The Nutrient Management Spear Program provides leadership for the crop and manure nutrient management extension program of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The Spear Program aims to improve grower and agricultural industry awareness of crop nutrient needs, crop quality, management of organic wastes, and sound nutrient management practices to improve profitability and competitiveness of New York farms while protecting the environment. Research, extension and teaching programming involve collaborations across disciplines with faculty and staff in several academic departments at Cornell University, staff of the Pro-Dairy program, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, New York State and federal government agency staff, agricultural industry partners and New York growers as well as counterparts in other states.

Spear Program staff and collaborators are involved in numerous research projects and in integration and extension of research findings through a capstone course in whole farm nutrient management, field days, workshops, extension articles, software development (see the announcement of the release of Cropware 2.0), and on-farm demonstration trials. Information on the Spear Program’s mission, current research projects, extension events, publications and tools for nutrient management can be found at the program’s website (Figure 1). Available from this site are manuals for the Nitrate Leaching Index, the NY Phosphorus Runoff Index, a web-based calculator and a spreadsheet for learning the basics of the NY P Index, documents on crop nutrient guidelines for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, a growing list of county soil test summaries for 1995-2001, and a spreadsheet and web-based tool with equations that allow for the conversion of soil test results from three commercial laboratories and the analytical laboratories of the Land Grant universities of Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. In addition, there are many other downloadable publications, including all “What’s Cropping Up?” articles co-authored by program staff and collaborators in the past 3 years covering topics from brown mid rib sorghum sudangrass research to the New York Phosphorus Runoff Index.

http://nmsp.css.cornell.edu/