



Northern New York Agricultural Development Program

PRESS RELEASE

July 7, 2004

Contact: Jon Greenwood, co-chair, NNY Agricultural Development Program, 315-386-3231
Joe Giroux, co-chair, NNY Agricultural Development Program, 518-563-7523
Local Extension field crop or agronomy educators

Note: 2004 trials are in Jefferson County at Robbins Farms, 315-583-5737;
in St. Lawrence County at Greenwood Dairy, 315-386-3231; and
in Eastern NNY at Miner Institute at Chazy, NY - contact Mike Davis, 518-963-7492

NNY Corn Trials Better Than “Knee High by the 4th of July” as Measurement Tool

The old saying “knee high by the 4th of July” is not a scientific method for measuring the success potential of a corn crop, says dairy farmer Jon Greenwood. He prefers the corn variety testing trials conducted by the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, directed by farmers based in New York’s six northernmost counties. Corn, fed as grain or silage, is typically 50%, and can be as much as 80%, of the forage fed to dairy cows.

NNY Ag Development Program Research Provides Real Life, Unbiased Testing

“The Northern New York trials give us real life testing with our soils, our climate and our shorter growing season. Tests conducted elsewhere in the state do not give us an indication of how the seeds would do in Northern New York, and the seed companies are always coming out with new varieties that are supposed to be better. The trials conducted for the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program offer us an unbiased comparison with the tests run by the seed companies,” says Greenwood, co-chair of the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program that selects and prioritizes research conducted by Cornell to benefit farms in St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties.

1 of 2

The Northern New York Agriculture Development Program selects and prioritizes research the results of which can be practically applied to farms in the six-county region of northern NY: Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties. For more information, contact Program Co-Chairs Jon Greenwood, 315-386-3231 or Joe Giroux, 518-563-7523, your local Cornell Cooperative Extension, or R. David Smith at Cornell University, 607-255-7286.

NNY Corn Trials Better Than ...

2 of 2

Jon Greenwood, co-chair, NNY Agricultural Development Program, 315-386-3231

Joe Giroux, co-chair, NNY Agricultural Development Program, 518-563-7523

Local Extension field crop or agronomy educators

Greenwood adds that the farmers who run trials on their own farms also learn how the corn will do with their particular management program of manure and fertilizer application.

Seeds for testing are provided by seed companies. Cornell plant breeder and Associate Professor Margaret Smith says more than 52 commercial varieties and a large number of experimental varieties developed by Cornell and others for grain corn are being evaluated this year in Northern New York along with 35 varieties of silage corn.

Greenwood adds that another advantage of the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is that the Cornell researchers evaluate all seeds without bias.

Corn trial results are available annually from county Cornell Cooperative Extension offices and are published in the Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management.

###

2002 Census Data for Corn Harvested for Grain in Northern New York

<u>County</u>	<u># of Farms</u>	<u>Acres Harvested</u>	<u>Quantity in Bushels</u>
Clinton	24	4,376	537,190
Essex	3	n/a	n/a
Franklin	21	1,621	189,320
Jefferson	100	10,693	1,202,367
Lewis	48	3,880	347,211
<u>St. Lawrence</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>3,029</u>	<u>251,229</u>
NNY Totals	259 farms	23,599 acres	2,527,317 bushels

The Northern New York Agriculture Development Program selects and prioritizes research the results of which can be practically applied to farms in the six-county region of northern NY: Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties. For more information, contact Program Co-Chairs Jon Greenwood, 315-386-3231 or Joe Giroux, 518-563-7523, your local Cornell Cooperative Extension, or R. David Smith at Cornell University, 607-255-7286.