Climate Smart Farming Extension Team

Cornell's Climate Smart Farming Extension Team gives New York farmers access to top extension specialists with the particular expertise to help manage the risks posed by increasing extreme weather, climate variability and long-term change. Working in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension and climate change and agriculture specialists at Cornell, the team draws on the latest science to answer growers' questions about changes they can make to their management practices that will help increase resiliency and farm sustainability.

To reach the Climate Smart Farming (CSF) extension team, contact the specific team members by email or phone, or visit us at http://climatesmartfarming.org.

CSF Team Members & Specialties

Small Fruit & Vegetables

Laura McDermott, a regional extension specialist in small fruit production for the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program, currently serves 17 counties in the Route 87 corridor, where she concentrates on small fruit production and fresh market vegetable production. Her current research projects include low-tunnel strawberry production, resistance management education, and invasive species management. In her 25 years with the Extension system, she has also amassed experience with all types of horticulture, including maple, forestry, and consumer horticulture, and with commercial fruit and vegetable farmer education. A native of Stillwater, New York, she holds a B.S. in plant protection from Cornell University and an M.S. in fruit crops from the University of Florida. Contact Laura by email at: lgm4@cornell.edu, or phone at: 518-746-2562.

Viticulture & Enology

Luke Haggerty, a viticulture extension specialist with the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program, provides research-based guidance on integrated pest management, farm business management, and viticulture to 840 farms growing 30,000 acres of grapes in western New York and Pennsylvania. He has addressed issues such as replant practices, frost protection, cover crop management, sensor technology, and climate change resiliency to maximize efficiency and profitability in the grape industry and provided outreach on nutrient management, crop estimation, winter damage assessments and other viticulture practices. Luke received his B.S. degree with St. Cloud State University, and his M.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in Applied Plant Sciences, and spent three years working at the graduate program's research vineyard. Contact Luke by email at: llh85@cornell.edu, or phone at: 716-792-2800.

Field Crops & Soil Health

Dr. Kitty O'Neil works to improve the yield and production efficiency of field crops and forages – a goal that requires smart crop management and a keen understanding of climate-related risks and long-term soil health. A field crops and soils specialist, she leads the North New York field crops team, which designs crop and soil management programs to serve the region's farms. Dr. O'Neil's research has included cropping systems and the effects of soil amendments and cover crops on soil health on potato farms. She earned a B.S. in animal science from Cornell University, an M.S. in animal nutrition and plant biochemistry, and a Ph.D. in sustainable plant and soil cropping systems, both from Michigan State University. Contact Kitty by email at: kitty.oneil@cornell.edu, or phone at: 315-379-9192.

Agricultural Economic Development & Marketing

Bob Weybright, from the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Team, focuses on agricultural economic development and marketing. Weybright's experience with numerous development projects covers all phases of agriculture, including production, processing, marketing and sales. For the CSF Team, he will help to develop new farmer-friendly online decision support tools that allow growers to factor the risks of climate variability and opportunities into their farm development and marketing plans and decisions. Weybright is a graduate of Michigan State University (B.A.) and the California State University (M.A.). Contact Bob by email at: rw74@cornell.edu, or phone at: 518-727-6238.

Dairy Management

Dr. Kimberley Morrill, a regional dairy specialist, focuses on calf and record management, outreach programs and helping New York dairies improve their capacity to manage the risks associated with climate change. Dr. Morrill conducted research on transition cow and calf management, and colostrum absorption while earning a B.A. in dairy management and an M.A. in animal nutrition, both from the University of New Hampshire. Her work on neonatal development, colostrogenesis and colostrum management, gut development in newborn calves and dairy nutrition earned her a Ph.D. in animal physiology from Iowa State University. She is active in Annie's Project and the Women in Ag Learning Network. Contact Kimberly by email at: kmm434@cornell.edu, or phone at: 315-379-9192.

Vegetables & Integrated Pest Management

Dr. Darcy E. P. Telenko, a regional vegetable extension specialist for the Cornell Vegetable Program, currently serves eleven western New York counties, where she focuses on fresh market vegetable production, weed management, and climate change resiliency. She brings a broad experience base to CICCA, beginning with a B.S. from Cornell University, an M.S. in plant and soil science from Southern Illinois University, and a Ph.D. in plant pathology and crop sciences from North Carolina State University. Her post-doctoral work includes studies in weed management of turf grass and agronomic crops at the University of Florida and disease management of agronomic crops at Virginia Tech. Contact Darcy by email at: dep10@cornell.edu, or phone at: 716-652-5400.

The Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions (CICSS) delivers trusted, research-based climate information and decision-making tools to farmers, resource managers, and public policy makers. For more information, visit us at **http://climatesmartfarming.org**.
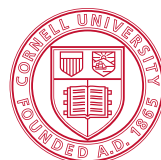
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