



Farmer-Driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program

Real-World On-Farm Practical Research & Results for North Country Farms

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Science-Based Results for NNY Crop Health & Growth

Field crops research is a major focus area for the farmer-driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program. Some projects provide immediate insight while others require multiple years to prove how well specific plant varieties or agronomic practices will produce under NNY's unique microclimates and growing conditions. A sampling of recent results from the on-farm, real-world testing made possible by the Program's small grant awards follows.



Tile Drainage Trials Significant for All Dairy Operations

"This research is particularly valuable ... as farms develop more and more efficient manure management to prevent runoff losses with and without tile."

— *Miner Institute Research Agronomist Dr. Eric Young*

Dairy Forage Options:

Maximizing Alfalfa-Grass Combinations

"Research to identify the best combinations of alfalfa and grass for regional growing conditions will help dairy farmers maximize forage quality to support milk production. More than 95% of the alfalfa acreage in NNY is planted as an alfalfa-grass mix."

— *Cornell University Soil and Crops Professor Jerry H. Cherney*

Research Notes from Dr. Quirine M. Ketterings, Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program Director

"The (Northern New York) farmers that have participated in our **whole farm nutrient mass balance assessments** over the years have shown there is both an opportunity and feasibility to improve production while reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture."

"The **corn yield potential study** is one example of a project where Northern New York took the initiative and leads the rest of the state with its focus on research."

"Based on results to date, we think **forage sorghum** can compete with corn silage for yield and quality in dairy production systems in Northern NY and in the Northeastern U.S. The (results of) trials in 2016 will tell us what is feasible." (Watch for project results posting at www.nnyagdev.org.)



*To receive email or text messaging of project news & results notices,
contact 315-465-7578 or karalynn@gisco.net with Subject: NNYADP Results Request*



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Farmer-Driven, Field-Based Crop Research

- **Best Corn Crop Options for the Dairy Industry**

On-farm field trials of corn hybrids (BMR 1/BMR 3/non-BMR) provide NNY dairy producers with data on differences in yield, forage quality, fiber digestibility and the associated milk production potential of each hybrid.

- **Evaluating Extreme Weather Forage Options**

Hot, dry conditions can lead to insufficient hay & pasture forage for dairy farms. Three NNY farms are participating in field trials to learn if late summer-planted oats can be an option to fill that gap.

- **Corn and Soybean Crop Disease Sentinel**

Growers acknowledge the value of the NNYADP-funded benchmarking data and annually-updated survey of corn and soybean diseases/pests.

- **1st Micro-Nutrient Database for NNY Soybean Growers**

The 1st systematic assessment of the micro-nutrient status of NNY soybean crops supports optimal production potential; regional soybean production has increased by more than 50 % since 2012; value: \$6 million-plus.

- **Protecting NNY Alfalfa Crops**

NNY on-farm trials are selectively breeding alfalfa resistance to brown root rot and alfalfa snout beetle, and the long-term commitment of the farmer-driven program to finding a science-based solution for snout beetle sparked a young ag entrepreneur to establish a new biocontrol nematode-rearing agribusiness in Northern New York (Franklin County) in 2016.



Quick Facts about the Farmer-Driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program

- Farmer-identified, prioritized and selected small grants for research & technical assistance for Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence counties
- 100 regional farmers serve on the Program Committee
- Program Co-Chairs: Jon Greenwood, Joe Giroux, and Jon Rulfs
- Practical, on-farm, real-world results meet critical needs and maximize opportunities across all agricultural sectors regionwide
- Results often help farmers elsewhere in New York State and the Northeastern U.S.
- Producers may submit project ideas to Program Coordinator Michele Ledoux: 315-376-5270, mell14@cornell.edu; request NNYADP Results email or text updates from karalynn@gisco.net
- Find project results and more information online: www.nnyagdev.org

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