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

PWT Co-Chairs:
Gary C. Bergstrom*                             Ron Robbins
Department of Plant Pathology                   North Harbor Dairy, LLC
Cornell University                               14471 Co. Route 145
334 Plant Science Building                      Sackets Harbor, NY 13685
Ithaca, NY 14853-5904                           315-583-5737
607-255-7849                                    ronrobbins@agristar.net
gcb3@cornell.edu

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 32 individuals, including twelve Cornell faculty and staff (representing six departments/programs), nine Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, and eleven external stakeholders, met on January 26, 2012 to identify research and extension priorities and to plan major activities for the coming year. Twenty-one members attended the meeting that coincided with the annual New York Corn and Soybean Expo in Liverpool, NY. A major point of discussion was the need to identify priorities for applied research and extension education for field crops in New York State. Compiled results from survey responses collected from PWT members concerning this topic were shared and discussed.

Fifth Annual New York Field Crops Tour
The Fifth Annual New York Crops Tour was held on August 14, 2012 at the farm of PWT member Todd DuMon 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 including presentations on soybean population and row spacing studies by Bill Cox, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences and on Adapt-N: Online Nitrogen Management Model by Harold van Es, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. The keynote speaker was Ken Ferrie, a well-known consultant and field agronomist for Farm Journal, who spoke about technology to better understand soils and improve productivity. The FC-PWT conducted outreach with attendees with a newly developed display and educational materials highlighting resources and trainings produced and/or sponsored by FC-PWT members.

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, 2013 in Liverpool, NY. We also sponsored two annual field days at the Musgrave
Research Farm, the Small Grains Management Field Day on June 7, 2012 (ca. 100 attending) and the Aurora Field Day on July 18, 2012 (ca. 120 attending). FC-PWT outreach efforts were offered for the first time this year at the Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls to inform growers and producers of opportunities and applied research findings pertaining to field crops in NYS.

FC-PWT also offered guidance in content development for http://fieldcrops.org, a comprehensive, one stop website on field crops information in NYS. This lead to the development of web pages on CCE Field Crops staff contact information (http://fieldcrops.org/DWP/Pages/CCEFielStaff.aspx#ccecontacts) as well on information about the FC-PWT (http://fieldcrops.org/extension/Pages/ProgramWorkTeam.aspx).

Major training sessions conducted by FC-PWT faculty for various field crop audiences occur in the fall with the Agricultural In-Service (November; for extension field staff, ca. 20 participating), Field Crop Dealer Meeting (December; for agribusiness personnel, ca. 80 attending), 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).

PWT members in 2012:
Cornell staff: Gary Bergstrom, Larry Chase, Jerry Cherney, Bill Cox, Russ Hahn, Quirine Ketterings, Elson Shields, Margaret Smith Einarson, Harold van Es, Mary McKellar, Keith Waldron, Ken Wise; Cornell Extension Associations: Janice Degni, Aaron Gabriel, Kevin Ganoe, John Hanchar, Mike Hunter, Joe Lawrence, Jeff Miller, Keith Severson, Mike Stanyard; Growers: Todd Dumond, Mike McMahon, Seth Pritchard, Ron Robbins, Todd Roberts, Christian Yunkers; Agribusiness: Janet Fallon (Dairy One), Mark Ochs (Ochs Consulting), Alex Wright (Carolina Eastern-Vail Inc.); Organizations: Julia Robbins and Steve Van Voorhis (New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association).