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 30 individuals, including twelve Cornell faculty and staff (representing six departments), eight Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, and ten external stakeholders, met on January 26, 2011 to identify research and extension priorities and to plan major activities for the coming year. Seventeen members attended the meeting that coincided with the annual New York Corn and Soybean Expo in Liverpool, NY. A major point of discussion was how to get the word out more effectively about the importance of field crop production and agriculture in general to the economic well being of New York State. Attendees shared strategies on effective advocacy for continued funding of essential state programs that support agricultural research and extension.

Fourth Annual New York Field Crops Tour
The Fourth Annual New York Field Crops Tour was held on August 16, 2011 for the first time 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. The tour included crop production information, marketing advice, equipment displays and demonstration plots including presentations by Cornell faculty. The keynote speakers were Scott Stewart and Ken Ferrie. Stewart, CEO of Stewart-Peterson Inc., offered advice on increasing profits through marketing tools. Ken Ferrie, a well known consultant and field agronomist for Farm Journal, spoke about technology to better understand soils and improve productivity. The Cornell PWT hosted an "Ask the Educator" exhibit where Cornell Faculty and County Educators answered questions throughout the day. The Crop Tour was widely publicized in regional and statewide media. The tour will be held again at DuMond Farms in August 2012.

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 26, 2012 in Liverpool. We also sponsored two annual field days at the Musgrave Research Farm, the Small Grains Management Field Day on June 2, 2011 (ca. 100 attending) and the Aurora Field Day on July 14, 2011 (ca. 140 attending). Major training sessions conducted by FC-PWT faculty for various field crop audiences occur in the fall with the Field Crop Dealer Meeting (November; for agribusiness personnel, ca. 140 attending), Agricultural In-Service (November; for extension field staff, ca. 20 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?* (with over 400 subscribers).

**Personnel change in 2011**

Larissa Smith, Extension Support Specialist in the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Cornell, has provided outstanding support and leadership to the FC-PWT and the overall field crops extension program at Cornell. Larissa left Cornell in summer 2011 to undertake Ph.D. studies at Virginia Tech University. FC-PWT members thanked Larissa for her years of service. In fall 2011, we welcomed Mary McKellar as Larissa’s successor and we have already benefitted from Mary’s facilitation and leadership of field crop outreach projects.

**PWT members in 2011:**

*Cornell staff*: Gary Bergstrom, Larry Chase, Jerry Cherney, Bill Cox, Larry Geohring, Russ Hahn, Quirine Ketterings, Elson Shields, Margaret Smith Einarson, Larissa Smith, Robert Schindelbeck, Keith Waldron; *Cornell Extension Associations*: Carl Albers, Janice Degni, John Hanchar, James Kingston, Mike Stanyard, Mike Hunter, Jeff Miller, Alex Wright; *Growers*: Mike McMahon, Seth Pritchard, Ron Robbins, Todd Roberts, Todd DuMond, Christian Yunkers; *Agribusiness*: Janet Fallon (Dairy One), Mark Ochs (Ochs Consulting); *Organizations*: Rick Zimmerman and Steve Van Voorhis (New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association).