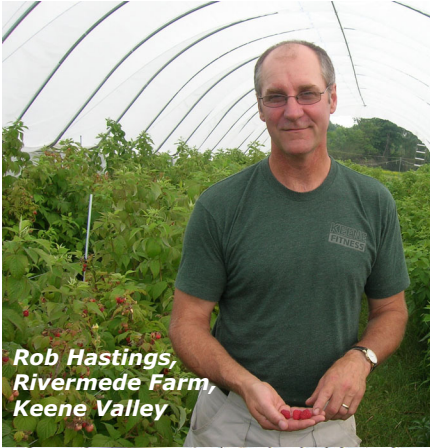




Northern New York Agricultural Development Program *Practical Research & Results for Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence Counties*

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**Rob Hastings,
Rivermede Farm,
Keene Valley**



**Willsboro high tunnel where NNYADP
research helps extend growing & selling
seasons for farm businesses & CSAs**

Feeding Our Local Economy: High Tunnel Production

Over the past 3 years, Northern New York Agricultural Development Program outreach has helped growers understand how to use high tunnel structures to extend berry and vegetable growing and selling seasons. Local planting demonstrations, one-on-one farm visits and telephone consultations, field meetings, road trips to successful operations, and conferences with experts and experienced growers have taught NNY farmers about what can be grown in high tunnels, even in NNY's short growing season, and how to do it.

As a result of NNYADP high tunnel education projects:

- 10 growers have erected high tunnels
- Growers have increased tomato crop yields and broadened fall crop production
- Growers have fall salad greens data on cost-savings and profit to be made with unheated high tunnels
- Growers now know soil and foliar nutrient testing can catch and fix problems before symptoms are visible
- NNY Willsboro farm high tunnel trials of raspberries have shown how well berries can thrive and yield (2-4x more than outdoor plantings) in Northern NY when grown under cover.

Funding for high tunnel research and outreach in NNY will underpin this developing agriculture sector with the potential for extended, even year-round production of foods of interest to regional consumers.

From the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Co-Chairs

“State funding must be restored to support the on-farm research in Northern New York that is vital to the regional economy.” – Clinton County dairy farmer Joe Giroux

“State support of the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is wellspent. The dollars are cost-effectively applied to practical on-farm testing that provides farmers with real-world experiences and data specific to our climate, our soils, and our shorter growing season.” – St. Lawrence County dairy farmer Jon Greenwood

Capitalizing on Cost Savings: Corn Grain & Silage Production

NNY farmers spend more \$8 million annually on corn seed for grain and silage production to feed livestock and sell as a commodity. Corn silage is an approximately \$50 million crop for Northern NY.

Northern New York Agricultural Development Program-funded variety trials provide critical region-specific and multiple-yr data to help farmers select the best hybrids to plant for yield and quality return. **This equates to \$11.3 million in hybrid selection decisionmaking.**

Funding for these needed NNYADP variety trials supports cost savings, livestock feeding programs and farm profitability through access to Cornell University technical assistance, data analysis and results delivery at regional farmer meetings.

