• **Farm Worker Safety** - as we enter our busy harvest season SAFETY needs to continue to be on everyone’s mind. According to the Centers for Disease Control website (www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/aginjury/) every day, about 167 agricultural workers suffer a lost-work-time injury and 5% of these injuries result in permanent impairment. Should one of these injuries occur on your farm, to you, a family member or worker the resulting time lost can be far greater than the few minutes you might have been trying to save. **Please think safety first and plan for a safe harvest season!**

• On **Page 2** you’ll find an introduction to Solarize Cayuga. Solarize Cayuga is a new initiative where Cayuga County residents and businesses are able to take advantage of discounts on solar panels installed on their properties. The program, underwritten by New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) and being administered by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, is completely community based and run by volunteers interested in expanding the uptake of solar power in our county.

• Have you ever accidentally dropped a tool or machine part into a manure pit and wondered how am I going to get it? An inexpensive magnet might be the answer; especially if the item is now in a confined space with potentially bad air quality. **Page 3** has a quick tip to make retrieving something dropped easy and hopefully safe.

• **Pollinators** have been in the news recently. Without them how will our fruit and vegetable crops be pollinated? How will the other roles these important members of our environmental community be met? Learn more about this topic on **Page 3**.

• There’s now an app for that! We became aware of a mobile application for confined spaces found on all types of agricultural operations. **Find more information on Page 3**. Remember only those trained for specific confined spaces should be accessing them and always have an extraction plan ready to deploy.

• Considering **bin treatment for small grain storage?** An updated listing for stored grain insecticides registered for use in New York is on **Pages 4 & 5**. Be sure to pull the two pages out for future reference!

• Cover crops are not a new concept. Yet, this practice is being adopted by more and more vegetable growers and even field crop farmers, either for cash grains or livestock feed, using them to improve soil health and keep soil in the field. **Page 6** has a good article for late summer cover crops and vegetable growers are encouraged to use the Cover Crop Decision Tool found at http://covercrops.cals.cornell.edu/decision-tool.php.

• As the climate changes, it seems ‘new’ plants are becoming “pests”. **Poison-Hemlock** is one we have received some calls about. To learn more about poison-hemlock see the article printed on **Page 7**.

• **Page 7** provides an overview of the successful Harmful Algal Bloom meeting where Cornell University scientists discussed the causes and effects of cyanobacteria (more commonly known as blue-green algae).

Sincerely,

Keith Severson  Judy Wright
Agriculture Resource Educator  Agriculture Resource Educator

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**TENTATIVE**

**Fall Recycling Events For Cayuga County**

**Electronics**
Saturday, September 26

**Household Hazardous Waste**
Saturday, October 24

**Electronics**
Saturday, November 14

Check our website: http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccecayuga under the ENVIRONMENT & RECYCLING tab on top for updated information, times and locations. You can also call our office at 315-255-1183 for more information.
**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/cecucayuga](http://blogs.cornell.edu/cecucayuga), 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.

**August**

August 27—September 7 **The Great New York State Fair** Look for Cayuga County farm families at the calf birthing center and entries in the Forage & Grain Contest. Our own Cayuga County 4-H Youth will be exhibiting projects & displays in the 4-H building August 27—30th. As well as, showing animals and participating in various contests throughout the Fair.

**September**

September 4—**Soil Health Seminar** held at Cuddeback Farms, 4663 State Route 38A, Skaneateles, NY. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program running until 3 p.m. If possible, please RSVP by August 26th to 315-252-4171 ext. 3. See the Agenda on Page 8.

September 12—**Solarize Cayuga Open House** held at Nathan and Betsy Leonard property from 2—3:30 p.m., 663 Cowan Road, Locke NY. Featuring a Residential photovoltaic installation (Halco). See below for more information.

September 15—**Solarize Cayuga Workshop** held at Cato-Meridian Central School, 2851 Route 370, Cato from 6 p.m.—8 p.m. See below for more information on this new initiative.

September 24—**Solarize Cayuga Workshop** held at Moravia Central School, 68 South Main St. Moravia, NY from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, see below.

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**What is Solarize Cayuga…?**

Cayuga County residents and businesses are able to take advantage of a discount on solar panels installed on their properties through the new Solarize Cayuga initiative. Solarize Cayuga is part of a larger Solarize CNY program being administered by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board in conjunction with local community volunteers in five upstate counties: Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego. Solarize Cayuga is completely community based and run by volunteers interested in expanding the uptake of solar power in our county.

