Spring 2018 Update: Climate Smart Farming Decision Tools

The Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions continues to build out a highly functional Agricultural Decision Support System through the Climate Smart Farming Program at Cornell. The program partners include the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC), the USDA Northeast Climate Hub, the New World Foundation, and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Climate Smart Farming (CSF) website of resources and decision tools are increasingly being used by farmers in New York State and the Northeast. The CSF tools combine agricultural models, forecasts and gridded data, and can be used for free by any farmer in the Northeast. Version 2.0 of several tools (such as the Growing Degree Day Calculator and Water Deficit Calculator) have recently gone live, using a newer programming software, to enable faster data outputs for the farmer. Through direct feedback from farmers and our CSF Extension Team, we have developed a new tool, the Winter Cover Crop Planting Scheduler, which helps farmers determine the last date to plant a cover crop for establishment. The CSF program embodies the Cornell Cooperative Extension model of providing research-based information to help improve decision-making.

Recent outreach in the Northeast has included:

- NYS AgSociety: 500 farmers & policy makers
- Kings AgriSeeds: 180 farmers
- NOFA New York: 50 farmers
- Farm Credit East: 60 farmers

This model of collaborative research has captured the interest of international NGOs and government agencies, including the United Nations FAO and the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. The map to the right indicates the countries where we have shared our work (in green), as well as the countries that have expressed interest in working with us (orange).

Our recent international outreach has included:

- United Nations COP23 in Bonn, Germany: attended by 19,000 government officials and NGOs
- GACSA meeting in Rome, Italy: attended by 150 international officials, including United Nations FAO and the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

“The morning after your talk in Richfield Springs, we had several Amish farmers call to ask for our support in using the CSF tools.”
- CCE Extension Educator

“I attended the Crop Insurance Meeting in Canandaigua and watched your presentation...We now have a better understanding of ways to help farmers work with climate change for the growing season, as there are tools to help try to forecast the future possibilities.”
- Western NYS Farmer

For more information, visit: www.climatesmartfarming.org
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