Speakers

Quirine Ketterings

Professor of Nutrient Management in Agricultural Systems, qmk2@cornell.edu

Department of Animal Science at Cornell University

Quirine Ketterings initiated and leads the Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program (NMSP; http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu), the applied research and extension program in nutrient management of field crops of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Quirine’s research focuses on improving the understanding of nutrient release and risk for runoff and leaching losses from inorganic and organic amendments as affected by soil type, hydrology, time and rate of application, and the use of specific soil and fertilizer amendments. Her teaching and outreach aim to improve grower and agricultural industry awareness of crop nutrient needs, crop quality, management of organic amendments, environmentally sound nutrient management practices, and overall soil fertility management in New York State, and provide methods and tools to integrate and apply accumulated knowledge about crop nutrient guidelines to optimize crop yield while minimizing risk to the environment.

Sarah Lyons

Graduate Student, sel248@cornell.edu

Department of Animal Science at Cornell University

Sarah Lyons became interested in agriculture during her undergraduate work at Furman University, where she completed a B.Sc. in Biology. She went on to complete a Masters in Animal Science at North Carolina State University focusing on fescue toxicity in beef cattle. In 2015, she began a PhD program at Cornell University in the Department of Animal Science with the Nutrient Management Spear Program. Her PhD work focuses on the growing requirements, nutritional potential and economic and environmental benefits of double cropping with winter cereals and forage sorghum or corn silage in dairy production systems in New York State.
Matthew Ryan

Assistant Professor of Sustainable Cropping Systems, Co-PI New York State Soil Health, mrr232@cornell.edu

Soil and Crop Sciences Section at Cornell University

Matt Ryan works with farmers, students, and other scientists to evaluate cropping system performance in terms of crop yield, profitability, environmental impact, and resilience. His research is currently focused on expanding the utility of cover crops by overcoming obstacles that limit their adoption and developing management practices that maximize their benefits. Matt is also interested in perennial grains, ecological weed management, conservation agriculture, agroecological theory, and the role of diversity in adapting to climate change. Much of Matt’s research is field based and conducted either on-farm or at the Cornell Research Farms located in Central and Northern New York.

Uriel Menalled

Graduate Student, udm3@cornell.edu

Soil and Crop Sciences Section at Cornell University

Uriel Menalled grew up in Montana and graduated from Montana State University in 2018 with a degree in Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems- Agroecology. During his undergraduate studies, he researched Hory allysum (Berteroa incana) chemical management and the effects of crop identity and farm management on plant soil feedbacks. This fall, he started an MS/PhD in the Cornell Soil and Crop Sciences department and is studying the effects of plant diversity soil legacies on crop-weed competition.
WORKSHOP TWO – CROPPING SYSTEMS AND COVER CROPS
OCTOBER 23 AND 24, 2018 • ITHACA, NY

Thomas Bjorkman

Professor of Vegetable Crop Physiology, tnb1@cornell.edu

School of Integrative Plant Science, Horticulture Section at Cornell University

Thomas Bjorkman studies physiological processes that are important to vegetable production. His current focus is on temperature-related disruption of floral development in broccoli, and on physical and biotic interactions between cover crops and the rhizosphere that affect subsequent vegetables. Thomas enjoys working on interdisciplinary teams, and devising projects to have good “real-world impact” by working closely with the intended beneficiaries Project websites include easternbroccoli.org and covercrop.org.

Cedric Mason

Research Support Specialist, cwm77@cornell.edu

School of Integrative Plant Science, Horticulture Section at Cornell University

Cedric Mason grew up in the Northeast U.S. and attended Franklin & Marshall College, where he completed a B.A. in Physics in 2003. Cedric has years of experience working directly on farms, specializing in organic fruits and vegetables, Christmas trees, and pastured beef cattle. An Ithaca, NY resident since 2011, Cedric earned a Ph.D in the department of Biological and Environmental Engineering at Cornell in 2016, where he conducted research on perennial bioenergy crops. Cedric joined the New York State Soil Health Initiative in 2017.
Ryan Maher

Extension Support Specialist, ryan.maher@cornell.edu

School of Integrative Plant Science, Horticulture Section at Cornell University

Ryan Maher has worked in the Small Farms Program at Cornell University since 2013. He manages research and extension projects in vegetable cropping systems and supports farmers at any scale in adopting reduced tillage and cover cropping practices to build soil health on their farm. After graduating from SUNY-ESF in 2003 he spent two summers training on small-scale diversified vegetable farms. He graduated from Iowa State in 2017 with an MS in Sustainable Agriculture investigating soil processes in native grassland restorations. He spent five years with the USDA-ARS in St. Paul MN coordinating research on nutrient cycling in perennial forage crops.

