New Jersey News

John Melick, 2015 New Jersey State Horticultural Society Outstanding Fruit Grower's Award

Win Cowgill
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

John Melick, was presented the New Jersey State Horticultural Societies Outstanding Fruit Grower's Award at the 70th North Jersey Fruit Meeting, held in Flemington NJ on March 4, 2015.

John Melick is a Hunterdon County Fruit Grower, who operates Melick Town Farm with his family. John is partners with his brother Peter and sister Melisa. Of course, parents George and Norma are still looking over their shoulders. Their operation consists of pick-your-own in two locations, a cider mill, three retail markets, multiple tailgate/farmers markets, and agritourism activities with 125 acres of orchard (35 acres of peaches, 70 acres of apples, plus cherries and Asian pears). They also farm 60 acres of mixed vegetables, small fruit, and tree fruit. In addition they are know for their sweet cider production, currently over 100,000 gallons a year.

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher said: "John has used his talents to enhance the family's multi-faceted farming operation, which continues to grow and change to stay successful."

John has moved the newer apple orchards into high-density production utilizing the tall-spindle system. More new orchards are on the drawing boards.

John Melick received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Bucknell University and is a graduate of the New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program. He has been a long-term member of the NJ State Horticultural Society. John has been a leader in his community, having served as Chief of the Oldwick Fire Company. He also is a past president of the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture and the New Jersey Council of Farmers and Communities. John is currently a member of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Board of Education

Of note has been John's strong support of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

Win Cowgill, Area Fruit Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and editor of *Horticultural News*, presents John Melick with the 2015 New Jersey State Horticultural Society Outstanding Fruit Grower's Award.

Seventieth North Jersey Fruit Meeting Held on March 4, 2015

Over 100 growers attended the Seventieth North Jersey Fruit Meeting, held in Flemington on March 4, 2015. Win Cowgill, Area Fruit Agent, Rutgers Co-operative Extension, has chaired and organized this meeting for the past 37 years. Of the attendees, only Robert Best, Senior, Best's Fruit Farm, Hackettstown, NJ is the only grower that has attended all 70 meetings. "My dad brought me to the first meeting when I was 10 years old! I havent missed one since." said Bob Best, Sr.

The meeting featured three out of state speakers: Dr. Terence Robinson, Professor, Cornell University, Dr. Dave Rosenberger, Professor Emertis, Cornell University, and Jon Clements, Extension Educator, University of Massachusetts.

Note: The North Jersey Fruit Program was recorded as the speakers presented their talks. Thank you to Jon Clements for using new technology to do this.

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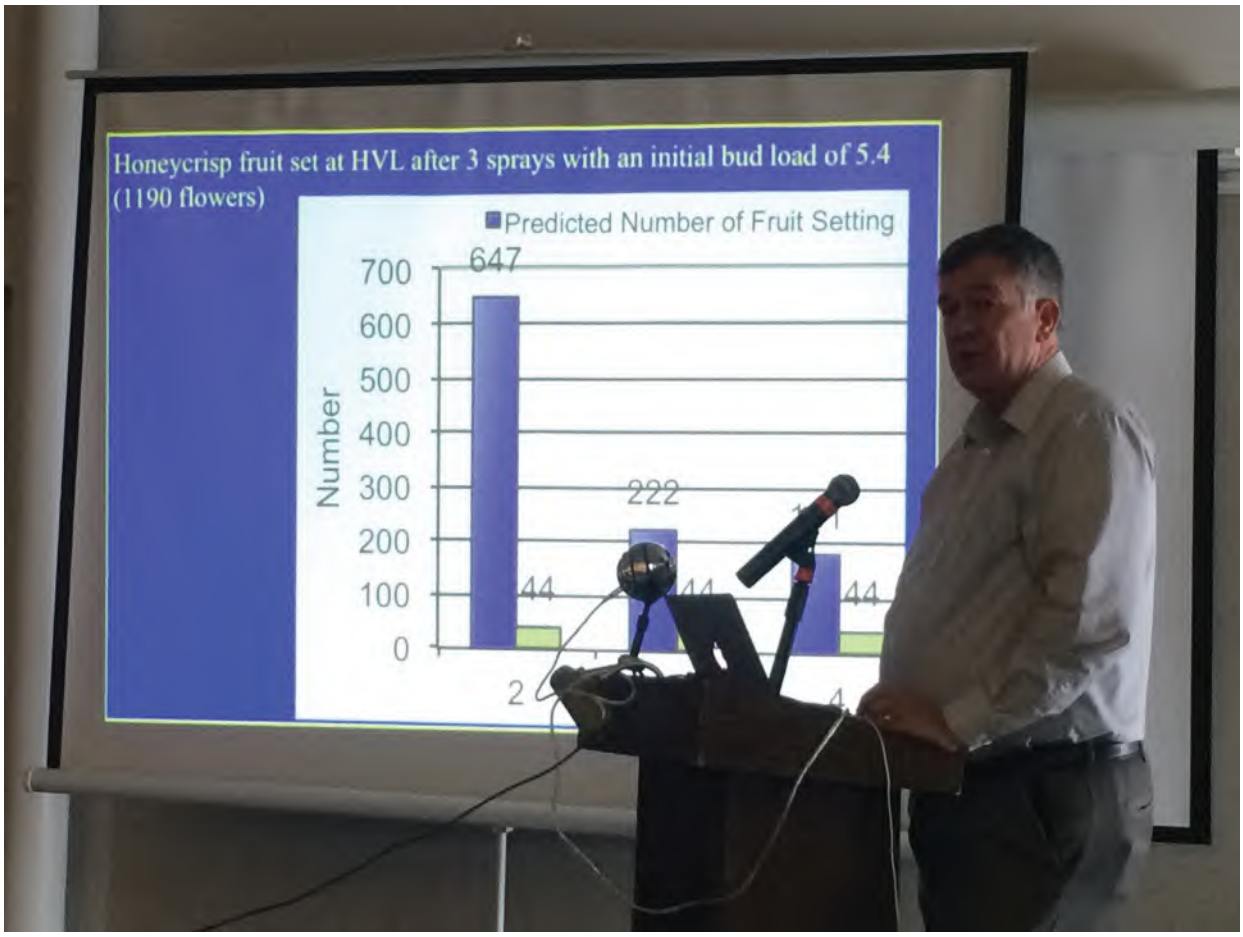

Dr. Terence Robinson, Professor, Cornell University, presented two talks at the Seventieth North Jersey Fruit Meeting.

The talks and a printable PDF of the slides from the Seventieth North Jersey Fruit Meeting can be found on Win Cowgill's **NJ Fruit Focus Website** at:

http://virtualorchard.net/njfruitfocus/2015northjerseyfruitmeeting/2015northjerseyfruitmeeting.html

The talks are in mp4 format so can be viewed as a movie, with both sound and the PowerPoint slides.

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