

NNYADP Project Success Stories

Practical Research & Results
for NY Farmers, NY Communities

*in Clinton, Essex, Franklin,
Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence Counties*



Protecting Our Natural Resources: Crop Nutrient Management

Northern New York Agricultural Development Program research into the complex mechanisms that influence interactions between fertilizer, manure, crops, soil, air and water have made tremendous strides toward reducing inputs and farm costs, and improving agricultural environmental stewardship practices.

Results include:

- conscious decision by NNY farmers to reduce or eliminate phosphorus (P) use
- farmer-use data on potential to reduce nitrogen (N) and potassium (K) use
- savings of 28% use of N fertilizer on six farms
- awareness of how to cut nitrogen use and when not to and reduction of N use with corn crops
- completion of whole farm mass balance evaluations on 43 farms with drastic reduction in K balance and more field-based K management
- 4 field trials showing environmental, soil and crop benefits of shallow incorporation of manure
- increased interest and purchase of BMR sorghum sudangrass as an environmentally-sound alternative crop
- calibration of soil and tissue tests for soil sulfur levels
- overall reduction of production costs without sacrificing crop yields.



Left: NNYADP Co-Chair Jon Greenwood (left) and farmer Ron Robbins congratulate Dr. Quirine Ketterings of Cornell University, for her award-winning agricultural environmental management projects conducted on Northern New York farms.

Feeding Our Local Economy: Small Grains

“The value of projects made possible by the NNYAD Program extends to businesses that depend on local sources of raw product for value-added production which provides jobs and generates dollars to feed the local economy.”

— Champlain Valley Milling owner Sam Sherman

Protecting Our Crops and Our Neighbors' Crops: Brown Root Rot

Brown root rot, caused by the fungus *Phoma sclerotoides*, was first identified in New York State in 2003 in Clinton County (right: map of 2004 known BRR sites in Clinton County.). The cold-weather disease damages alfalfa crops, a valuable dairy and livestock feed crop and cash crop. BRR is currently found in New York and the Northeastern U.S., WY, and in areas of Canada. NNYADP research has confirmed areas of BRR by field survey, has helped farmers begin to recognize the disease, and has begun creating management strategies.

