New York’s 36,300 farms grossed $4.7 billion and supported 102,000 jobs in 2010. The state is a national leader in dairy, apples, wine, sweet corn, maple syrup, bedding plants and more. Cornell plays a vital role in strengthening each of these industries.

Our world-class research farms are the bridge between academic discovery and commercial application, contributing to a thriving economy.

Homer C. Thompson Vegetable Research Farm, Freeville | 260 acres
Vegetables

Musgrave Research Farm, Aurora | 450 acres
Field crops

Willsboro Research Farm, Willsboro | 352 acres
Field crops, high tunnels

Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center, Riverhead | 68 acres
Floriculture, ornamentals, vegetables, viticulture

Farm Services, Ithaca | 1000 acres
Field crops, compost, equipment services

Campus Area Farms, Ithaca | 325 acres
Field crops, bioenergy crops, vegetables

Dilmun Hill, Ithaca | 12 acres
Student-run farm and market
What we do

Our dedicated farm staff offer unparalleled service and support for research, teaching and community outreach in agricultural practices for conventional and organic growers.

From small to large farms, we focus on cutting-edge sustainable land-use and agricultural practices that maximize resources, minimize waste and increase yields.

We support the research that feeds New York and the world.

Public engagement in many forms:
- Popular field days attract farmers and producers
- Local school tours and workshops for students
- Produce donations—a million pounds for area foodbanks
- Fresh, nutritious produce supplied to Cornell Dining
- Award-winning compost service reduces Cornell’s landfill by half
- Student-run organic farmstand

What researchers say about us

Cornell’s farms and research stations are all about location, location, location … in the heart of the most important agricultural counties in New York, and having many wonderful growers to work with.

—Meg McGrath, Professor
Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

Each farm provides relevant soil types, environments and cropping systems so our results are pertinent to New York’s agriculture. And farm staff are fantastic—always ready to help, no matter the weather or how many balls they have in the air. Then there’s the sheer beauty of many of these sites. On a clear day at Musgrave I can look up from pollinating corn and gaze across Cayuga Lake to the far side of Seneca Lake. It’s lovely.

—Margaret Smith, Professor
Plant Breeding and Genetics

I can inoculate plots on Cornell University research farms with plant-pathogenic microbes, then evaluate yet-to-be-proven technologies, including the newest crop varieties, chemicals, biological control agents, and cultural practices. Such research ensures that New York’s farmers benefit from regional crop-management recommendations even as they’re spared the necessary risks of the experiments that led to them.

—Gary Bergstrom, Professor
Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

Our agricultural experiment stations are the only places we have for long-term experiments that provide unique insight into new approaches for sustainable and environmentally sound food-production practices.

—David Wolfe, Professor
Horticulture
For every research need, a site that fits

- 5,000+ acres of farmland, forests, ponds, and streams
- Diverse soil types represent New York’s farmland
- Certified organic acreage on three farms
- 52 lysimeter plots next to Lake Champlain
- Quarantine facility for research on non-native insects
- 100s of acres for afforestation projects
- High tunnels for season extension
- Largest non-commercial greenhouse complex in the state
- Plant growth chambers of all sizes

Current research includes 250+ projects in:
- Biological and Environmental Engineering
- Crop and Soil Sciences
- Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Entomology
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources
- Plant Breeding and Genetics
- Plant Pathology

Our 4,000 cubic-yard, four-acre compost operation for Cornell’s farms, fields, and orchards diverts half of Cornell’s waste stream from 57 buildings each year—nearly 6,000 tons.

Our services include trucking, mowing, excavating, brush-hogging, harvesting, snow removal and machinery repair.
Research highlights

• 80 acres bioenergy feedstock trials

• Breeding corn varieties for New York climates

• Weed control strategies for field crops and specialty vegetables

• High-yielding chipping potatoes

• Evaluation of cold-hardy grape cultivars for northern wineries

• Biological controls for nursery and greenhouse pests

• Blight-resistant tomatoes, potatoes, and more

• Real-time, local disease and insect forecasts

• Ground-breaking research on nonpoint-source pollution

• Organic disease management for fruits and vegetables

• Sustainable forest management for healthy woodlands and local timber

• Crop rotations and cover cropping strategies for long-term soil health and productivity

• High tunnel season extension for specialty crops

• Developing a regional broccoli industry

• Best practices for gardening on contaminated soils

• Pilot sustainability study to reduce energy consumption

• Research to quantify climate change impacts to agriculture

Where we are

Contact us

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