

1998 IPM/ICM Scouting Results for Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties

Background:

1998 witnessed significant changes to what is being called the Tri-County Integrated Crop Management (ICM) program. Several farms finished up their cost-sharing dollars from the USDA's expired SP-53 program. Some of these farms were able to access Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) dollars for Pest Management and Waste Utilization because their operations are located in their county's number one priority watershed. One farm that was unable to find funding elected to continue the program and actually had sampling and scouting performed on nearly their entire workable acres, as compared to perhaps one fifth of that which was enrolled under cost sharing the previous year. Also, several other producers who had enrolled only some of the land they are working decided to have soil sampling done on some or all of their remaining acres. Most of this additional acreage was also scouted for corn maturity when it became evident that much of the crop was drying down earlier than expected or predicted by the 'days to maturity' number given by the seed company for each variety.

It was expected to have ten farms involved in the program for 1998. Unfortunately there were complications in getting these operations ready to go, so, other than some soil and manure sampling, nothing was done on these farms for '98. Still, 1998 saw all seven participants continue from '97, and one grower resumed soil sampling and scouting services on a limited basis. Because of the changes brought about by reductions in cost sharing, regular rotation of crops, and the addition of large acreages on several farms, the number of fields and acreages of certain crops have changed significantly from 1997's tally.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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