John Hanchar, Extension Associate, Cornell Cooperative Extension Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

John has extension and applied research responsibilities in the farm economics and management areas. His work focuses on developing applied economic analyses for changes in farm practices and/or technology and farm business management education programs. Applied economic analyses in progress include the economics of growing malting barley in NY and the economics of precision farming technologies.

Bryon Kirwan, State Economist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Illinois

Bryon researches and calculates economic factors for state, regional, and national use regarding conservation practice costs, economic returns, and the ability to leverage investment. He analyzes historical data to develop projections. He has developed economic parameters for use in conservation practices in Illinois and conducts economic research and outreach, including writing economic white papers. Bryon is co-owner and operator of Five K Farm with his wife in addition to his responsibilities as State Economist.

Lynn Knight, East National Technology Support Center Economist, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Co-Director of the USDA Northeast Climate Hub

Lynn has over 30 years of experience with varying roles as an Agricultural Economist. Currently, she serves on the East National Technology Support Center (ENTSC) core staff providing training and support for appropriate technology transfer. She also collaborates with others in developing and presenting technology training and providing technical assistance and support to NRCS National Headquarters Division Directors and staff. Lynn contributes to NRCS’ leadership in the development of partnerships and coalitions with other agencies, academia, and groups on developing and applying atmospheric, agronomic, agricultural, economic, social sciences, soil, engineering and related sciences and contributes to integrating these sciences into NRCS programs.
Celeste Carmichael, Program Development and Accountability Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension Administration

Celeste has over 25 years of experience planning, designing, facilitating, coordinating and evaluating educational programs. Her skills include data visualization, webinar facilitation, video tutorial production and training and facilitation of instructional design. She seeks opportunities to creatively solve problems with others, utilize technology as an interesting and efficient way to reach out, and work with others as partners. Where possible, she connects her background and interests in natural resources and youth development with her skills in digital instructional design.

Aaron Ristow, Ag Stewardship Program Manager, American Farmland Trust

Aaron Ristow has 17 years of experience coordinating and administering agricultural extension and research activities, most recently focusing on multi-partner projects related to soil health and adaptive nutrient management. Aaron is the Program Director for the Genesee River Demonstration Farm Network and Rented Lands Conservation Incentives Program as well as other initiatives in New York State.