

2008 PROGRAM WORK TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

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

PWT Co-Chairs:

Gary C. Bergstrom*
Department of Plant Pathology
Cornell University
334 Plant Science Building
Ithaca, NY 14853-5904
607-255-7849
gcb3@cornell.edu

Ron Robbins
North Harbor Dairy, LLC
14471 Co. Route 145
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685
315-583-5737
ronrobbins@agristar.net

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 25 individuals, including 12 Cornell faculty (representing six departments), seven Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, and six external stakeholders, met on March 20, 2008 to identify research and extension priorities and to plan major activities for the coming year. Sixteen members attended the meeting hosted by The New York Farm Viability Institute at their headquarters in Syracuse. Dave Grusenmeyer and Tom Sleight of the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI) led a discussion of needs and opportunities for field crops applied research and extension; field crops, and bioenergy feedstock barrier IDs. [PWT members were involved in setting up the regional focus groups of growers and agribusiness for the NYFVI Barriers ID effort in winter 2007 and provided direct input on the NYFVI 2008 priority list for field crop proposals.] We heard updates on several field crop applied research and extension projects of relevance to field crop production in New York. The program included discussion of services available from the newly created Extension Support position in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, including future development of better web communication and outreach tools. Steve van Voorhis, president of the New York Corn Growers shared plans for the New York Corn Expo to be held on January 28, 2009 in Waterloo. Danny Klinefelter will be the featured speaker.

Second Annual New York Field Crops Tour

After a very successful first year, the second annual New York Crops Tour was held on August 14, at Howlett Farms in Avon, New York. More than 100 participants from New York State and Canada attended the event. The Program was co-sponsored by the New York Corn Growers Association and the FC-PWT with financial support from numerous regional sponsors. The tour included crop production information, marketing advice, equipment displays and demonstration plots. The "Hefty Brothers," (hosts of Ag PhD on RFD TV) presented "Lessons from the Root Zone" on a corn demo plot. The demonstration showed the importance of understanding root health to improve overall yields and performance. The White Commercial Co. presented, "Managing Your Production and Marketing Risk." Jim Bower, owner of Bower Trading and senior

marketing analyst with Ag Day television, presented "Effective Marketing Strategies for 2008." The Crop Tour was widely publicized in regional and statewide media. These Crops Tours have been so successful that annual tours are being planned for future years in New York State.

Other important activities

The FC-PWT continued to work with the Corn Growers Association in planning the New York Corn Expo, formerly the New York Field Crops Day, on January 29, 2008 in Waterloo (ca. 125 attending). We also sponsored two annual field days at the Musgrave Research Farm, the Small Grains Management Field Day on June 5, 2008 (ca. 105 attending) and the Aurora Field Day on July 23, 2008 (ca. 125 attending). Major training sessions conducted by FC-PWT faculty for various field crop audiences occur in the fall with the Field Crop Dealer Meetings (October; for agribusiness personnel, ca. 245 attending), Agricultural In-Service (November; for extension field staff, ca. 25 participating), and Northeast Certified Crop Advisor Training (December; for certified crop advisors, ca. 200 participating). Members of the PWT also hosted representatives from the United Soybean Board, on August 8, 2008 (ca. 15 participating) which included a tour of the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic and discussions with field crops faculty. 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?*

PWT members in 2008:

Cornell staff: Gary Bergstrom, Larry Chase, Jerry Cherney, Bill Cox, Larry Geohring, Russ Hahn, Quirine Ketterings, Elson Shields, Margaret Smith Einarson, Larissa Smith, Harold van Es, Keith Waldron; *Cornell Extension Associations:* Shawn Bossard, Janice Degni, John Hanchar, Nate Herendeen, Tom Kilcer, Mike Stanyard, Bruce Tillapaugh; *Growers:* Mike McMahon, Ron Robbins, Todd Roberts.; *Agribusiness:* Janet Fallon (Dairy One), Donald Specker (Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl.); *Organizations:* Steve van Voorhis, (NY Corn Growers Association)