



New York

Regional objectives: *High disturbance; Nutrient management*

Production systems: *Corn-Soybean-Wheat, Vegetable*

Biochar producers: [White Feather Farm](#) & [NY Carbon](#) (wood-based biochar); [Ecochar](#) (manure-based biochar)

University Collaborator: *Cornell University*

Eight trials across the Western and Central regions of New York (one privately funded and seven federally funded) will engage farmers managing corn-soybean-wheat and high-disturbance vegetable production systems, typically on low pH and coarse texture soils. These types of farms struggle to build soil health due to reliance on tillage and other high disturbance events to manage weed pressure and prepare soils for planting. Biochar applications may enhance soil responsiveness and support broader soil health transitions.

Five trials will apply manure biochar and wood biochar in separate plots to compare the outcomes of each treatment to untreated controls. The nutrient-rich manure biochar helps reduce nutrient loading by removing excess nutrients from waste management. Two organic farms will evaluate the effects of fall versus spring wood biochar applications while the small-scale vegetable production system will evaluate wood biochar/compost blends at 25% and 50% biochar, respectively. The two mixes will be compared to a control without biochar. All producers may adjust nutrient management strategies to account for biochar-contributed nutrients.

White Feather Farm partnered with NY Carbon to establish an air curtain burner system that converts waste wood from local tree management into biochar. The impacts of poultry manure and wood manure derived biochar, along with the economics will be evaluated in partnership with Dr. Johannes Lehmann, [Dr. Deborah Aller](#), and other research and extension scientists from Cornell University.

Questions? Contact State Leads:

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