

Field Crop Disease and Nutrient Management Internship - 2012

Title of Internship:

Western New York Nutrient Management and Field Crop Disease Applied Research and Extension Internship

Faculty Sponsors:

Quirine M. Ketterings, Associate Professor
Department of Animal Science
qmk2@cornell.edu
607-255-3061

Gary C. Bergstrom, Professor
Department of Plant Pathology & Plant-Microbe Biology
gcb3@cornell.edu
607-255-7849

Lead CCE Association(s) and Extension Educator Collaborators:

Michael Stanyard
Senior Extension Associate
NWNYS Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team
Newark, NY (CCE Wayne Co.)
mjs88@cornell.edu
315-331-8415

Project Description:

The Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program and the Cornell Field Crops Pathology Program are collaborating with Mike Stanyard and the NWNYS Dairy, Livestock, & Field Crops Team to conduct applied research and extension programming that will benefit field crop and dairy producers in the 10 county Northwest region of New York. The intern will have the opportunity to help plan, conduct, analyze, and disseminate the results of on-farm research on field nutrient management and crop disease management. The intern will assist with a sulfur and potassium status survey of alfalfa (soil, tissue and yield sampling) and a soil sampling program to determine nitrogen availability following a variety of cover crops, as well as manure application studies at local dairy farms. The intern will have the opportunity to write an agronomy factsheet, and participate in other extension events. The intern will survey wheat, soybean and corn to assess diseases and the efficacy of fungicide applications. One specific focus will be on assessing range of occurrence of a new soybean pathogen, *Soybean vein necrosis virus*, in the 10 county region. Extension educators and the intern will reach out to farmers through media and personal contact to inform them of important disease occurrences. The intern will also be involved in a series of twilight meetings and Tactical Agriculture Team (TAg) meetings for producers concerning diseases and fungicide use. S/he will help the extension educators and industry reps conduct a series of trials in soybeans with different foliar feeds and tissue testing. The internship provides an outstanding opportunity for an agriculturalist-in-training to shadow leading extension professionals as they interact with producers, agribusiness, research specialists and the general public.

Successful Candidate Attributes:

A strong interest in production agriculture is essential. Coursework and/or practical experience in field crop production, soil science, and pest/disease management are preferred.

Worksite Location:

Centered on farms in Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, and Orleans Counties; will sometimes include travel to Niagara, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates Counties.

Other Expectations:

Intern must have a valid New York State Drivers License. A Cornell University Fleet Vehicle will be provided to the intern for project activities and travel to and from their domicile. Intern will be responsible for her/his own housing within a 40 min. drive from the center (approximately at I-90 and I-390, South of Rochester) of the NWNYS region. The intern should be able to endure rigorous physical labor (including lifting of seed bags) under adverse weather conditions encountered in the field.