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Photo available on request: Mary DeBeer in her on-farm biocontrol nematode-rearing lab, Moira, N.Y. Photo courtesy of DeBeer Seed and Spraying.

## **Young Farm Entrepreneur Applying NNYADP Biocontrol Research Results**

Moira, NY. Agricultural entrepreneur Mary DeBeer is ready to expand the capacity of her biocontrol nematode-rearing laboratory on the family farm in Moira, NY. The expansion of the business DeBeer started in 2016 following research and training through the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is based on the latest research results from the farmer-driven program.

A series of NNYADP projects conducted by Cornell University entomologist Elson Shields, Ph.D., developed the science and application protocol for using a combination of two native NY-adapted insect-attacking nematodes for management of significant pests in alfalfa, berries, and corn.

Field trials funded by the NNYADP in 2018-2019 and conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension Field Crops Specialist Michael E. Hunter on six farms in northern New York successfully tested and demonstrated application of the biocontrol nematodes in liquid manure.

Applying through manure application protects the U/V-sensitive biocontrol nematodes, allowing for application at any time of day and as part of another field operation to save time and labor.

The application method to date for applying the biocontrol nematodes has been in a water-based spray in cooler evening hours. DeBeer has used water-based spraying to apply the biocontrol nematodes to more than 7000 acres in Franklin, Clinton and St. Lawrence counties.

“The continuing Northern New York Agricultural Development Program biocontrol research success has now created a new method for applying the biocontrol nematodes to help more farmers adopt this crop protection practice. I am looking forward to raising increasing numbers of the biocontrol nematodes for anyone who wishes to apply this biocontrol, through water-based spraying or by liquid manure application, to protect crops from alfalfa snout beetle and corn rootworm,” DeBeer said.

DeBeer Seed and Spraying, owned by her father, Ronald DeBeer, will continue to offer water-based application of the biocontrol nematodes and is looking to expand that service into other NNY counties.

DeBeer can be reached at 518-812-8565.

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