

GRANTS

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added.

"Magin Farms in Penfield will start a CSA next year. Greens and mixed salad greens (served) in Rochester restaurants and grocery stores are from this farm," Henderson said.

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In southern Seneca County, Dalrymple, of Dalrymple Farms, received \$9,555 to research the use of straw in maintaining soil.

His plan is to use compost under the trellises where grapes grow. The compost will then "break down and put nutrients into the soil faster ... and build organic matter in the soil," the grant proposal states.

The theory is that this blanket of chopped straw will limit erosion, improve soil life, and reduce weeds and the need for chemicals controls. The organic compounds will work into the soil over the years and eventually produce stronger grapevines and a heartier crop.

"As organic matter is increased, the soil will retain mois-

ture and by all rights, achieve larger, more stable crops ... and balance the plants so they stay more uniform," Dalrymple said.

With the grant, Dalrymple Farms' vineyard in Ovid will employ, in conjunction with Cooperative Extension, soil and plant analysts to see if there is an advantage to using straw. Studies have shown that it can be effective, so hopes are high.

"We have done this on an experimental basis on test rows and small plots but never for produce. Two plots, 10 acres each, will be divided up into sections. One row of just compost, then next will have both straw and compost, the third will be just straw, and some will be left alone."

The staggered treatment will help show the advantages and disadvantages of each treatment when compared to the control vines.

The grant also will help fund a machine Dalrymple is building — a hybrid of a German-engineered straw chopper, a roadside mulcher and the Mill Creek Chucking Wagon he already uses to spread compost beneath the trellises.

This new machine will lay 4- to 6-inch pieces of straw on the rows, feeding off of a round bale that is unwinding at the rear of the apparatus.

"Using chopped straw has really helped. With bale straw, you put it where it lands. Chopped straw will stay where we want it," he said.

Dalrymple's machine will be able to be turned off and on as needed, applying the mixture where it's most needed, to balance the soil. Better-balanced soil will make for a more uniform crop, increasing production and making the business more profitable, Dalrymple said. The process, if effective, can help cut costs to the farmers for weed-controlling chemicals, as well.

The results of Dalrymple's study will be published in newsletters by Tim Martinson, of Cooperative Extension. If progress is shown, a field meeting may be held in late summer, so farmers can see the progress.

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Hansen received \$2,601 to help show the effectiveness of her method of deterring Dia-

mondback moths, which can substantially damage a cabbage crop.

Hansen learned that if collard greens are placed along the perimeter of a cabbage field, the moths will live in the greens and not harm the crop.

Hansen tried this last year on her own but could not afford the time to accurately complete the study. The funds will be used to hire a field scout to regularly monitor the moths, which are resistant to most chemical controls, and the greens. No additional details were available.

SARE distributed grants totaling \$191,068 to private, non-profit farms in 13 states, including New York.

Projects had to meet certain criteria to qualify for the funds, including reducing environmental health risks, reducing cost and increasing profits to farmers, conserving the soil and natural resources and enhancing rural employment.

SARE is a national program, and the funds are distributed regionally. Northeast SARE received 154 applications for its farming grants this year and funded roughly one-third of them