Launched in August, the New York State Grown & Certified program assures consumers that the food they are buying is local and produced to a higher standard by requiring participating producers to adopt good agricultural practices and enroll in an environmental management program.

**Reimbursement for Good Agricultural Practices Audits**

Administered through the United States Department of Agriculture, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Good Agricultural Practices program verifies that safe food handling practices are being used on farms, from growing and harvesting to packaging and handling. The Good Agricultural Practices program certifies the fresh fruit and vegetable farms that have implemented the necessary steps in their operations to minimize the possibility of product contamination and food-borne illness in accordance with USDA regulations.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, through a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, is providing up to $1,000 to reimburse farms for Good Agricultural Practices audits. More information about the Good Agricultural Practices certification process and how to apply for the grant is available on the new [http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/gap/](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/gap/). The Department has conducted 234 audits in 2016 so far, already exceeding last year’s total number of audits.

Cornell University is a key partner in training and education for farmers as part of the program. The university holds online courses and in-person training throughout the year to help producers learn about the program and write their own safe food handling farm plan prior to the third-party audit. More information on Cornell University’s training opportunities and how to sign up is available at [http://gaps.cornell.edu/](http://gaps.cornell.edu/).

**Funding for Agricultural Environmental Management Plans**

The Governor today also announced $1.5 million is available for the implementation of an Agricultural Environmental Management plan to assist fruit, vegetable and other specialty crop growers in producing their products in an environmentally responsible manner.

Funding for the implementation of the Agricultural Environmental Management plan is provided through the Environmental Protection Fund. Assisting specialty crop farms to produce foods with the highest environmental standards will protect and improve New York’s natural resources, including water and soil quality.

New York’s County Soil and Water Conservation Districts are eligible to apply for the program on behalf of farmers. Maximum award amounts for projects are $50,000. Project eligibility information and the Request for Proposals are available at [http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html). Applications are due January 20, 2017.

**Benefits for Growers, Buyers and Consumers**

For growers, participation in Agricultural Environmental Management and Good Agricultural Practices certification allows for greater access to programs, especially New York State Grown & Certified, which includes a major marketing campaign to promote New York producers who meet the program standards. This includes on-product labels and promotional materials, such as a what is available at [http://certified.ny.gov/](http://certified.ny.gov/) and the video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrNmWAF51Cc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrNmWAF51Cc&feature=youtu.be), and sales materials, to encourage program participation among producers and to educate retail, wholesale and institutional buyers on the value of the program.

Consumer advertising and retail promotion will begin this fall.

The Good Agricultural Practices certification also provides producers access to the Farm to School procurement pilot program, which requires growers selling to school districts to be certified. The program also helps farms prepare for potential regulation from the Food Safety Modernization Act.

In addition, the Good Agricultural Practices program is significant for buyers. By purchasing products from a farm that is certified, there is a reduction in the potential for future food safety recalls, which can be costly to buyers and also impact consumer confidence and loyalty. Many consumers are looking for reassurance that the items they purchase in the supermarket have been properly handled on the farm.

State Agriculture Commissioner Ball said, “The GAP program ensures that our growers are focused on standardized safe food handling practices in their daily operations. These standards will be recognizable at every point in the food supply chain and ultimately to the consumer.”

Continued on Page 4 . . .
Continued from Page 3 . . .

consumer. What’s more, the AEM program helps our growers produce products in a manner that reduces risk to our State’s precious natural resources. Being GAP certified and an AEM participant, our growers are eligible for the New York State Grown & Certified program as well. Thanks to Governor Cuomo, this program will help market our producers who are meeting the growing consumer demand for food that is safely handled and grown in an environmentally sustainable way.”

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Senator Patty Ritchie said, “More and more frequently, consumers are looking to buy food that is locally grown and produced. I have been proud to support these programs, which expand markets for our hardworking farmers and help make it easier for people to eat local, high quality foods. I would like to thank the Governor and Commissioner for recognizing the importance of investing in this important effort, which will help to further bolster New York’s leading industry.”

Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair Assemblyman Bill Magee said, “Training in AEM concepts and GAP certification will help New York farms produce quality products using good agricultural and environmental practices. The New York State Grown & Certified label will help to increase consumer confidence in New York grown products, and I encourage our farmers to make their applications through their County Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the enrichment of their farms, and to encourage and promote the NY buy local movement.”

Kathryn J. Boor, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as Cornell University, said, "As home to the National Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Program and the School of Integrative Plant Science, which develops 'better plants, sustainably grown,' I applaud Governor Cuomo’s allocation of resources to fruit and vegetable growers currently participating in the New York State Grown & Certified program and to those who wish to be certified. Training is a critically important part of a GAP program, and the college is pleased to offer an online produce safety course as well as in-person trainings to help Empire State farmers meet their goals."

Dean Norton, New York Farm Bureau President, said, "New York’s farmers value the quality and safety that goes into everything they produce. This includes taking part in AEM and GAP programs that work with farmers to be good stewards of the environment and have additional safe food handling protocols in place. The additional steps the state is taking to increase access to these valuable programs will not only benefit farmers but consumers as well who are looking to New York’s family farms for fresh, local food."