Solarize Cayuga is able to achieve significant cost savings by encouraging many people to install solar panels at the same time. The solar companies benefit from the economies of scale associated with having many customers in a community installing solar, so the companies are able to offer a reduced price on the solar panel installations.

Solarize Cayuga streamlines the process for potential solar customers by educating them about the details of solar panels, selecting reputable solar installation companies through a competitive process to ensure they meet established criteria, and informing customers of potential financing options as well as available state and federal financial incentives.

The Solarize Cayuga program will be offering a series of free community workshops throughout Cayuga County where interested property owners can learn how solar photovoltaic (PV) energy systems work, what the solar power potential is in our region, how the Solarize program works, and what solar incentives and financing options currently exist to make PV systems even more affordable. Solarize Cayuga program attendees will also be introduced to the two program-approved solar contractors. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up to receive a free, no-obligation site assessment to determine the suitability of their property for solar panels. If their site proves suitable for solar power, they will be able to purchase a solar installation at substantial cost savings from a Solarize Cayuga program-approved installer. The Solarize Cayuga program has a limited time enrollment period, ending October 31st.

For more information regarding Solarize Cayuga, or the dates for free community workshops go to: [http://solarizecny.org](http://solarizecny.org).
Recent Manure Pit Deaths - Are Magnets an Option?

Article taken from: Penn State Extension

Recently within a three week period, a father and son in both Wisconsin and Iowa perished in swine facility manure pit incidents.

The common thread in both cases was a tool or mechanical part that dropped into the manure pit during repairs. All four victims were reported to have been overcome by manure gases. Several other incidents have occurred when a helper has entered the pit to rescue the first person who entered the pit to retrieve something, and became victims themselves. Simply put no one should enter a manure pit for any reason unless it has been adequately ventilated and evaluated with a gas monitoring device. In the absence of both these actions, the person needs to wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to enter a manure pit.

When a tool or other object is accidentally dropped into a pit, the impulse to quickly enter to retrieve it is the first reaction. In some instances, it may be possible to use a strong magnet at the end of a rope to retrieve the item. Magnets rated to 100 lbs. or more with an eye bolt are relatively inexpensive ($10-$20) and can be found at local hardware stores or online. With a rope or chain attached to a magnet, a dropped steel item could be retrieved. While this may not be workable in every instance for a dropped item, it is an option that farm operators should considered putting into practice. The steps to implement this idea include the following: purchase the appropriate size magnet, attached a sufficient length of rope or chain to the magnet, and keep it nearby when a repair or maintenance is to occur.

Please keep in mind: Simply standing over the open area may still provides excess exposure to gasses lighter than air, so proceed with caution.

Discussion: Integrated Pest Management and Pollinators

The Northeastern IPM Center recently hosted a discussion on the topic of pollinators in a live-streamed web event: "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Pollinators: What is the appropriate role for IPM on the issue of pollinators?" The Northeastern IPM Center invited speakers from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the Natural Resources Defense Council, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. In the recording, panelists provide an update on current issues surrounding pollinator health. They share facts about pollinators and pollinator decline, and give some thought to the role that the integrated pest management community, as well as scientific experts, public officials, and citizens, should take to address it. View the web broadcast recording via our website: http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccceayuga it is in the resources section underneath the Agriculture Tab on top.

An App for Confined Spaces!

Agricultural employers can keep track of confined spaces on their properties with a new mobile application from WorkSafeBC.

The My Confined Spaces app, allows users to make an inventory using a map, log information and photos for each confined space, and record possible hazards. Users also can view potential hazards for common confined spaces and share their inventory.

The app can be used for a variety of farms, including dairy farms, orchards, greenhouses and ranches. A resource library in the app contains documents, videos, tutorials and other resources.

The app is available on both iOS and Android devices, as well as on desktop computers.
Below is a 2015 list of stored grain insecticides registered for use in NY to save and use as a reference guide. Thanks to Mike Helms for generating this list! The list is not inclusive but should provide a good cross-section. This list can also be found on our website for easy reference by going to [http://blogs.cornell.edu/ceecayuga](http://blogs.cornell.edu/ceecayuga) hover over the Agriculture tab on top and scroll down to Resources.

