NYSAES in the News:
- The state has committed $3.4 million to upgrade the Fruit and Vegetable Processing Pilot Plant, part of a $13 million dollar modernization effort for the facility, which serves the Food Venture Center and supports food-related businesses across the state.
- A $4.7 million upgrade to the greenhouses was celebrated in October with a ribbon cutting attended by Cornell leadership and State Senator Michael Nozzolio.
- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo is investing $350,000 for research on hops and malting barley, key beer-brewing ingredients, to help Cornell specialists identify varieties that perform well in New York.
- A new ten-acre, two-megawatt solar farm will offset approximately 40 percent of the Station's annual energy demand.
- In June, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) launched the School of Integrative Plant Science, unifying the former departments of Plant Biology, Horticulture, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Crop and Soil Sciences, and Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology. The school is a significant milestone in the evolution of plant, soil and microbial science research, teaching and extension in CALS.
- Pesticide application technology specialist Andrew Landers designed a digital solution for pesticide drift, using ultrasound sensors to better match sprays to the variable size of vineyard and orchard plants.
- The apple rootstock breeding program, a partnership between Cornell and the USDA–Agricultural Research Service, has released 13 rootstocks in the past five years. Nurseries have propagated more than two million apple trees on Geneva rootstocks for planting in 2015.
- Goose Watch Winery on Cayuga Lake produced the first wine from Cornell's 'Aromella' grape.

Greenhouse ribbon cutting

Apple rootstock breeder Gennaro Fazio

New Research and Extension Grants:
- State grants funded six NYSAES projects. Two grants will target key diseases in vineyards—sour rot and Red Blotch, and a third will explore the use of vineyard cover crops to reduce wine grape management costs. The hops industry will benefit from new research on protecting hops from powdery and downy mildew. Other projects include new seed treatments for sweet corn using vermicompost and a program to develop and implement environmentally and economically sound strategies for managing thrips, a major pest to New York onions.
- The Northern Grapes Project, led by senior extension associate Tim Martinson, received a $2.6 million USDA grant to continue developing grape growing, wine making and marketing resources for cold climate grape growers.
- Assistant professor of horticulture Kenong Xu received two grants totaling nearly $2 million to dissect the genetics of acidity and branch angle in apples.
- Horticulture professor Alan Taylor received a Cornell Center for Materials Research Jump Start Award.

Government Relations:
- Senators Patty Ritchie, Michael Nozzolio and Senator-elect Richard Funke visited NYSAES to learn how our research supports New York food and agricultural industries.
- In October, seven state legislative and agency staff who interact with agricultural research and economic development issues saw first-hand the impacts of state-funded research and facilities on the NYSAES campus.

Faculty Awards:
- Susan Brown, Horticulture Section, was named a 2014 “Women of Distinction” in a ceremony at the State Capitol.
- Terry Bates, Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Lab, was given the first American Society for Enology and Viticulture Extension Distinction Award.
- Terence Robinson, Horticulture Section, was presented the 2014 American Society for Horticultural Science Outstanding Extension Educator Award.
Graduate Student Awards:
• Ben Gutierrez, Horticulture Section, was awarded the Perrine Scholarship.
• Meredith Persico, Horticulture Section, was named the Shaulis Scholar.
• Aloy Gu, Department of Entomology, was awarded Best Poster at the annual symposium.
• Megan Hall, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Section, was awarded Best Viticulture Poster at the National Meeting of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture.
• Erik Smith was awarded the Paul Chapman Graduate Student Fellowship.

Staff Recognition:
• Bill Srmack marked 40 years with the Station.
• Donna Loeb was named the 2014 NYSAES Outstanding Employee of the Year.

Arrivals, Departures and Promotions:
• Sarah Pethybridge was hired as an assistant professor in the Section of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology to research soil-borne pathogens of vegetables.
• Steve Reiners assumed the position of associate chair of the Section of Horticulture.
• Anna Katharine Mansfield was promoted to associate professor with indefinite tenure in the Department of Food Science.
• Jennifer Grant was named director of the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program.
• Dave Rosenberger, professor of plant pathology and plant-microbe biology and superintendent of the Hudson Valley Laboratory, retired in February.
• Harvey Reissig, professor of entomology, retired in March.
• Nancy Reissig, administrative assistant in entomology, retired in March.
• Holly King accepted the position of administrative assistant in entomology in April.

Science and Community Outreach:
• More than 40 processors and seed company representatives attended the annual fall processing vegetable cutting to sample canned and frozen peas, sweet corn and snap beans trialed at NYSAES.
• In July, hops field day participants learned from experts on topics ranging from processing and pest management to sales.
• Cornell Cooperative Extension educators attended a summer training workshop to learn how to identify fruit fly species collected in monitoring traps to combat the invasive spotted wing Drosophila.
• Susan Brown discussed “Apple Science, From American Beauty to Zestar” on the radio show Science Friday.
• The Station completed its tenth year of boosting science literacy through a plant science program for the Geneva City School District third and fourth graders.
• The Summer Research Scholars Program hosted 27 students from top universities around the country for immersion in agricultural research. Students worked closely with Station faculty, graduate students, post docs and staff on laboratory or field-based research projects, many of which aim to deliver practical solutions to problems faced by local farmers and food producers.
• NYSAES volunteers at Fun on the Farm offered apple tastings, pumpkin decorating, Entomology’s insect collection and information about plant diseases.
• Cider sales by the Student Association of the Geneva Experiment Station funded two scholarships for high school seniors to study agricultural sciences.
• 41 new backpacks filled with supplies were donated to the Geneva City School District.

A special thank you to Tom Burr for his ten years of service as the director of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.