

## **PRESS RELEASE**

February 28, 2005

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### **New Fact Sheets Help NNY Farmers Select and Grow Corn**

Northern New York farmers now ordering the seed and fertilizer for growing corn in 2005 will find two new fact sheets from the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program helpful. Evaluation of Corn Grain Hybrids for NNY for 2005 and Evaluation of Corn Silage Hybrids for NNY for 2005 fact sheets summarize research data collected by Cornell University scientists working on Northern New York.

Corn is the primary row crop grown in Northern New York. About 120,000 acres of corn provide an essential feed for the region's dairy industry. The fact sheets' information will help the region's farmers select seeds suited to Northern New York conditions. Dr. Margaret Smith, an Associate Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics at Cornell University and project leader for the corn grain evaluation research in Northern New York, also notes "when the ethanol production facility currently being constructed in New York comes on line, the increased demand for corn grain as feedstock for that facility will add a new marketing opportunity for Northern New York farmers."

#### **Selection Key to Quality, Yield, Income**

"Hybrid selection is one of the most important farm management decisions affecting corn silage quality and yield," says Cornell Crop and Soil Sciences Professor William J. Cox, adding that regional testing for corn silage provides farmers with data on the potential of different varieties of corn to do well in the Northern New York soils and climate. Additionally, a research study in Idaho showed that feeding high quality corn silage to beef cattle produced \$315 more income per acre when compared to feeding low quality silage.

The fact sheet on corn grain hybrid evaluates more than 50 varieties. Dr. Margaret E. Smith, Assistant Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics at Cornell University, says the quality of 2004 test data for corn grain hybrids is excellent and the varieties included one with a gene for European corn borer resistance. Research on corn grain hybrids was conducted at Robbins Farms in Sackets Harbor and at W.H. Miner Institute in Chazy.

The fact sheet evaluating corn silage hybrids provides data for 17 varieties with data on yield and potential milk yield for hybrids that performed above-average. One variety showed exceptional results. The research was conducted on the Robbins Farm in Sackets Harbor, Greenwood Dairy in Canton and the W.H. Miner Institute in Chazy.

The two new Northern New York Agricultural Development Program fact sheets are available at regional Cornell Cooperative Extension offices and are online at [www.nnyagdev.org](http://www.nnyagdev.org).

The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is a farmer-driven research and education program specific to New York state's six northernmost counties. For more information, visit [www.nnyagdev.org](http://www.nnyagdev.org) or contact Board Chairs Joe Giroux, Plattsburgh, 518-563-7523 or Jon Greenwood, Canton, 315-386-3231, or R. David Smith, Cornell University, 607-255-7286; or go online to [www.nnyagdev.org](http://www.nnyagdev.org). # # #