### Stored Grain Insecticides Registered for use in New York State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Ingredient</th>
<th>Trade Name</th>
<th>EPA Reg. No.</th>
<th>Empty Bin Treatment</th>
<th>Corn</th>
<th>Soybean</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
<th>Pests Listed/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aluminum phosphide (phosphine gas)</td>
<td>*Weevil-Cide Pellets</td>
<td>70506-14</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>See label – several weevils, beetles, and moths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Degesh Phostoxin Pellets</td>
<td>72959-5</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>See label – several weevils, beetles, and moths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Detiaphos Pellets</td>
<td>72959-5</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>See label – several weevils, beetles, and moths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Weevil-Cide Tablets</td>
<td>70506-13</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>See label – several weevils, beetles, and moths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Degesh Phostoxin 60% Tablets</td>
<td>72959-4</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>See label – several weevils, beetles, and moths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Detiaphos Pellets</td>
<td>72959-4</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>See label – several weevils, beetles, and moths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Degesh Phostoxin Tablet Pre-pac</td>
<td>72959-9</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>See label – several weevils, beetles, and moths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacillus thuringiensis</td>
<td>Biobit HP</td>
<td>73049-54</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Indian meal moth, almond moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dipel DF</td>
<td>73049-39</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Indian meal moth, almond moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Javelin WG</td>
<td>70051-66</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Indian meal moth, almond moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beta-cyfluthrin</td>
<td>*Tempo SC Ultra</td>
<td>432-1363</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See label.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diatomaceous earth</td>
<td>Dryacide 100</td>
<td>69261-3-1381</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>For stored grain insects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dichlorvos</td>
<td>Prozap Insect Guard</td>
<td>5481-533-47000</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Stored insect pests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMVAC Insect Shield</td>
<td>5481-344</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMVAC Insect Shield Max</td>
<td>5481-332</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deltamethrin + chlorpyrifos-methyl</td>
<td>Storicide II</td>
<td>264-992</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Several pests noted. Also note use restrictions and equipment requirements when treating empty bin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Ingredient</td>
<td>Trade Name</td>
<td>EPA Reg. No.</td>
<td>Empty Bin Treatment</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>Soybean</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>Pests Listed/Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malathion</td>
<td>Malathion 5</td>
<td>9779-5</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat, oats, corn, rye, and barley storages only. Several pests listed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malathion 5 EC</td>
<td>66330-220</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Corn, barley, oats, rye, and wheat storages only. No specific pests listed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malathion 57 EC</td>
<td>34704-108</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat, corn, oat, rye, and barley storages only. Several pests listed on the label. REI = 12 hours. Maximum number of applications per year is 1 per storage period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phosphine + carbon</td>
<td>*EcoStume Fumigant Gas</td>
<td>68387-7</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Several beetles, moths, and weevils listed on the label.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dioxide gas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pirimiphos-methyl</td>
<td>Actellic 5 EC</td>
<td>1381-170</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See label for specific beetles, weevil, and moths controlled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pyrethrins + piper-</td>
<td>*Pyronyl Crop Spray</td>
<td>655-489</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Use for all insects as a grain treatment for corn and wheat. Can be used as a surface treatment for Indian meal moths, Angournois grain moths, and Mediterranean flour moths. May be used to treat empty bin for any pest and grain crop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>onyl butoxide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pyrenone Crop Spray</td>
<td>432-1033</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Also labeled for use on barley and oats. All stored product insects can be controlled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zeposector –$S_{II}$</td>
<td>1021-2670-1270</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pyrethrins</td>
<td>Evergreen Pyrethurm Concentrate</td>
<td>1021-2560</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Also labeled for use on barley, oats, and rye. Several insect pests listed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pyriproxyfen</td>
<td>*Nyguard IGR Concentrate</td>
<td>1021-1603</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Various moths and beetles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(S)-methoprene</td>
<td>Diacon IGR</td>
<td>2724-427</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Various moths and beetles. Used to prevent larvae development into adults.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diacon-D IGR</td>
<td>2724-788</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Various moths and beetles. Used to prevent larvae development into adults.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spinosad</td>
<td>Contain Liquid Stored Grain</td>
<td>264-995</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Also labeled for use on barley and oats. For all insect pests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insecticide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sensat</td>
<td>264-995</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Also labeled for use on barley and oats. For all insect pests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sulfuryl fluoride</td>
<td>*Profume</td>
<td>62719-376</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>All insect pests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Currently registered products as of 7/23/2015 as revised by Mike Helms, Extension Support Specialist, PMEP, Cornell University.

