**Reduced Tillage Project Verification Form**

Participant Name:\_Paul Martin\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Farm Name: \_\_\_Sweetland Farms\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_9732 State Route 96,Trumansburg, NY 14886\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_607-229-4591\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_December 2011\_

Years using RT: \_\_0\_\_\_ Total Veg. Acres: \_\_34\_\_\_\_ RT Veg Acres: \_\_0\_\_

Plan to expand vegetable acreage Reduced Tilled: YES \_X\_\_ NO \_\_\_

If yes, to how many acres: \_\_\_\_~1\_\_\_\_\_

Make/Model of Reduced Tillage Equipment Purchased/rented:

Estimated Costs:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Costs per acre ($)** |
| **Item** | **Conventional** | **Reduced Tillage** |
| Fuel for primary and secondary tillage | unknown | unknown |
| Labor for primary and secondary tillage | unknown | unknown |
| Equipment Costs for tillage |  |  |

Yield Estimates:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Yield per acre ($)** |
| **Crop** | ***P. capsici* present?** | **Conventional** | **Reduced Tillage** |
| Brassicas |  Yes | ? | ? |
|  |  |  |  |

Benefits observed of reduced tillage system for vegetables:

Paul was unable to get through his heavy cover crop without the unit binding up.

Challenges or concerns of reduced tillage for vegetables:

Concerned about weed management and increased cost and use of herbicides.

Other comments:

Paul borrowed our Yeoman’s plow, which is best suited for his ~68 horsepower, 4-wheel drive tractor, and left the setup as it was with two straight leg shanks for deep ripping. Typically, Paul would chisel plow then disk and use a raised bedder before planting into the raised bed. The zone tillage didn’t work this year for Paul as he was attempting plow into a rye cover crop that had been chopped when it was tall resulting in a heavy residue. The rollers on the Yeoman’s kept binding up on the flailed rye. Paul wants to try the DZT system again in the 2012 season on small plots of Fall Brassicas, Broccoli and Cabbage, and hopes to mow the cover crop when it is smaller. Paul has Phytopthora present, with more incidence after the heavy rains this season. He feels that Botrytis is a larger problem on his farm and he doesn’t have drainage issues. Paul hopes to implement DZT to reduce labor and fuel costs and improve overall soil health.