IN THE SPRING, WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MANY EVENTS TO SHOWCASE AGRICULTURE & DAIRY FARMING

OUTREACH TO:
- Community Leaders, Teachers, Students, Families, Senior Citizens

Events:
- Agstravaganza – The Shops at Ithaca
- Cornell Veterinary Student Club
- Agstravaganza for Cortland County 4th Graders
- McMahon’s Farm Visit (Homer)
- Jerry Dell School Visit (Dryden)
- Cheese Demo at Marathon Senior Center
- EZ Acres Farm Visit & Tour for Lead Cortland Adult Center
- Cheese Demo at Jerry Dell School (Dryden)
- Cheese Demo at Farm City Day
- Tioga County Fair
- Agstravaganza – The Shops at Ithaca

FORAGE QUALITY EXPRESSED AS DOLLARS

As Standing Hay:
Alfalfa Leaving the Bud Stage & Grass Leaving the Boot Stage:
- For Every Day Harvest is Delayed, NDF and ADF ↑ by 1%
  - As NDF ↑ 1%: DM↑ 5 Lbs. And Milk ↑ 1 Lb.
  - As ADF ↑ 1%: Milk ↑ 6 Lbs.

100 Cow Herd:
- All Hay Diet on Forage Side of Ration
- This Cutting (1st) is 1/2 of Total Yield.
  - Daily Milk Loss:
    - 1.6 Lbs/Cow/Day x 100 Cows = 160 Lbs.
    - 1.6 Cwt x $15.00 = $24.00/Day
  - $24.00/Day for every Day Delayed Harvest

One Half of Hay Tonnage to be Fed:
- 183 Days of Feeding x $24.00 Loss/Day
  - $4392 Loss per Day of Delayed Harvest
Apply Percent Adjustments as Needed!

ALFALFA HEIGHTS USED TO TARGET 1ST CUTTING DATES

This spring, Betsy and Janice provided reports to local producers on haycrop progress toward maturity taking height measurements weekly throughout the 4 counties.

This spring fields were slow to green; snow persisted in drifts late into April and in shaded spots until early May. Each year weather and soil conditions dictate how fast alfalfa and grass hay fields will grow. First cutting can fall anytime from early to mid May and alfalfa in late May to early June.

Harvest Guidelines:
- Recommended Height: 28" to 30"
- 50% Alfalfa, 50% Grass

Subject: Alfalfa Heights Update Week of May 18, 2015

First Cutting Updates—Alfalfa Heights as a Predictor for Quality

The cooler weather the past few days has given everyone a little bit of reprieve. BUT, it is GO TIME for mixed grass and alfalfa stands if you haven’t started already! Several farms in Chemung County were mowing alfalfa/orchard fields on Tuesday and other farms throughout Tioga, Cortland and Tompkins on Wednesday. It’s time to park the corn planter and get first cutting harvested – at this point in the year, the increase in NDF in your hay crop far outweighs the advantage in having corn seed in the ground! It goes without being said, but the better quality hay crop you put in now affects your production and feed bill YEAR ROUND. If you would like to share your 2015 hay crop samples’ NDF and protein back to Janice and Betsy, please feel free to email them to us or give us a call!

Predicted days to cut are based on daily NDF increases for grasses of 1.0% points, 50/50 mixed alfalfa/grass stands of 0.8% points, and alfalfa of 0.5% points. Predictions are adjusted for the coming week’s weather.

Typically NDF increases about 0.8 to 1.2 per day for grasses, with cooler weather being the lower end of the range and warmer weather being the higher end.

For alfalfa, NDF increases about 0.4 to 0.7 per day, also dependent upon warm/cool weather.

For questions, you can reach Janice at 753.5215 or bjh246@cornell.edu. Look for our email weekly for the newest updates! Betsy
Wonder How the Dairy Acceleration Program Works? Here’s How …

By Betsy Hicks, Extension Area Dairy Specialist

The Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP), an initiative of Governor Cuomo in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, administered by Cornell’s Pro Dairy program offers an opportunity for producers to “enhance profitability of New York dairy farms while maintaining a commitment to environmentally responsible dairy farming”. From the DAP webpage at [http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/dairy-acceleration/](http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/dairy-acceleration/), the funds may be used for the creation of strategic business plans focused on increasing the viability of the dairy, design of new or remodeled facilities, development or update of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) and the design of eligible best management practices (BMPs) identified in the farm CNMP. Farms must have lactating dairy cattle and be shipping milk. After helping on a couple DAP applications, I’d like to offer some insights on the process from a facilitator’s point of view.

When a farm first decides to apply for the program, the application is reviewed and sent to an extension associate to then meet with the producer and complete a baseline interview. This interview is only a page long and has some more detailed questions about how the funds would be used and what practices the producer uses on the farm. At this point, the producer can also choose who they would like to facilitate the DAP program (usually an extension educator), as well as a business planner, facility planner and CAFO planner (depending on what parts of the program the producer is applying for). Upon completion of the baseline interview, a committee scores the application to determine if any funding can be awarded. Preference is generally given to herds under 300 cows, but farms above that are welcome to apply.

The value in applying for DAP funds is more than just the dollar impact the addition they were talking about. That question brought up about four more that needed to be addressed before that part could go any farther. The farm had his site contractor available at the meetings and we were able to all bring the things we knew together to save time in planning and ensure it was correct the first time around.

The program is designed to enhance profitability of New York dairy farms while maintaining a commitment to environmentally responsible growth. The program provides funding for development of business plans and comprehensive nutrient management plans.

Extension educators promote the program, encourage prospective applicants and play a key role as program facilitators. Educators oversee the process from the initial intake survey through delivery of project reports. The program supports thoughtful planning for growth by providing crucial financial information for sound business decisions. The comprehensive nutrient management plans ensure that growth will be accompanied by best management practices for farm waste products.

**Outcomes/Impacts:** Three local farms recently completed their business plans and have begun implementation. One farm will be building a new barn for housing calves and then adding a barn to grow the dairy herd by 100 cows. As the project progresses, new bunkers and a manure storage will be built. Estimated investment in the growth of this dairy is estimated at $750,000. Another farm is building new freestall housing ($500,000), a milking center ($500,000) and manure storage ($205,000). A third farm invested $300,000 in facilities and $15,000 in environmental improvements.