



Demonstration of the Lettuce Production Module

Ithaca, Tompkins County

Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) crops are available out of season, have high quality, and can be grown without the use of pesticides. Over \$1 billion in fresh vegetables are imported into New York State each year.

This project, conducted in conjunction with Cornell University developed a greenhouse module that can produce 1,200 heads of lettuce per day. The model is demonstrating the crop production as a commercial enterprise by tracking cost and revenue.

This lettuce module provides premium quality, fresh and healthy food to New Yorkers that is competing with lettuce imported from California and Florida.

The facility has been transferred to Challenge Industries, operating under the name Finger Lakes Fresh, and will serve as a training center for future operators across New York.

NYSERDA has co-funded this project to build and operate the module.

Benefits Include:

- Fresh and healthy food to the people of New York State;
- Less money “exported” from New York to buy imported goods;
- Increase in the local economy.

Results to Date:

- Greenhouse module has been operational for more than 8 years;
- Production at 1,200 heads per day has been maintained.

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