Title of project: CCE Invasive Species Statewide Outreach Program Internship

Worksite location (CCE association or associations where intern will work): CCE Saratoga

Contacts are: Caroline Marschner, CCE Invasive Species Project (cam369@cornell.edu)

Faculty sponsor: Antonio DiTommaso, Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences (ad97@cornell.edu)

Other campus-based mentors/supervisors: Deborah Grantham, Dept. of Crop & Soil Sciences, CCE Invasive Species Statewide Outreach Program (dgg3@cornell.edu)

Project summary and intended outcomes (no more than 5 – 10 sentences):

Inventory and map known invasive plant species in or bordering agricultural lands (field crops/pastures), especially swallowwort, Japanese knotweed, and knapweeds. Also, assess the presence of common milkweed in these areas since this plant is likely to provide ecosystem services in the form of nectar/pollen for pollinators and a food source for Monarch butterflies. This work will support the work of the CCE Invasive Species Statewide Outreach Program and the NYS PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management) (see nyis.info). Agricultural pests will be the focus of the project.

Brief description of the student intern’s role and responsibilities (no more than 5-10 sentences):

Intern will identify, inventory, and map specific invasive plant species in or bordering agricultural fields in the Capital District. Results will be analyzed with Professor DiTommaso and reported to the Capital District and other PRISMs and the CCE Invasive Species Statewide Outreach Program. CCE Educator Laurel Gailor will assist in identifying suitable fields and obtaining landowner permission to enter the property.

What qualifications and previous coursework does the student need in order to be prepared for this internship?

Intern will need to be able to identify the species of interest, know inventory methods, and be able to map point and extent data (use of GPS and an on-line mapping system).

What benefits/skills will the student gain through this internship?

Intern will learn about invasive species, their impacts, potential management strategies, and design of an applied research approach to the issue. Agricultural pests will be the focus of the
project. The intern also will learn about Cornell Cooperative Extension, its mission and approaches, and how CCE interacts with and supports partners.