* Restricted-use pesticide.
Late Summer Cover Crops

Written by: Carol MacNeil, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program
With information provided by: T. Bjorkman, Cornell

Try to get a cover crop established when the weather and soil moisture permit. Cover crops can crowd out weeds, loosen the soil and improve soil aggregation, scavenge leftover nitrogen, and legumes can “grow” nitrogen for next year’s cash crop.

Forage radish, planted preferably between August 1—20, is effective at breaking up plow layer compaction and crowding out weeds. This crop forms thick, white tap roots that can reach lengths of 8–14. A thinner, fibrous tap root penetrates much deeper into the soil. The fleshy roots freeze and die in mid-winter. Open channels from all the roots allow water to percolate through the soil more quickly. Be sure you get forage radish seed instead of forage turnip. Varieties of forage radish include Cedar Meadow Forage Radish, Tillage Radish and Groundhog. If forage radish follows vegetables it often has sufficient nitrogen (N), but after wheat apply 50 lbs/A N for best growth. Loosen the soil surface. When radish is planted alone drill no more than 8 lb/A. Roll lightly after seeding. An alternative to applying N is to cut the radish seeding rate back to a third and seed with the standard rate of red clover as an N source. Another tactic is to seed a third rate of radish with 40 lbs/A wheat or rye, and 50 lbs N/acre. The wheat or rye will carry the N over until your cash crop needs it. After mild winters radish survivors should be killed in early spring before seeds set. Do not use in close rotation with crucifer crops.

Medium red clover, planted from mid-August through mid-September, can grow a substantial amount of the N that your cash crop will need next season. A good stand of red clover that gets established by late August, with good growing conditions, can produce 80—100 lbs/A of N. Most of the N is fixed during May, however. Seed at 15 lb/A with an inoculant for red clover. You can broadcast onto prepared ground or sow it with a grass seeder. A wheat nurse crop seeded at 40 lb/acre is recommended. The wheat keeps down weeds during clover’s slow establishment. Volunteer wheat in a recently harvested field should work. Another benefit: the grass’s N uptake stimulates the clover to produce more N and helps carry the N through until the next cash crop will need it. Warning! Red clover is difficult to kill chemically in the spring, though it can be buried with tillage.

Oats planted from mid-August to mid-September will grow some organic matter, crowd out weeds, and provide winter-killed ground cover that’s easily incorporated for early spring vegetables. Oats are also useful as a nurse crop with legumes. Oats establish more easily than some other cover crops. For seeding after vegetables, or when using oats as a nurse crop with legumes, no nitrogen fertilizer is required. Drill 80-110 lb/A oats; broadcast 110-140 lb/A. Increase the rate 10% in late September. When seeding oats with a legume use a half rate of oats.

Note: Some growers are seeding half or third rates of small grain cover crops for ease of management in the spring, however federal programs do not accept the lower rates at this time.

Hairy vetch planted by September 15 will overwinter, and the legume has the potential for fixing up to 150 lbs/A nitrogen (N). Most of the nitrogen is fixed during May, however, so seed it ahead of a mid-June cash crop planting. Vetch needs to be drilled into a soil with good moisture for a reliable stand. Seed it at 40 lbs/A and be sure to inoculate to ensure N fixation. Vetch should be seeded with a grass nurse crop to reliably overwinter. Wheat overwinters and is likely the best nurse crop in most situation. Seed it at the low rate of 40 lbs/A. The vetch and grain seed can be mixed together in the drill. In the spring incorporate at early vetch bloom, typically late May, for maximum N fixation and minimum vetch seed production. Caution: if you raise small grains don’t plant hairy vetch. It has hard seed that will germinate in future small grains producing vetch seed that will contaminate the grain.

Annual ryegrass planted from late August to mid-September will overwinter, producing a dense sod which improves soil aggregation, reduces surface soil compaction, and picks up and carries over any leftover N. Ryegrass grows rapidly and is good for fall weed suppression. There is often enough N left in the soil after vegetables. If there is not, 30 lb/A of N can double fall growth of the ryegrass. If the soil surface is moist, broadcasting without covering is effective. Seed ryegrass at 10 lb/A if drilled into reasonably moist soil, and 15 lb/A in dryer soil. Broadcasting requires 15-20 lb/A. Ryegrass can be very difficult to kill chemically in the spring.