Chairman of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee Dale Stein said,"The AEM program is the base program for all farms in New York State to identify environmental concerns on their farms and to develop a plan to address those concerns. With $1.5 million available to create AEM plans for their farms, hundreds of farms will become more environmentally sustainable. Along with the GAP program, consumers will know that the food they are buying is not only from New York State but also grown by farmers interested in managing their farms in an environmentally sound manner."

WEDNESDAY WEBINARS IN SPANISH DAIRY COW MANAGEMENT

Join Cornell's PRO-DAIRY from 12:30 p.m. until 1 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month from November until April, except December (Holidays)! These webinars will be entirely in Spanish.

The first webinar will discuss the basic physiology of how milk is produced. The second webinar will focus on the calving process, and what’s happening with the cow and the calf. The last three webinars will be a series on reproductive management, including heat detection, pregnancy checking, synch protocols and 1st and subsequent breeding strategies.

Registration is not required. Information and access to the webinars are available on the PRO-Dairy Website at: http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/production-management/dairy-webinars/spanish-webinars

ESTATE PLANNING SERVICE AT CORNELL LAW SCHOOL

Cornell Law School is pleased to announce the return of our Estate Planning Clinic in the Spring of 2017. Like last year, the Clinic will assist those who do not have access to an estate planning attorney and will provide clients with a basic estate plan that includes a last will and testament, a living will, a healthcare proxy and power of attorney, tailored according to the client’s wishes. Law students will prepare and finalize these documents under the supervision of attorneys who specialize in trusts and estates.

Clients must meet income eligibility guidelines as this service is free of charge. The income limits are as follows: Single - less than $30k annually, Family - less than $50k annually.

Clients should be aware that this service requires at least two visits to meet with students at the Law School (on the Ithaca campus). In addition, once chosen to participate, clients will be expected to sign a written commitment to follow through with appointments, giving at least 24 hour notice if an appointment will be missed. Spots are limited so if you are interested and meet the income guidelines, please email Susan Tosto at st29@cornell.edu and you will be placed on a list. Notification of client selection will go out in early January of 2017.

SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2017
FOR THE

PRO-DAIRY WINTER DAIRY MANAGEMENT

to be held at the: Cayuga/Onondaga BOCES 1879 West Genesee Street Rd. Auburn, NY.

More information can be found on our website at http://blogs.cornell.edu/cececayuga.
New and leading corn silage hybrids are annually evaluated for yield, moisture at harvest, quality characteristics, milk/ton, and calculated milk yields across NY locations. Corn silage variety tests were not conducted in 2014 or 2015, but with the hire of Joe Lawrence, Cornell PRO-DAIRY Forage Crop Production Specialist, were resumed on a limited basis in 2016.

Lawrence used the opportunity of re-starting the trials to build a strong relationship and coordinated effort with Margaret Smith, Cornell School of Integrative Plant Science Professor in Plant Breeding and Genetics, who conducts grain research. “It has worked very well to pool resources to increase the efficiency of field work,” he said.

In 2016, 29 hybrids from eight companies were tested and more are anticipated in 2017. “We hope to double this number as the trials will be expanded to include both shorter and longer season hybrids,” Lawrence said. The hybrids were planted at two locations in 2016. One is on a farm in Cayuga Country and the other is on a farm in St. Lawrence County. Next year’s trial will expand to include locations in West and Central or Eastern NY.

"New York State dairy farmers have long relied on the work of Cornell University as the only New York specific, comprehensive, unbiased resource for corn silage making decisions. We consider Cornell corn hybrid trials a vital tool for farmer success and a fine way to demonstrate to farmers the importance of Cornell’s role in agricultural excellence. With corn hybrids changing at a rapid pace, with the mounting cost of seed and with the increasingly competitive nature of dairy farming, New York dairy farmers need every advantage available to make our businesses succeed. These trials both make and save money for farmers," according to Meghan Hauser and her father Willard De Golyer, Table Rock Farm, Castile.

Full results and more information are available at: http://bit.ly/2f7WBef.
Recently, Karen Stainbrook, Research Scientist with the Division of Water for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) was invited to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County to discuss Cayuga Lake and how its situation would most likely be reviewed under the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process.

In a later conversation I had with her, I asked about the differences between a TMDL and the 9 Element (9E) plan. She sent me the information contained below, as well as a specific site that NYSDEC has made available to help differentiate between the two review methods http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/103264.html.

At this point, it appears as though the Cayuga Lake watershed will be reviewed under the perspective of a TMDL, and that Cayuga County’s Owasco Lake may be reviewed as a 9E plan.

The plans are essentially the same. Both quantify the amount of pollution from all sources within a watershed, identify a water quality target and the reductions needed to meet the water quality target; both plans describe the best management practices that could be implemented to meet the water quality target; both require public outreach/participation; both plans include a monitoring and criteria to evaluate implementation plan progress toward meeting the water quality target; and both plans include an implementation plan.

