



## Reference Guide for Researchers and Educators

### Bluegrass Lane Turf & Landscape Research Center, Ithaca

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This document is intended to provide essential information for faculty, staff and students conducting work at **Bluegrass Lane** in Ithaca, NY, one of nine farm operations managed by the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station (CUAES). It is **highly recommended that you review this document** for farm-specific information, and to be aware of farm-specific safety and compliance requirements, emergency procedures, general cultural requirements and the general availability of labor.

#### Farm Staff - Contact Information:

- **Bluegrass Lane Address:** 232 Bluegrass Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850
- **Bluegrass Lane Manager:** Eric Shatt



Cell Phone: 607-793-1428  
Email: [ecs222@cornell.edu](mailto:ecs222@cornell.edu)

- **Back-up Contact:** Jonathan Mosher, Field Assistant



Cell Phone: 607-592-7938

#### Facility Information:

- 15 acre facility with 12 acres in deer fence.
- Facility resources include a diverse collection of **tractors and implements** for small plot horticultural and turf research. The facility includes spaces for **equipment storage, offices, pesticide storage, fueling stations, meeting space, poly house space for potted plants, and workshop space.**
- **Soil nutrient and pH information** is available for each field, and can be obtained by contacting the facility manager.
- **Soils** at the farm are predominately either a Hudson clay loam or Arkport silt loam.
- **Weather data** for the close-by Ithaca airport is available at:  
<http://newa.cornell.edu/index.php?page=weather-station-page&WeatherStation=kith>
- **Irrigation** is possible for most fields via the use of overhead sprinklers and/or drip lines. Hydrants are present near to most fields. Contact the facility manager for specific irrigation needs and information on options.

## Map of Facility and Fields:

- A **map of the farm**, including fields, can be found at: <http://cuaes.cals.cornell.edu/farms/maps>.

## Expectations:

- **Sustainability is a cornerstone** of how we operate research farms at Cornell. Please work with CUAES farm staff to encourage sustainable practices within your program and to be good stewards of the resources at your disposal. We are always open to ideas to make sustainable improvements.
- **Be considerate of fellow faculty, staff and students.** Fields, facilities and equipment are shared resources.
- Timing is critical. Please consult with the facility manager regarding the start and end dates of your research project(s).
- Research field trials must conform to standard dimensions which allow for access of field implements and spray equipment. **Please discuss your plot dimensions with the farm manager** in advance of planting.
- For new **land requests** contact the facility manager.
- **Once a project ends**, remaining crop residue must be incorporated or mowed off. **All non-organic** (e.g. plastic mulch, drip tape, flags) **and woody materials** (e.g. wooden plot stakes) **must be removed from the field.**

## General Requirements:

- **Vehicle parking** is available in the lot next to the office trailer and equipment barn.
- Use of **shared building spaces, equipment and shop tools** must be coordinated by the farm manager.
- After use, **equipment and implements must be cleaned of soil and debris** at the wash station east of the storage barn.
- **Safe use of farm equipment is mandatory.** All technicians and faculty using CUAES farm equipment must attend an **annual on-farm tractor safety course** to be offered each spring, in cooperation with the N.Y. Center of Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH). To become certified to drive tractors, **new operators must first pass a written and an in-the-seat tractor exam** demonstrating their ability to operate a tractor capably and safely. **Experienced and certified program technicians and/or faculty are then responsible for the proper training of all necessary equipment operators for their program.** Learn more about the [Tractor Certification Process](#). The Facility Manager has the authority to prohibit or restrict on-site tractor usage by any individuals that are found to operate equipment in an unsafe or reckless manner. **If you are not comfortable with the operation or function of a piece of equipment, stop and see the farm manager or farm staff.** If something seems faulty with a piece of equipment, stop and see the farm manager or staff immediately.
- **Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations impact all drivers** intending to use any vehicle with a GVWR of >10,000#.
- **All individuals supporting research at the Bluegrass Lane research facility, where plots may be treated with pesticides, must have completed Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training.** In addition, **all individuals applying pesticides must also be licensed as a NYS applicator or working under the direct supervision of a NYS applicator.** More information is available at: <http://oeh.cals.cornell.edu/pesticides/>.

- Individuals cleared to **use shop areas must comply with all applicable EH&S regulations**, including demonstrated competency with tool operation, proper eye and ear protection and completion of hot work permits (if applicable).

## **Emergency Procedures:**

- **In case of a life safety emergency, call 911** from the nearest land or cellphone. Land lines are present in the office building. The facility manager or CUAES staff should be informed ASAP of all on-farm emergencies/accidents, including non-critical incidents.
- **Fire Extinguishers** are present in all facilities, fixed to the wall in prominent locations.
- Projects are responsible to carry **first aid kits** for their use while at the farm. A first aid kit is also located in the shop above the sink, as a backup option.
- Projects are responsible for supplying and carrying appropriate **personal protection equipment (PPE)** to their staff and students. Individuals operating equipment, including hand tools (e.g. hoes) must wear closed-toe footwear.
- **Essential postings** for the facility, including **information on recent pesticide applications and labor regulations** can be found on the bulletin boards on the east side of the pesticide building.
- The farm is in compliance with Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Rules, specifically in regards to petrol tanks. **Individuals using farm fueling stations must be aware of the location of spill kits and what to do in case of an accidental spill.** More information on SPCC requirements can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/spcc/>. All spills should be immediately reported to the facility manager.

## **Labor Availability:**

- Available staff at Bluegrass Lane include the facility manager and one field assistant. We do have the opportunity to bring labor from the orchard facility for larger project needs, if necessary. **The staff endeavor to meet all requests for general horticultural services and support.** Our aim is to provide world-class support of the applied research, teaching and outreach goals of Cornell faculty. **Labor is not, however, infinite.** As such, CUAES staff may occasionally have to decline or delay the provision of services which fall outside their scope of duties or when available labor is simply insufficient.