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## 1999 Integrated Pest Management/Integrated Crop Management Program Report for Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer Counties

### **Background:**

As in previous years, 1999 has seen important changes to what is being called the Tri-County Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Program. Another farm enrolled finished up its cost sharing in 1998 and continued the program for 1999; two others will complete their cost sharing in 1999. It is not yet known whether these producers will continue to receive scouting and other services in the year 2000. Spring of '99 saw a push to get non-program growers to have soil sampling done to get a better handle on their fertilizer needs. Seven farms in Rensselaer County took advantage of the offer and got much of their corn and alfalfa ground sampled. This totaled approximately 1120 acres. Add this to the two farms who do not receive cost sharing, (about 1230 acres), and we have close to half of the acres served this past year as non-cost shared acres.

1999 also saw the Tri-County program receive a grant of \$4992 dollars from Cornell University's Dairy and Field Crops Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to increase awareness of IPM and IPM techniques among area farmers. The grant funded four educational meetings held on area farms where twenty-one local growers were able to see and carry out scouting on corn and alfalfa fields. In addition, the grant funded equipment purchases that will enhance the performance of our existing program, including write-in-the-rain pads and pens, sprayer calibration kit, growing degree day recorders and software to make pest and maturity predictions more accurate, new sweep nets and more.

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

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