2009 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 29 individuals, including 12 Cornell faculty (representing six departments), nine Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, and eight external stakeholders, met on January 28, 2009 to identify research and extension priorities and to plan major activities for the coming year. Nineteen members attended the meeting which coincided with the annual New York Corn Growers Corn Expo in Waterloo, NY. There was an extensive discussion regarding the New York Farm Viability Institute on the current challenges of funding grant proposals as well as how to make the most impact with stakeholders with the limited monies available. We heard updates on several field crop applied research and extension projects of relevance to field crop production in New York. The program continued discussion of services available from the 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, 2010 in Waterloo. Danny Klinefelter will be the featured speaker. Plans for the Summer Crops Tour were also discussed to be held at Howlett Farms for a second year.

Second Annual New York Field Crops Tour
After a very successful year at Howlett Farms, the third annual New York Crops Tour was held on August 18, for a second time at Howlett Farms in Avon, New York. More than 200 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 "Raising Better Corn from the Root Zone Up" on a corn demo plot. The demonstration showed the importance of understanding root health to improve overall yields and performance. Mark Gold, analyst on U.S. Farm Report and Ag. Day TV presented, "Marketing Strategies for 2009." The Cornell PWT hosted an "Ask the Educator" exhibit where Cornell Faculty and County
Educators put on demonstrations and answered questions throughout the day. 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. A future tour will be held in Cayuga County at PWT member Todd DuMond’s farm.

**Other important activities**

The FC-PWT continued to work with the Corn Growers Association in planning the New York Corn Expo, on January 28, 2010 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 4, 2009 (ca. 100 attending) and the Aurora Field Day on July 26, 2009 (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. 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?*