

**2008 PROGRAM WORK TEAM ANNUAL REPORT FORM**  
**(Please complete items 1, 2, 3 and 4 below)**

1. Full name of your Program Work Team (PWT):

**VEGETABLE CROPS PROGRAM WORK TEAM (VCPWT)**

2. Names, affiliations and e-mail addresses of the PWT Co-Chairs: (With an asterisk [\*], please indicate the co-chair responsible for finalizing this report.)

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3. List of names, affiliations and email addresses of **active** members of the PWT who are involved in the core decision-making or planning group of the PWT.

**See additional document. Although an exhaustive list is provided, I highlighted in yellow those members who virtually always attend our VCPWT annual meeting in March and the Ag In-Service in November (i.e., these member are also typically involved in decision-making for our group.**

4. Please identify your PWT's activities, accomplishments, and, most importantly, outcomes and impacts over the past year.

Members of the Vegetable Crops Program Work Team (VCPWT) engaged stakeholders through advisory boards, annual commodity meetings and on-farm visits. Advisory boards include the New York Vegetable Research Council and Association, New York State Onion Industry Council, New York State Onion Research and Development Program, New York State Cabbage Research and Development Program, New York State Vegetable Growers Board of Directors, Empire State Potato Growers Association, and adhoc advisory committees for CCE Educators. Additionally, there are annual meetings with these commodity groups that are held in late fall/early winter to prioritize research for the coming year. These priorities are used in RFP's from NYS stakeholder associations as well as for other grant programs. Priorities for the NYVRC/A (sweet corn, snap bean, peas, table beets) are also included in the RFP for NE IPM. The stakeholder derived research priorities illustrates to granting agencies that the proposed work is meeting New York stakeholders' needs. Many members of the VCPWT also engage stakeholders by working with them on applied research projects on their farms.

An annual statewide VCPWT meeting was held to address needs of NY's vegetable industry as well as provide news about upcoming events on March 27, 2008 in Geneva (16 members attended). Topics covered at this meeting included the following: (1) A review of the Empire State Fruit and Vegetable EXPO and dates and plans for 2009 led by S. Reiners,

(2) Including CCE Educators on faculty-led grant proposals led by S. Reiners, (3) Weekly conference calls to discuss pest and disease problems in 2007 - a success? led by S. Reiners, (4) Update on the Applied Economics and Management Positions led by S. Reiners, (5) Update on Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group – 2008 meeting AND the dates for the 2009 meeting to be held in Geneva, NY in February 2009 led by R. Hadad, (6) Vegetable Crops Working Group website presentation by B. Leonard and C. Cramer, (7) State-wide in-season Newsletter possibility led by R. Hadad, (8) Potato Association of America Annual Meeting to be held in Ithaca, NY in August 2008 led by D. Halseth, (9) Should crop consultants be invited to attend Ag In-Service Program led by B. Nault, (10) Topics for the 2008 Ag In-Service led by B. Nault, and (11) An around-the-table brief discussion of research projects - all attendees.

The Chair of the VCPWT organized several sessions at the 2008 Ag & Food Systems In-Service Workshop on November 12-13 in Ithaca. All sessions were well-attended and included multiple presentations from Cornell faculty and extension educators (see program following this report). The biggest hit among the Vegetable Sessions was “*Preparing for the Challenges and Opportunities of Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture and Water Resources*” led by Dave Wolfe. This session had the best attendance and was well received by vegetable and field crop extension educators and others.

The VCPWT continues to work with the New York Vegetable Growers Association in planning and organizing the Empire State Fruit and Vegetable EXPO. VCPWT funding supported the 2008 Becker Forum, a workshop designed to assist New York vegetable growers in taking a more pro-active approach to meeting the challenges of change. This year’s Becker Forum was titled “*Coping with Ag Labor Uncertainties in 2008*”, which was an in-depth, all-day meeting at the Holiday Inn Liverpool on Tuesday, February 12, 2008. The forum focused on agricultural labor and provided solutions to labor issues that may affect local businesses in the future.

One of the major strengths of the VCPWT is that members interact frequently both informally and formally on research and extension projects. There are many multi-disciplinary projects that will not be discussed in this report, but can be found at Cornell’s vegetable program web site: [www.hort.cornell.edu/extension/commercial/vegetables/index.html](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/extension/commercial/vegetables/index.html)

**Special Topics and Organizers for Vegetable Track Sessions at the 2008  
CCE Ag In-Service**

**Ithaca, NY**

<b>Tuesday (Nov. 11)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Organizer(s)</b>
<b>1:30 - 5 pm</b>	<b>"Preparing for the Challenges and Opportunities of Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture and Water Resources"</b>	<b>Dave Wolfe</b>

<b>Wednesday (Nov. 12)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Organizer(s)</b>
<b>8 - 10 am</b>	<b>"Addressing Concerns of the Onion Industry"</b>	<b>Martha Mutschler</b>
<b>10:30 - 12 pm</b>	<b>"Horticultural Crops Production in High Tunnels"</b>	<b>Chris Wein and Jud Reid</b>
<b>lunch</b>		
<b>1:30 – 3 pm</b>	<b>"Interpreting Soil Health Reports and other Soil Health Topics"</b>	<b>John Idowu and Larissa Smith (Joint session with Field Crops)</b>
<b>3:30 - 5 pm</b>	<b>"Managing diseases of vegetable crops – open panel discussion with the pros"</b>	<b>Tom Zitter</b>

<b>Thursday (Nov. 13)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Organizer(s)</b>
<b>8-10 am</b>	<b>"Potato Culture - the Old, Current and New"</b>	<b>Don Halseth</b>
<b>10:30 am-12 pm</b>	<b>"Managing Fungicide Resistance in Selected Vegetable Crops"</b>	<b>Meg McGrath</b>

<b>lunch</b>		
<b>1:30 – 3 pm</b>	<b>“Managing weeds in vegetable crops – open panel discussion with the pro”</b>	<b>Robin Bellinder</b>
<b>3:30 – 5 pm</b>	<b>“Promoting local foods”</b>	<b>John Mishanec</b>