



**Northern New York
Agricultural Development Program**

PRESS RELEASE

March 5, 2004

Contacts: County Extension educators listed on page 2

Program Co-Chairs: Jon Greenwood, Canton, 315-386-3231; Joe Giroux, Plattsburgh, 518-563-7523; or Cornell University: Dave Smith, 607-255-7286

Research Project Ideas Sought From Northern NY Farmers

Northern NY — Agriculture across the six northernmost counties of New York State accounts for almost four million dollars in products sold by more than 5,600 farms with 1,307,700 acres dedicated to farming (based on 2002-03 state statistics). The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is asking farmers in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties for ideas to help direct research projects. Project results can be practically applied to farms in the region. In April, the Program's farmer panel will select and prioritize research for 2005.

“We want to know if farmers in Northern New York have areas of particular opportunities, challenges or problems that research could benefit,” says Program Co-Chair Jon Greenwood, dairy farmer in Canton.

For 2004, the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program has 23 projects focused in five main categories: crop production, grass-based agriculture, agricultural environmental management, integrated pest management, and agriculture-based economic development.

“Our current research covers a lot of ground, literally, with test plots on operating farms across the six-county region, and at the W.H. Miner Institute in Chazy, the E.B. Baker Research Farm in Willsboro and in the labs at Cornell University. Among other work, projects are currently looking at how to control a beetle that is destroying alfalfa across Northern New York, at identifying the best varieties of corn for Northern New York soils and climate, raising grass-fed beef cattle, and new opportunities for vegetable production in Northern New York,” adds Program Co-Chair Joe Giroux, a dairy farmer in Plattsburgh.

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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.

Research Ideas Sought

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In addition to considering the needs of their own farming operations and farm businesses ideas for research, farmers are encouraged to consider issues important to the long-term success of agriculture in the Northern New York region, Greenwood says.

Ideas for research will be accepted until Wednesday, March 31, 2004. Contact your local Cooperative Extension office:

- Clinton County: Amy Ivy, 518-561-7450
- Essex County: Anita Deming, 518-962-4810
- Franklin County: Carl Tillinghast, 518-483-7403
- Jefferson County: Mike Hunter or Julie Berry, 315-788-8450
- Lewis County: Jen Beckman or Frans Vokey, 315-376-5270
- St. Lawrence County: Carolyn LeBarge, 315-379-9192

or

Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Co-Chairs:

- Jon Greenwood, 1087 State Highway 310, Canton, NY 13617, 315-386-3231
- Joe Giroux, Rt. 22, Box 6333, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, 518-563-7523

or

- R. David Smith, 162 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, 607-255-7286.

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