

2013 PROGRAM WORK TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

Integrated Field Crop, Soil, and Pest Management Program Work Team (FC-PWT)

PWT Co-Chairs:

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Activities, Accomplishments, Outcomes, and Impacts:

Annual Planning Meeting

The Integrated Field Crop, Soil, and Pest Management Program Work Team (FC-PWT), a committee comprised of 32 individuals, including twelve Cornell faculty and staff (representing six departments/programs), nine Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, and eleven external stakeholders, met on January 24, 2013 to identify research and extension priorities and to plan major activities for the coming year. Twenty-three members attended the meeting that coincided with the annual New York Corn and Soybean Expo in Liverpool, NY. Compiled results from survey responses collected from PWT members regarding priorities for applied research and extension education for field crops in New York State were shared and discussed with attendees. Todd DuMond presented his partially funded (NYFVI) proposal for three NY Corn and Soybean Grower members to conduct field-scale studies (150-250 acres) in size on seeding rate responses of corn and soybeans across a range of soil conditions. The growers would use the Veris Tool to determine soil organic matter, pH and other soil characteristics (EC, etc.) throughout the fields. Then yield maps would be developed and super-imposed over the soil conditions to see if variable rate seeding rates could provide increased economic return under varying soil conditions. Our PWT members, especially the extension educators thought it would be a great idea if Cornell could provide partial support to the NY Corn and Soybean Growers Assn. to hire an agricultural statistician to analyze the data.

Sixth Annual New York Field Crops Tour

The Sixth Annual New York Crops Tour was held on August 13, 2013 at the farm of PWT member Todd DuMond in Union Springs, New York. More than 300 participants from New York State and elsewhere attended the event. The Program was co-sponsored by the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association and the FC-PWT with financial support from numerous regional sponsors.

Other important activities

The FC-PWT continued to work with the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association in planning the New York Corn and Soybean Expo, to be held on January 30-31, 2014 in Liverpool, NY. We also sponsored two annual field days at the Musgrave

Research Farm, the Small Grains Management Field Day on June 6, 2013 (ca. 100 attending) and the Aurora Field Day on July 18, 2013 (ca. 120 attending).

FC-PWT also offered guidance in content development for <http://fieldcrops.org>, a comprehensive, one stop website on field crops information in NYS. This site also hosts web pages on CCE Field Crops staff contact information (<http://fieldcrops.org/DWP/Pages/CCEFieldStaff.aspx#ccecontacts>) as well on information about the FC-PWT (<http://fieldcrops.org/extension/Pages/ProgramWorkTeam.aspx>).

Major training sessions conducted by FC-PWT faculty for various field crop audiences occur in the fall with the Agricultural In-Service (November; for extension field staff, ca. 20 participating), Field Crop Dealer Meeting (December; for agribusiness personnel, ca. 95 attending), and Northeast Certified Crop Advisor Training (December; for certified crop advisors, ca. 100 participating). Our Team also publishes the annual *Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management* (print sales of 4000 plus on-line availability), and the newsletter, *What's Cropping Up?* (with over 400 subscribers).

Field Crop PWT members conveyed thanks to Extension Support Specialist Mary McKellar for her exceptional contributions to and coordination of PWT and other field crops extension activities. Mary resigned her position in Crops & Soils to accept a new position in Plant Pathology in August. A search is currently underway to hire a new Extension Support Specialist in Crops & Soils whose duties will include work with the Field Crops PWT. Two important activities, including periodic updates to fieldcrops.org and publication of *What's Cropping Up?*, have been suspended until a new support specialist is in place.

PWT members in 2013:

Cornell staff: Gary Bergstrom, Larry Chase, Jerry Cherney, Bill Cox, Russ Hahn, Quirine Ketterings, Elson Shields, Margaret Smith Einarson, Harold van Es, Mary McKellar, Keith Waldron, Ken Wise; *Cornell Extension Associations:* Janice Degni, Aaron Gabriel, Kevin Ganoe, John Hanchar, Mike Hunter, Joe Lawrence, Jeff Miller, Keith Severson, Mike Stanyard; *Growers:* Todd Dumond, Mike McMahan, Seth Pritchard, Ron Robbins, Todd Roberts, Christian Yunkers; *Agribusiness:* Janet Fallon (Dairy One), Mark Ochs (Ochs Consulting), Alex Wright (Carolina Eastern-Vail Inc.); *Organizations:* Julia Robbins and Steve Van Voorhis (New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association).