1. Full name of your Program Work Team (PWT): Agricultural Community and Economic Development PWT

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

Jim Ochterski, CCE-Ontario, jao14
Laura Biasillo, CCE-Broome, lw257*
Todd Schmidt, Cornell – Dyson, tds1 (new campus-co-chair)

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

In 2010 we identified the following focus areas for Agriculture Economic Development statewide:

- Assisting farm managers networking to wholesale and retail buyers.
- Facilitating the establishment and maintenance of both produce processing and livestock processing facilities as key markets.
- Educating farmers about business and financial skills.
- Fostering greater tourism developing in the agriculture sector.
- Promoting local foods on at the individual/ family scale and intermediate-level (schools, hospitality businesses, institutions).
- Enhancing workforce development in agriculture and career education for young adults.
- Encouraging farm business development through new farm enterprises, new products development, and expanded marketing.

In 2011 the ACED PWT focused it’s energy on the planning and implementation of the “Agricultural Economic Development” track at the Agriculture In-Service, this year held at the Industrial & Labor Relations Building on the main Cornell campus. This full day track featured professional development and networking opportunities for members of our PWT and other stakeholders in the topics outlined above. We offered sessions on agri-tourism, learning to work with the newly formed “Regional Economic Development Councils”, understanding risk management when it comes to on-farm family issues, and how to aid our farmers in assessing available marketing channels for their products. We had great attendance by our membership and gathered new members through the professional development offered. We saw our membership rise by seven and attendance at our workshops saw more than 15 attendees (on average) at each of the four breakout sessions we offered.

The leadership team has also identified several activities that will continue to be pursued in 2012:

- Supporting a retreat for Agriculture Economic Development professionals in NY to continue sharing program resources
• Underwriting a professional development tour to make actual market connections – such as to NYC, Whole Foods, Wegmans, or other major market entity. – Initial planning has already commenced for this activity. Special needs funding will be pursued.
• Organizing an opportunity for AED specialists, with campus support, to develop program business plans that target local priorities and specify delivery activities
• Developing a central information center of good Agriculture Economic Development resources. This would be an on-line compilation of publications, links, and articles.