David DeGolyer

Executive Managing Consultant, ddegolyer@wnycma.com

Western New York Crop Management Association (WNYCMA)

David DeGolyer, a crop consultant for thirty years, has been managing WNYCMA since 1995. WNYCMA is a grower-owned cooperative that specializes in crop consulting and environmental planning. David is a CCA (certified crop consultant) and the first certified CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) planner in New York State. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Agronomy from Cornell University.
Producers

Jaimie Baker

Owner and Operator, Sweyolakan Farms, jjthbaker@gmail.com

Ithaca, New York

Jamie Baker, of Sweyolakan Farms, milks 270 cows in Ithaca, NY and works approximately 1000 acres. He also does animal nutritional consulting and raises some organic crops. He has been planting cover crops for 15 years but in the last 4-5 years has gotten more aggressive with cover crops and double cropping and is in the process of converting to all no-till.

Chaw Chang

Owner and Operator, Stick and Stone Farm, stickandstonefarm@gmail.com

Ulysses, New York

Chaw Chang owns and operates Stick and Stone Farm with his wife Lucy. They have been farming in Ulysses since 2003 and raise 40 acres of certified organic vegetables. To produce this quantity, they manage approximately 100 acres, with most of the remaining land planted to cover crops. With this system, Stick and Stone Farm can utilize longer-term cover cropping schemes, where land is taken out of cash crop production for 2-3 years instead of annual cover cropping practices more typical for small scale vegetable production.
Thor Oechsner

Owner and Operator, Oechsner Farms, www.oechsnerfarms.com

Newfield, New York

Thor Oechsner is the founder and owner of Oechsner Farms. He grew up in the suburbs of New York City in Croton-On-Hudson. Through summer trips to his uncle’s dairy farm in Pennsylvania, he became completely fascinated with agriculture. Eventually, he plowed his parents’ lawn and planted corn. Since he wasn’t born into farming, Thor had to build his farm bit by bit, scouting for abandoned fields to rent and restore to cropping. In 1991, he purchased his 15-acre home farm. In 1998, he started Oechsner Farms on 44 acres of rented ground. As Thor gained experience and equipment, he steadily added acreage until he could support himself exclusively by farming. In the meantime, he ran a Volkswagen shop and taught diesel mechanics at BOCES. By 2005, he had 400 acres in production, primarily for the organic dairy feed industry. Today, Oechsner Farms manages 1,200 acres, primarily for organic food-grade and craft beverage markets. The grandson of a German-born pastry chef, he is also one of Farmer Ground Flour’s three business partners.

 Rod Porter

Producer, Sales and Support, King’s AgriSeeds, rodporter@kingsagriseeds.com

Trumansburg, New York

Rod Porter did not grow up on a farm but became interested in agriculture when he got a summer job detasseling seed corn production on a seed farm in Trumansburg, NY. He graduated from Cornell University in 1988 and has since worked nearly 35 years in the seed industry in NY. He has been with King’s AgriSeeds since 2008 with responsibilities for seed dealer and producer support, training and development throughout NY and New England. In the last 5 years Rod, along with the support of King’s, has put a strong focus on cover cropping systems and has worked with numerous organizations supporting cover crop testing and education. Rod’s regular work responsibilities include teaching producers new methods and systems of which soil health and cover cropping have been an important part of many interactions. Additionally, he owns and operates a local ag supply business and a 700 acre organic crop farm. He began operating and transitioning his farm in 2007 with about 150 acres and has purchased and rented additional acres since then, all of which have been converted to organic. Rod grows hay, corn, soybeans and some small grains in rotation mostly to sell off farm and he also has a small beef herd.