

# 2009 NEBCSA Award Recipients

<b>Extension-Industry</b>	Richard Kersbergen	University of Maine
<b>Research</b>	Bahram Momen	University of Maryland
<b>Teaching</b>	Brian Needelman	University of Maryland
<b>Support Staff</b>	Gary Seibel	University of Maryland
<b>Graduate Student</b>	Jing Dai	Pennsylvania State
<b>Outstanding Senior</b>	Miriam Goler	Cornell University
<b>Career Service</b>	Richard Weismiller Thomas Kilcer	University of Maryland Cornell University

## AWARDS COMMITTEE

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## NORTHEASTERN BRANCH



# **EXTENSION- INDUSTRY AWARD**

**RICHARD KERSBERGEN**

**EXTENSION PROFESSOR OF SUSTAINABLE DAIRY AND FORAGE SYSTEMS  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

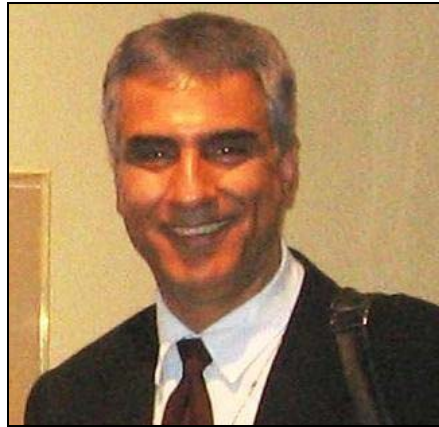


Rick Kersbergen has been active in conducting research and extension programs at Un. of Maine related to sustainable dairy and forage systems since 1987. Rick is currently the PI on the 4 year USDA project “Reducing off-farm Grain Inputs on Northeast Organic Dairy Farms” involving research partners from across New England. Rick is currently the past chair of the public sector of the Northeast Pasture Consortium and manages the website. He has been invited to speak about organic dairy farming systems throughout the US and Canada and recently won the Northeast Extension Directors award of Excellence for his collaborative work.

Some quotes from his nominee’s letters: “Rick has accomplished more for the Maine dairy industry in his time than any one person should ever be expected to. From helping conventional dairy farmers with agronomic issues like nutrient management education and training, weed management, and appropriate ration balancing, he has helped Maine and New England farmers effectively manage their farms, save money, and grow.” “Rick far exceeds the expectations of the Extension mission. He exhibits the leadership and innovative qualities required to develop, build, and implement a highly successful Extension program.”

# RESEARCH AWARD

**BAHRAM MOMEN**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND STATISTICS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**



Dr. Bahram Momen has been an active researcher at the University of Maryland although he holds a split appointment in teaching, consulting and research. Bahram's research activities have resulted in 40 peer-reviewed articles, 25 peer-reviewed conference proceedings, seven invited talks, and 16 published abstracts. He is a co-principle investigator on a long-term, multi-million dollar collaborative project studying the remediation of acidified watersheds in New York. As an applied statistician, Dr. Momen has been recognized as a co-author on 15 research articles encompassing a range of topics. An examination of his research publications also indicates that he has established an independent and focused research program primarily addressing the response of ponderosa pine to ozone and the effect of acid deposition on New York lakes.

Some quotes from his nominee's: "Dr. Momen is widely known and well recognized for his research in forest ecosystem ecology and is a leader in this field. Recently, Dr. Momen provided expert commentary regarding climate change and how it will affect future food availability for a very popular Washington, DC news-radio program." "Dr. Momen's impact at the University has been extensive. His excellent teaching has insured that our graduate students are adequately educated in statistics and biometrics and can use these skills and tools in their research."

# TEACHING AWARD

**BRIAN NEEDELMAN**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOIL SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**



Dr. Brian Needelman has been at the University of Maryland since 2002 an appointment of research and instruction. Brian Needelman has taught or co-taught 9 courses in the last five years. He has developed one new course and revised other courses. He directs undergraduate research and internships in addition to directing graduate research. He has completed three M.S. students and currently has two Ph.D. students. His peers have recognized him as an excellent educator who is committed to the importance of the endeavor of teaching. Dr. Needelman has been especially concerned for the effective mentoring of both undergraduate and graduate students. This is demonstrated through his involvement with the Soil Judging Team where he has invested many hours in small group and one-on-one instruction equipping students with valuable field skills.

A quote from his students: “Dr. Needelman is without a doubt one of the best professors I had in my entire college career. He consistently assisted me in my academic decisions and future aspirations therefore demonstrating his influential attributes as a well-respected teacher. In the classroom, Dr. Needelman creates a very intellectual secure environment that engages the entire class to participate and ask well thought out questions.”

# **SUPPORT STAFF AWARD**

**GARY SEIBEL**  
**RESEARCH ENGINEER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**



Mr. Gary Seibel has provided exemplary service to his departments, the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, and the University of Maryland for over 25 years. In his position as a Research Engineer, he is the manager of the Departmental Project Development Center, supervises the full time engineering technician and student workers in the center and works very closely with graduate and undergraduate students to accomplish their educational research goals. Gary also serves as the primary person responsible for laboratory safety and chemical hygiene in the ENST Department. One of the most important aspects of Gary's position is that he has helped design and construct innovative research equipment that is not commercially available to meet specific research needs. He has designed and/or constructed literally hundreds of devices ranging from an instrument to measure crab claw pinching forces, to instruments to detect lameness in cattle as the cattle walk over the instrument, and to methods to collect and monitor ammonia emission in poultry houses.

