

**NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
Cabbage Research & Development Program
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Zoom Conference Call
March 2nd, 2023**

Board members present:

Eric Hansen – Chairman
Dave Leverenz
Travis Torrey
Jay Burgess
Paul Brightly (on behalf of Dean Brightly)

Board members absent:

Jeff Johnson

Others Present:

William Shattuck – AGM (Program Mgr.)
Jennifer Scaglia – Cornell (Program Mgr.)
Christine Smart – Cornell (Research)
Christie Hoepting – Cornell (Research)
Lynn Sosnoskie – Cornell (Research)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hansen at 1:04 PM

Board Member Reports

Board members reported on their specific farm and others in their region. Generally, last season appeared average, with an anticipated normal season ahead. Overhead costs, appropriate pricing, lots of rain and bacterial disease were among top issues noted in the discussion.

Eric Hansen (Stanley, NY) – Dry year equaled less black rot, market was somewhat better this winter than in prior years. Status quo 2022 season. Not looking to increase acreage. “Black Pale” becoming more of an issue. Asked researchers what can be done in preventing; appears to be the same issue during wet and dry seasons. Group suggested possibly due to phosphorous or boron deficiencies. Between 25% and 100% presence in each variety. Cutting out of varieties in storage, but seems to persist (worse in storage). After storage, not able to tell if Black Pale prevalent until too late, especially based on larger volumes.

Jay Burgess (Stanley, NY) – Dry season, not much white mold on stored cabbage. Same storage year as the rest of the group.

Travis Torrey (Geneva, NY) – Relatively dry, some rain, not much black rot experienced, normal growing year, white mold on the later planted varieties, rot is relative to varieties and which experience mold.

Dave Leverenz (Hamlin, NY) – Dry season, only cabbage was irrigated, October was a big month and had a very decent, clean crop. More white mold and grey mold experienced than in prior years. Power-washed boxes but did not prevent mold. Other than bleach, not sure what else would kill mold. Black rot not much of an issue.

Paul Brightly (Hamlin, NY) – Average year, saw more white mold, grey mold coming out of storage. Black rot not much of an issue. More insects than previous years. Irrigated some. Maybe a slight increase in production. Good overall yields in 2022.

Open Discussion Between CRDP Advisory Board and Cornell Researchers

Open discussion. Christine Smart, Christy Hoepting and Lynn Sosnoskie presented on 2022-23 CRDP projects (focusing on Black Rot and) and overview of 2023 proposals. Full proposals available upon request.

Presentation Notes:

Christine Smart – Not much black rot last year seen in the field. Certain that similar pathogens seen in cabbage also seen in tomatoes. Hoping to collaborate between pathogen resistance trials in NY, Florida, Midwest and seed production industry and submitting for a large collaborative grant to identify what's causing Xanthomonas transmission. If there are black rot outbreaks, wants to visit farms to collect bacterial isolates. Some are more resistant to copper treatments. Board seemed to indicate not much black rot but will indicate any samples for the 2023 project. Alternaria not as prevalent on cabbage, more broccoli. Possibly due to the waxy nature or genetic predisposition. Copper zinc application seems to curb white mold (Curezin) on white dry beans. Thinks this could be applicable to cabbage. Performed on field trials, not in greenhouse.

Christy Hoepting – 4th year of working on weed control projects for CRDP. Reducing hand-weeding, herbicides. Spartan had potential, but DEC does not allow for its use. Chateau and Goal products may be able to get cabbage on the label. On-Farm trials on Leverenz farm and Lynnette and Sons. Explained the extensive trials of pre- and post-harvest application of various products. Project report can be provided upon request from Cornell to explain proportions/ application times for each product. Increased repetitions and permutations of application next year.

Sosnoskie – Pyridate application and reducing severe injury by application combinations to reduce weed and invasive grasses. 2022 field trials conducted on S-metolachlor and oxyfluorfen products to . An added challenge is that the EPA/ Endangered Species Act have not made proper assessments of active ingredients. Reported on possible robotic/ automated weeding and cultivators and precision spraying.

Administrator's Reports

Balance Sheet:

- The current asset balance as of 3/1/23 is \$34,879.58 along with \$2,525.40 in Accounts Receivable to be collected (prior to \$12,676 payment of 2022-23 contract balance). Remaining balance by 3/31/23 expected to be \$22,203.58

Collections:

- Assessment income year-to-date totals \$20,618.80. However, this does not include Accounts Receivable of \$2,525.40. Total collections expected to be \$23,144.20, which compared to last year collections of \$23,751.92 represents a 3% decrease.

Budget Comparison:

- The proposed budget is set at \$21,919 this year, compared to \$12,676 last year. The board decided to be conservative in the 2022-23 cycle in case of any significant post-pandemic decrease in cabbage production and collections. The board is satisfied that harvest levels have been and will continue to be at normal through the upcoming cycle. The current budget would fund 3 out of 4 proposals received through the recent RFP and addresses the industry's foremost priorities. Based on average annual assessments, this appears sustainable.

Research project funding for 2023-24

The board recommends funding 3 research projects at a total of \$21,919 in CRDP grower funds, focusing on optimizing weed control and management of thrips. Full scopes of work and budgets on file with Division staff.

Board Motions

A motion was made by E. Hansen and seconded by P. Brightly to carry over funds on hand March 31, 2023 for use in the 2023-24 fiscal year. Carried.

A motion made by E. Hanson, seconded by T. Torrey to set the assessment rate for the 2023-24 crop year at \$4 per planted acre (the same rate as 2022-23). Carried.

A motion made, by E. Hansen and seconded by D. Leverenz to allocate \$21,919 in CRDP funds for 3 research projects.

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Hansen at 3:02 PM.