

# NYS Vegetable Research Association and Council

## Priorities for 2021

These priorities were established by processing vegetable growers, crop consultants, and field representatives from Seneca Foods, Farm Fresh First (representing Bonduelle USA), Dewey Produce (table beets), and Love Beets USA in New York. The list was reviewed and updated at the annual Processing Vegetable Commodity Advisory meetings held December 15–16, 2020 (virtual meetings).

*These priorities are ranked in order of importance by crop.*

### Cross-Commodity Research Needs

High Priority:

- **Long-term Sustainable Soil Health Management, Conservation Tillage** management practices to minimize drought/flooding events. Soil remediation to reduce effects of flooding and drought.
- **Irrigation Scheduling.** Methods to determine need and success of water reaching target zone.
- **Organic Production.** Includes the feasibility of transitioning, non-chemical weed and pest control. Support for seeking external funding.
- **Precision Ag Opportunities** to decrease variability in crops and increase yields.
- **Pesticide Evaluations.** Continue research to replace currently registered pesticides that might be lost due to regulations in the near future.
- **Weed Control.** Monitor for herbicide resistance. Evaluate electric discharge systems for control of weed escapes. Precision weeder and sprayers. See individual crops for specific problems.
- **Cultural Practices for Yield and Quality Enhancement.** Includes investigations of row spacing, populations, soil additives, seed treatments, fertility (timing, application, and materials), rotation, and soil compaction management, improved interpretation of Soil Health test for vegetable production, tillage practices, cover crops and stand establishment.
- **Root Rot Management.** For peas, beans, and beets. Includes new directions in cover crops or other cultural practices. Evaluate efficacy of currently labeled materials.
- **Seed Treatments.** Includes fungicides for soil-borne pathogens and insecticides for seed maggots and other crop specific insect pests. Evaluate biopesticides.
- **Pest Management Strategic Plans.** Support for development of plans for processing crops through outside funding.
- **Economics of Processing Vegetable Production.** Generating information on costs of production and risk factors. Information will be used to develop a better crop insurance program. Leveraging outside resources, e.g., Cornell and NYS Farm Viability Institute.

- **Adoption of New Marketing Opportunities/New Crops/New Products** when they arise.
- **Spray Technology.** Emphasis on the latest technology that will allow for the most effective application of pest management materials.
- **Non-chemical Pest Management.** Support for seeking external funding. This includes practices from biotechnology, organic agriculture, and traditional agriculture.
- **Better Farm Record Keeping.** Collaborate with other states and entities to develop effective ways to keep farm records needed to meet buyer expectations. Develop outreach programs to help farmers meet the need for electronic record keeping (software).
- **Phosphorus Management.** Includes support for seeking external funding as well as further study on variety response to added P on high P soils.