VEGETABLE CROPS PROGRAM WORK TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2016

1. Full name of your Program Work Team (PWT):

VEGETABLE CROPS PROGRAM WORK TEAM

2. Please identify your PWT’s greatest accomplishments over the past year.

PWT meeting highlights, March 29, 2016 – Geneva, NY

19 field staff, regional specialists, faculty and extension associates met from 10-3:00 on March 29 in Geneva. Topics discussed included:

- Rising cost of producing annual Vegetable Guidelines and strategies for reducing costs to encourage grower use
- Administration and staffing updates
- Update on grower survey for research and extension priorities
- Ideas for annual November in-service topics, speakers and timing of sessions
- Review of projects and programs ongoing around the state
- Consideration of collaborating on future grants and projects
- Review of the ‘16 EXPO and ideas for next year

Report on PWT Funds: Online Vegetable Cultural and IPM Practices

The Vegetable Guidelines for Integrated Crop and Pest Management were revised in the 1990s to include all cultural and IPM practices, in addition they were one of the first to be made available online and were maintained by the Vegetable IPM Coordinator at NYS IPM. These online guidelines became the primary outreach vehicle for IPM practices in vegetables. Because the original online guidelines site was becoming obsolete due to its age, a decision was made to join with the Pest Management Education Program (PMEP) process for putting guidelines online. PMEP’s need to make the transition to paid access to online guidelines has put the cultural and IPM practice information behind a paywall.

In 2015, PWT support funds were used to prepare the existing online vegetable IPM content from the Integrated Crop and Pest Management Guidelines for Commercial Vegetable Production for hosting on the NYS IPM Program web site. Pesticide information was removed and a link to the PMEP online Guidelines site substituted, for those looking for pesticide information. Numerous broken links resulting from a reorganization of the NYSAES web site were restored, and content updated to reflect annual updates to the Guidelines. In the interim, a major reorganization and change in content management system for the NYS IPM Program web sites occurred, which delayed getting the vegetable content online.

In 2016, we worked with the NYS IPM webmaster to create a template for the content and PWT funds have covered roughly half of the work needed to move the content into the new template and correct additional broken links resulting from the NYS IPM web site revision. NYS IPM is providing additional funds to complete the work. We expect the vegetable IPM and cultural practices content to be online by March 31.