The key differences are the approval process (9E plans are approved by NYSDEC and TMDLs are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency); a formal public comment period is required for TMDLs; the implementation section is technically optional for TMDLs, however, TMDLs developed by NYSDEC include implementation sections.

If you are farming in and around these two watersheds it might be interesting to determine which of your fields are contained in one or the other.

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<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>9E Plan</th>
<th>TMDL</th>
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<td>Pollutant Sources</td>
<td>Better for nonpoint sources</td>
<td>Better for point sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation plan</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Optional*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public comment period</td>
<td>No (public participation is conducted throughout plan development)</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency approval</td>
<td>NYSDEC</td>
<td>EPA</td>
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<td>Funding eligibility</td>
<td>State and federal opportunities</td>
<td>State and federal opportunities</td>
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* TMDLs developed by NYSDEC include implementation sections. To learn more about TMDL guidelines, go to EPA's Guidelines for Reviewing TMDLs webpage at: https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/guidelines-reviewing-tmdls-under-existing-regulations-issued-1992.

NRCS-NY Announces Application Cutoff Dates for Conservation Stewardship Program

New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces February 3, 2017 as the application cutoff date for Signup 1 of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.

The Conservation Stewardship Program- CSP- is the largest working-lands conservation program in the United States. Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, rotational grazing, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agricultural production on their land.

“This year’s CSP sign-up is particularly noteworthy, as it is the first year that major programmatic changes will be in place after two years of intensive planning by USDA,” said Gregory Kist, NRCS State Conservationist “NRCS NY is looking forward to rolling out the new and improved CSP program to our participants.”

Applications accepted after February 3, 2017 will only be considered in FY2017 if additional application rounds are announced. Applications not funded in FY2017 will be deferred for consideration in FY2018. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

If you are interested in applying for an NRCS conservation program please visit our web site for information on applying at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ny/programs/.
10:00 a.m. .....  Introductions

10:15 a.m. .....  Minimum amounts of cover crop growth needed to enable erosion control, weed suppression, organic matter improvement, etc.
Kitty O’Neil, Northern New York Cornell Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialist.

10:30 a.m. .....  Management strategies for avoiding and managing herbicide resistance in cover crop systems.
Mike Hunter, Northern New York Cornell Regional Field Crops Specialist.

11:00 a.m. .....  Interseeding results and experience of Auburn Ag’s seedings conducted in 2016 using 12 row seeder
Jonathan Martin, Auburn Ag.

11:30 a.m. .....  Open farmer discussion of experiences with interseeding, cover crop and reduced till management in the drought of 2016 and other soil health topics.

12:00 p.m. .....  Lunch (bring $5.00 to pay for Pizza or bring your own lunch if you prefer) We will continue discussion and networking

12:45 p.m. .....  The use of Dawn Biologics ZRX electro-hydraulic roller/crimper/row cleaner, experience with set up and weed and pest considerations.
Shawn Bossard, Morrisville State College, Instructional Support Specialist / Farm Manager

1:15 p.m. .....  Soil health case studies and partial budget analysis of two dairy farms
Flo Swartz, USDA-NRCS Agricultural Economist.

1:45 p.m. .....  Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG): Building a Soil Health Initiative and Cover Crops Infrastructure for Small Farms in Delaware Co. Lessons learned in the development of a custom cover crop system
Dale Dewing, Extension Watershed Team Leader at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County

2:00 p.m. .....  Cornell Soil Health Lab update and National Soil Health Initiative project and other projects.
Aaron Ristow, Extension Associate, Cornell University Soil Health Lab Program Coordinator

2:15 p.m. .....  Update on the CIG Strengthening Networks to Accelerate Farmers’ Adoption of Soil Health Practices, as well as the NYFVI grant (field day).
Jeff Ten Eyck, CCA, NY Agricultural Stewardship Specialist American Farmland Trust

2:30 p.m. .....  Other announcements from group
- Update of Western NY Soil Health Alliance,
- Obtaining sponsors for Soil Health Work Group cover crop signage,
- Communication to State and Federal Agency’s what is needed to move soil health forward,
- Get volunteers for subcommittee meeting for strategic plan for soil health work group to strengthen communication, collaboration and networking
CAYUGA COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATION DROP-OFF PROGRAM

Dispose of Your Excess Medication
Now you can safely dispose of Unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.

Receptacles are available 24 hours per day at:
- Auburn Police Department, 46 North Street, Auburn, NY
- Cayuga County Public Safety Building, 7445 County House Road, Auburn, NY
  - OR contact your local pharmacy

YES—Accepted
- Prescription
- Prescription Patches
- Prescription Medications
- Prescription Ointments
- Over-the-counter medications
- Vitamins
- Samples
- Medication for pets

STOP—These items NOT Accepted
- Syringes
- Poisons
- All Liquids
- Inhalers
- Aerosol Cans
- Biohazardous Materials

Turn in excess medication with no questions asked

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.