



Reference Guide for Researchers and Educators

Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center, Long Island

This document is intended to provide essential information for faculty, staff and students conducting work at the **Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center (LIHREC)** in Riverhead, Long Island, one of nine 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:** 3059 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901 (Suffolk County)

- **Farm Supervisor: Mark Sisson**



- Office Phone: 631-7273595
- Cell Phone: 631-603-5925
- Email: mps21@cornell.edu

- **Back-up Farm Contact:** Rod Zeltmann, Field Assistant



- Office Phone: 631-727-1640
- Cell Phone: 631-830-2094

- **Organic Land Contact:** Wayne Lindsay, Field Assistant



- Office Phone: 631-727-1640
- Cell Phone: 631-527-4717

Facility Information:

- The 68-acre farm has mostly **conventional field areas**. Of the 60 tillable acres two are **managed organically** in accordance with the OMRI guidelines.
- The entire farm is enclosed with **deer-proof fencing**. Cattle gates allow access from nearby roads.

- Facility resources include a collection of **tractors and implements** for small and medium scale horticultural research. The facility includes spaces for **equipment storage, pesticide storage, fueling stations, meeting space, office spaces, greenhouses, irrigated container growing areas, a tissue culture lab and other lab spaces, drying ovens, and a wood shop.**
- **Soil nutrient and pH information** is available for most fields, and can be obtained by contacting the farm supervisor.
- The farm has **white, sandy loam soils** with excellent drainage, moderate water-holding capacity, and modest fertility.
- **Weather data** for this farm is available from NEWA and/or observation records. To obtain the data contact the farm staff.
- **Overhead Irrigation** with ground water is available for most fields. **Trickle irrigation** is the responsibility of the researcher. A one acre container growing area features a “pot-in-pot” trickle irrigation system.

Map of Facility and Fields:

- **Maps of the farm**, including fields and facilities, 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 large woody materials** (e.g. range poles, corner stakes) **must be removed from the field.**

General Requirements:

- **Vehicle parking** is available in the lab building area. Do not block farm laneways. Suffolk County maintains a Golden Nematode quarantine protocol for all agricultural lands. Therefore, **non-LIHREC vehicles are prohibited from driving on fields.** If absolutely necessary, USDA steam-cleaning crews can be contacted at the researcher’s expense. There are numerous carts available for access to fields. **Vehicle speed should not exceed 10 MPH on farm laneways and 5 MPH around the farm building complex.**
- Use of **shared building spaces, equipment and shop tools** must be coordinated by the farm supervisor. No tools or equipment are to leave the farm without the farm supervisor’s approval.

- After use, **equipment and implements must be cleaned of soil and debris. 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. Sprayers, fertilizer applicators, seed boxes etc. should be emptied after use and cleaned out appropriately. If you stop using equipment part-way through an application, but will use it again shortly (e.g. the next morning), label what materials are left in the equipment, and include your name and date.
- **Special rules apply for organic field operations.** Equipment to be used on the organic fields must be clean of soil, prohibited materials and crop residues prior to entering organic fields. **A wash station** is located at the southeast side of the North 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 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.
- **Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations impact all drivers** intending to use the following LIHREC farm vehicle, with a GVWR of >10,000#: Chevrolet dump truck. **Additional driver testing and compliance measures are required;** please see the farm supervisor for details.
- All crops treated with **research or off-label materials must be destroyed.**
- All crops harvested in compliance with DEC regulations may be **donated to local food banks** at the discretion of the researcher. LIHREC does not sell any of its produce.
- **All individuals supporting research at LIHREC, 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 line or cellphone. 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. As a backup option first aid kits are also located in the rear of the shop and in the Weed and Vegetable Science Labs in the Lab Building. An **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** is located in the rear of the lab building by the lunch room.

- **Emergency eyewash and showers** are located throughout the LIHREC facility. **WPS emergency wash kits** are placed at various locations throughout the fields during the growing season. See Farm Supervisor for locations.
- 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** on recent pesticide applications can be found in the folder labeled “Pesticide Applications” in the rear of the farm shop, and information on labor regulations are posted on the bulletin board in the farm shop.
- 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 farm supervisor must be notified prior to use.** 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>.
- LIHREC has a variety of **tillage implements for field preparation,** including moldboard, minimal and no-till equipment. Mulch layers, rototillers and mowers are also available. Please work with the farm supervisor to select the tillage practice that best aligns with your project.
- Farm staff maintain baseline **fertility levels** for most farm fields. A wide variety of custom blended fertilizers can be obtained from the local fertilizer supplier. Please consult with the farm supervisor for applications of non-standard fertilizers.
- **Pesticide purchases and returns** are generally the responsibility of the researcher. Please consult with the farm supervisor for applications of non-standard materials.
- Field assignments must be made in consultation with the farm supervisor, who can provide relevant historical information on fields.

Labor Availability:

- Farm staff at LIHREC include the farm supervisor, and two field assistants. **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 programs. **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.