

# Miriam Goler and Tom Kilcer Win Awards at the 2009 NEBCSA Annual Meeting

At the 2009 Northeastern Branch of the Crop Science, Soil Science and Agronomy Society of America (NEBCSA) meeting held in Portland, Maine, July 12-15, a recent Cornell graduate and retired field crops extension educator were among the award recipients.

Cornell graduate **Miriam Goler** received the 2009 Outstanding Senior Award. Miriam graduated this spring in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in Sustainable Agriculture. Miriam was selected for her outstanding performance in the courses she took, her independent research



project that resulted in co-authorship of a peer-reviewed journal article, and her demonstrated leadership skills. From her nomination package: "Miriam is indeed an exceptional undergraduate student and individual that has helped build much stronger links and community in our College, University, and beyond. She has been a great ambassador for the promotion of agricultural sustainability and will undoubtedly have a significant impact

in the area in the future." Miriam recently joined AmeriCorps and works in New York City connecting food pantries throughout the five boroughs with local farms.

**Tom Kilcer**, recently retired field crops extension educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County, was honored with a Career Service Award. In his almost 34 years of service with CCE, Tom developed a broad and well-known, and respected program in eastern NY through outstanding collaborative skills, readily switching roles of extension specialist and applied researcher. Tom is a popular speaker (within and outside of NYS) who brings crowds due to his energetic presentation style, his no-nonsense approach, and his ability to translate concepts and (local and regional) research findings into understandable statements and practical guidance. He seeks to include economic consequences of management alternatives, placing concepts in farmer realities and their economic bottom line. Tom retired from CCE but continues to work for the betterment of the livelihood of New York's farmers in his new role as consultant, specializing in applied research, public speaking and farm advising.

