

Bowman Orchards

PICK YOUR OWN APPLES
141 SUGAR HILL RD. REXFORD, NY 12148
(518) 371-7432

Bowman Orchards has been a Clifton Park family operation since 1952. We currently operate 98 acres on Sugar Hill Rd and rent another 130 acres near Elnora. The major portion of the business is the production and marketing of apples. We now have approximately 46 acres in production, 4 acres of full dwarf trees just starting to produce and 10 acres being prepared for replanting.

We have a herd of 40 Hereford beef cows, some sheep, goats and pigs, all of which are raised either for their wool or for meat.

On the tour of our farm you will have an opportunity to see the following.

(1) The use of computer controlled pesticide application equipment which actually senses the foliage and only sprays that area. This technology has reduced our pesticide use by 35% without reducing fruit quality.

(2) An Integrated Pest Management system that enables us to apply pesticides only when there is a need, rather than the common way of spraying on a predetermined schedule.

(3) A modern Trickle irrigation and fertigation system which allows us to grow a larger crop of higher quality apples with only a small fraction of the fertilizer or water required using a conventional system.

(4) The use of the latest Dwarf Tree technology which allows us to grow trees that will ~~only be 6 or 7 feet~~ tall when mature, yet will produce a larger crop of higher quality apples many years earlier than standard trees.

We are using three basic training systems in our new plantings.

(a) The Dutch Slender Spindle System where each tree is supported with a single post. This system has a tree density of approximately 320 trees per acre.

(b) The French Vertical Axis System where the trees are supported on a three wire trellis. This system has a tree density of approximately 725 trees per acre.

(c) The Australian Tatura Trellis System where the trees are supported on a "V" trellis using 6 wires. This system has a tree density of approximately 1250 trees per acre.

The trees we planted in the 60's and 70's were semi-dwarf with a tree density of 108 trees per acre. The trees on the farm when we purchased it in 1952 were standard full sized trees planted at the density of 27 trees per acre.

(5) The packing and storage facilities where we can store approximately 10,000 bushel and can pack up to 400 bushel per day.

(6) You can see and enjoy the Cows, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Horse, Pony, Ducks and Geese. Our farm store will be open and you will be able to Pick Your own Apples if you so desire.