For seed sources, costs, and more details on these cover crops go to the Cover Crops for Vegetable Growers website at http://covercrops.cals.cornell.edu.
POISON-HEMLOCK, THE NEXT GIANT HOGWEED?

Written by: Nancy Glazier, 
CCE, NW NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

Poison-Hemlock (Conium Maculatum) is a weed that has become more widespread. I was asked to identify it two years ago as it was prevalent in the borders of a pasture. It is currently visible along field edges and roadsides (June 9), just finishing flowering. Its presence causes concern since it can cause respiratory failure when ingested by humans or other animals. The toxicity comes from alkaloids found in all parts of the plant.

Description: Poison-hemlock was imported from Europe and escaped cultivated areas, like Giant Hogweed. It is a biennial that forms a basal rosette the first year. The second year it appears as an erect, branched, hairless stem with purple spots (3 ft. up to 10 ft.). The stem is ridged and hollow between nodes. Both flowers and foliage resemble wild carrot or parsley. It flowers well ahead of wild carrot, beginning sometime around mid to late May. It can be readily seen along roadsides, ditches, pastures and field edges. Plants reproduce by seed. It will produce dense stands if left unchecked.

Concern: Ingestion by animals is a major concern with poison-hemlock. Swine will readily eat the weed, while cattle, sheep and horses will eat it when no other forage is available. Large doses of the alkaloids will at first stimulate the animal, then cause paralysis. Since seeds have the highest concentration of alkaloids, grain fields grown for feed need to be monitored, also.

Poison-hemlock can also be teratogenic (cause birth defects) in cattle; cows in the first three months of pregnancy should not be grazed in fields with the weed present.

Control: The weed needs to be controlled by mowing or herbicide prior to seed stage to prevent it from becoming invasive. If mowed, care needs to be taken to prevent accidental ingestion from mowing debris. A particle mask should be worn. One grower who has it in fields chops the headlands back into the ground to prevent feeding it to his cattle.

References:

- Cornell University Poisonous Plants Database

CAYUGA COUNTY RESIDENTS GATHER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HAB)

The words blue-green algae have been in the press in recent years and the frequency seems to be increasing. Approximately 40 people attended an informational meeting on July 29th held at the Ward O’Hara Agricultural Museum in Auburn to learn more about cyanobacteria from Dr. Nelson Hairston, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University. He helped clarify that cyanobacteria are part of the phytoplankton family tree and have been around for a long time.

The reason cyanobacteria are in the news is that changing climate, with excess phosphorus in the lake equals a good environment for these creatures to bloom. There are thousands of different types of cyanobacteria yet only a small percentage of them can be harmful to people and pets.

When there is an overgrowth of cyanobacteria they are certainly unsightly and most people will stay away from them. The only way to determine if there is toxicity present is to test for it. This is where the County Health Department will step in and take a sample. Also at this time they will issue an alert to the public.

Toxins from some cyanobacteria can cause problems in people, pets, livestock and waterfowl should they be exposed. Keep various emergency contact numbers handy in case you suspect a problem as response time, as with any other type of poisoning, is critical.

Since phosphorus is the limiting nutrient, we all need to implement best management practices to keep phosphorus out of our waterways. These include but are not limited to using zero phosphorus fertilizers on established lawns, maintain septic systems and managing vertebrate waste (to include but not limited to human, livestock and pets).

For more information see NYS DEC website at http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html
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SOIL HEALTH SEMINAR
Friday, September 4th 2015
Cuddeback Farms
4663 State Route 38A
Skaneateles, NY 13152

AGENDA
9:30 a.m.   Registration
10 a.m.     Soil Health Demo
            Ray Archuleta
11 a.m.     Biological Cities, Smoke Test
            Frank Gibbs
12 noon    Lunch (Provided)
1 p.m.      Cornell Soil Health Test, In-Field
            Soil Sampling Procedures
            Robert Schindelbeck
2 p.m.      Inter-Seeder Cover Crops in Row Crops
            Matt Ryan
3 p.m.      Questions and Answers

If possible, please RSVP by August 26—315-252-4171 ext. 3.

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