A quote from a sponsoring letter: "I can think of very few staff members in our University who have had such a long term and sustained record of excellence in supporting the goals of our land-grant mission and the advancement of our research, extension and teaching activities."

# **GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**

**JING DAI**

**DEPARTMENT OF CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES  
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**



Ms. Jing Dai is a Ph.D. student in Agronomy in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State. She came to Penn State immediately after obtaining her B.S. in agronomy from the China Agricultural University and has focused in Turfgrass nutrition and soil fertility. As a graduate student, she has taught labs for Introductory Soils and Turfgrass Nutrition. She has earned two prestigious teaching awards, one from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, and another from the Graduate School at Penn State. According to her lab coordinator for Soils, Jing is “without a doubt” one of the very best teaching assistants she has supervised during her career. Jing has also demonstrated a focused and goal-oriented approach to her research. She has already published four research papers (two in Crop Science from her M.S. work) in her short career.

A few quotes: “In my opinion, Jing Dai is one of the top three or four Ph.D. students to come through Penn State’s graduate program in turfgrass science within the past ten years” “I have worked with many graduate students over the past 37 years, including many excellent ones. Jing stands out as one of my favorites. Every conversation with her is a delight and every activity leads to a productive outcome.”

# OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

MIRIAM GOLER  
DEPARTMENT OF CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY



Miriam graduated this spring from Cornell University in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in Sustainable Agriculture. In addition to outstanding performance in the courses she took, and her independent research project, Miriam undertook many other tasks. She became the president of *Farm to Cornell*, a student group working to increase awareness about the source of our food and to strengthen Cornell's local food system. She got involved with Dilmun Hill, the student-run organic farm at Cornell, and expanded her experiences and skill set through a summer job on a farm in Minnesota. She spent the spring semester of her junior year in Mexico working on an urban agriculture project, showing her desire to explore, to learn and to contribute to more sustainable food systems.

A few quotes: "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 this area in future years." "There is little doubt that Miriam has all the personal and academic qualities to be deserving of this prestigious recognition and award."

# **CAREER SERVICE AWARD**

**RICHARD A. WEISMILLER**  
**PROFESSOR AND EXTENSION SPECIALIST**  
**SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**



Dr. Richard Weismiller is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology (ENST), College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland. From 1983 to 1991, Dick served as an Extension Specialist in soil and water resources management. He had primary responsibilities for establishing programs in water quality, nutrient management planning, and soil and water management and was responsible for establishing the Maryland Nutrient Management Extension Program, which has served as a national and international model. Since 1991, Dick has been involved in university administrative positions and served as the Chair of the ENST department until 2005 at which time he became Associate Director of the Office of International Programs in Agriculture & Natural Resources. Dick has been very active for over 25 years in the Tri-Societies and the Northeast Branch. He served on the NEBCSA Board of Directors and was President-Elect, President, and Past-President from 2005 to 2008.

A quote from a peer: “I have to say that there are good role models in universities for graduate students and young professors to try to emulate, but there are not many better than Dr. Weismiller. He has left a serious mark on this institution, and we should honor the work that he has done. We appreciate his service.”



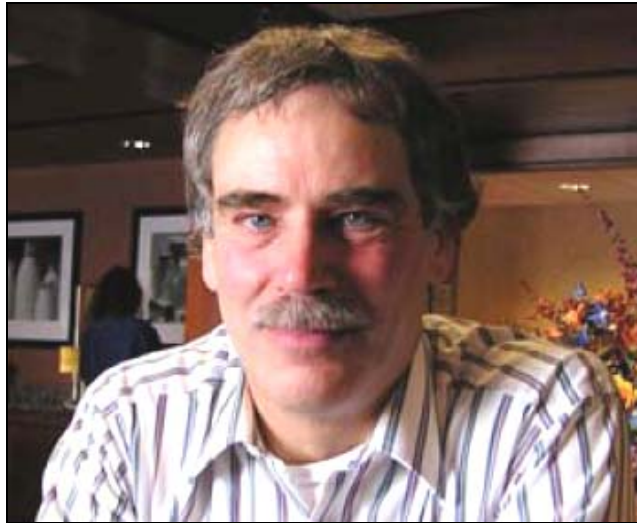
# **CAREER SERVICE AWARD**

**THOMAS KILCER**

**SENIOR FIELD CROPS EXTENSION EDUCATOR AND PROGRAM LEADER**

**RENSSELAER COUNTY**

**CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**



Tom retired from Cornell Cooperative Extension June 3rd after almost 34 years as a field crops Extension Educator in Rensselaer County, New York. Tom developed a broad program in eastern NY through outstanding collaborative skills, readily switching roles of extension specialist and applied researcher. Tom was often the first person in the Northeast to try new crops and new technologies. His initial assessments often lead to either abandonment of the new crop/technology or to more widespread testing. The best example of this might be the concept of wide swathing for haylage in a day. Tom secured funding to investigate this practice. When the practice proved to be successful he enthusiastically spread the word around NY. Tom is a popular speaker (within and outside of New York State) who brings in crowds due to his energetic presentation style, his no-nonsense approach, and his ability to translate concepts and 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.

A quote from a peer: “I want to reiterate my deep respect for Tom Kilcer, and for all of his dedicated efforts over the years to improve agriculture in general and in particular his efforts to improve the economic situation for Northeast farmers.”