



Reference Guide for Researchers and Educators

Campus Area Farms, Ithaca, NY

This document is intended to provide essential information for faculty, staff and students conducting work at the **Campus Area Farms** in and near Ithaca, NY, one of seven farms 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:

- **Farm Address:** Main office – 111 Love Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

Outlying locations:

- Caldwell Farm - Caldwell Rd (behind Guterman Complex, Ithaca campus)
- East Ithaca - 302 Maple Avenue
- Ellis Farm - 47 Mt. Pleasant Rd
- Helfer Farm - 110 Stevenson Rd
- Ketola Farms - 1625 Hanshaw Rd
- Lamkin Farm - 88 Freese Rd
- McGowan Farm - 791 Dryden Rd
- Mt Pleasant Farm (incl. Tower Fields) - 612 Mt. Pleasant Rd, Freeville, NY 13068
- Pullyen and Tailby Farms - 1010 Dryden Rd
- Snyder Farm - 40 Game Farm Rd

Farm Supervisor: Gene Sczepanski



Office Phone: 607-255-3234
Cell Phone: 607-279-5055
Email: gs594@cornell.edu

Back-up Farm Contact: Tom Edwards, Mechanic



Office Phone: 607-255-1674
Cell Phone: 607-216-7367

Back-up Farm Contact: John Conklin, Field Assist.



Office Phone: 607-255-1674
Cell Phone: 607-229-7705

Back-up Farm Contact: vacant



Office Phone: 607-255-1674
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Facility Information:

- ❑ Campus Area Farms' 325 acres are comprised of fields in 11 different locations on and around the Cornell Campus. All fields are for **conventional agricultural research** (no certified organic fields).
- ❑ Facility resources include a diverse fleet of **tractors and implements** for small plot horticultural research. The facility includes spaces for limited **equipment storage, pesticide storage, seed storage, coolers, drying ovens, farm shops and high tunnels**.
- ❑ Campus Area Farms maintains a small fleet of **pickup trucks and trailers** that are available for rent with proper certifications.
- ❑ **Soil nutrient and pH information** is available for each field, and can be obtained by contacting the farm supervisor.
- ❑ **Irrigation** is possible for some fields via the use of overhead sprinklers and/or drip lines. Hydrants are present near some fields. The farm maintains a limited amount of irrigation pipe and related irrigation equipment for use by request.

Map of Facility and Fields:

- ❑ A **map of all Campus Area Farms areas**, 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** in agriculture is critical. Please consult with the farm supervisor 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 supervisor** in advance of planting.
- ❑ **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** on campus close to Love Lab and Leland Lab requires proper Cornell permits, available from Commuter & Parking Services <http://transportation.fs.cornell.edu/parking/default.cfm>. Outlying locations do not require parking permits.
- ❑ Use of **shared building spaces, equipment and shop tools** must be coordinated by the farm supervisor.

- After use, **equipment and implements must be cleaned of soil and debris** at one of the wash stations next to Love Lab and Leland Lab. **Equipment should be returned to its original location** as soon as possible such that other programs can access shared equipment in times of high demand.
- **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 Farm Manager has the authority to prohibit or restrict on-farm 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.
- Use of the farm forklift requires completion of **forklift training and obtaining forklift certification.**
- **Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations impact all drivers** intending to use any of the numerous trucks and trailers from the Campus Area Farm fleet. **Additional driver testing and compliance measures are required;** please see farm supervisor for details.
- Produce that is grown in accordance with **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)** and without the use of restricted testing agents may be consumed or donated. More information on GAP training can be found at: <http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/>. Please see the farm supervisor for more information on the donation of produce.
- **All individuals supporting research at Campus Area Farms, where crops 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. There are no land lines at outlying locations. The farm supervisor 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. Backup first aid kits are also located in the two main shops – room # 126 Love Lab, and room # 134 Leland Lab – and in the center building at East Ithaca.
- **Automated External Defibrillators (AED)** are located in Love Lab in the hallway next to room # 107, and in Leland Lab in the hallway next to the breakroom # 101.

- Projects are responsible for providing 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 farm, including **information on recent pesticide applications and labor regulations** can be found on the bulletin boards in the main hallway at Leland Lab, and in the main entry area at Love Lab. Information on recent pesticide applications is also posted in the center building at East Ithaca.
- 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 farm supervisor.

Cultural Practice Requirements:

- **Pest management is critical** to avoid negative impacts to your and other projects. **Active scouting for pests – insects, diseases and weeds – is the responsibility of each project.** Projects should have a management plan in place for common pests and work closely with the farm supervisor. Projects with specific pest requirements (e.g. a late blight screening trial) may require isolation.
- Research on **regulated genetically-modified organisms (GMOs); heavy metals; planned disease and insect releases, or; involving the use of radioactive isotopes, animals, or aerial drones,** must be pre-screened for strict compliance with Cornell policy and to assure that such work will not impact the safety of other farm users or the robustness of neighboring research. The Cornell policy library is available online at <https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/tools-library>. More information and contacts for Cornell Environmental Health & Safety can be found at <http://sp.ehs.cornell.edu/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Campus Area Farms have a variety of **tillage implements for field preparation,** including moldboard, minimal and no-till equipment. Please work with the farm supervisor to select the tillage practice that best aligns with your project.
- Farm staff maintain baseline **fertility levels,** and a near neutral pH, for each farm field. Farm staff can source and provide common fertilizer formulations to projects when advance notice is given, including compost for organic fertility.
- **Crop rotation** is actively practiced at Campus Area Farms to minimal pest buildup and carryover effects between growing seasons. Cover cropping is mandatory following field experiments. Field assignments must be made in consultation with the farm supervisor, who can provide relevant historical information on fields.

Labor Availability:

- Farm staff at Campus Area Farms include the farm supervisor, two field assistants, and a mechanic. **The farm 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, farm 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.