

# Cornell Cooperative Extension

## Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

# 2018 Annual Report



*Field Crop Specialist Kevin Ganoë discusses using growing degree days to recognize when to start dry matter sampling corn silage at Welcome Stock Farm in Schuylerville, NY*

## Corn Silage Meetings

Getting the most feed value out of home grown corn silage can help dairy farms get improved performance from their herd while also lowering their dependence on purchased feed. Harvesting corn silage at the right stage of maturity is extremely important so Dave put on a series of clinics on five farms in August just prior to harvest with twenty-nine people attending.



### Spring Forage Quality

*For the past 15 years the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops team has monitored the quality of first cutting hay in local fields to give producers a better idea of when they should begin harvest. Alfalfa height is used as a good indicator of alfalfa and grass quality.*

## Twilight Beef Producer Meetings

Livestock Specialist Ashley McFarland conducted two twilight beef producer meetings during the summer. A pasture walk was held in conjunction with Dr. Mike Baker at the farm of Paul and Winnie Nelson in Schoharie, NY. Forty-five producers came to learn about the opportunities for grass fed stocker cattle in our area. A second twilight meeting was held at Endless Trails Farm in Madison County. Besides taking a look at their cattle and pastures, participants got to look at their handling facility and Ashley discussed different options for chutes and answered questions on specific systems.



*Twilight meeting participants got to take a look at the cattle and pastures at Endless Trails Farm in Madison County*

## Central New York Dairy Day ...

New milk analysis tools that can help people to manage their herd better was the main focus of this year's Dairy Day held at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown in March.



*Left to right: Area Dairy Specialist David Balbian with speakers, Dr. Heather Dann, Research Scientist, W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute Nicole Martin, Associate Director of Cornell's Milk Quality Improvement Program, Dr. David Barbano, Professor, Department of Food Science, Cornell University*

## and Corn Day...

The Corn Day is also held at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown in February. Those in attendance learned more about nitrogen management, weed control, and corn silage.



*Dr. Douglas Beegle, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Agronomy, Penn State University helps Corn Day attendees understand the nitrogen cycle.*

## Dairy Feeder Schools

Although proper dairy nutrition is an important part of profitability on dairy farms, an equally important part is actually delivering the feed to the cows the diet the nutritionist put together. The dairy feeder schools are for those who are feeding dairy cows and want to learn more about the how and why of what they're doing. Topics include proper bunk silo and feed bunk management, adjusting for dry matter concentration and feeder safety. The twenty-eight participants of these 2-day schools held in the Canajoharie and Sherburne areas received a combination of classroom and hands on experiences at a farm.

### **Dairy Acceleration Program**

*The Dairy Acceleration Program, under Governor Cuomo's leadership, and in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation look to assist farms with planning for the future. Since the program began the team has provided facilitation for twenty nine dairy farms that received funding. This past year we facilitated for five more farms including one farm that had expansion plans in place (organic dairy) and another four are working on improving production and/or improving day to day efficiency.*



Regional Dairy Management Specialist Dave Balbian explains how to assess kernel processing score to the Feeder School participants at the Postma Family Farm.

## Improving the corn silage hybrid selection process on dairy farms



Twenty-one dairy farms are participating in a NYFVI sponsored project that uses green corn silage forage quality analysis to compare the performance of hybrids on a farm. The summarized results were presented to participants at meetings so they could see how their corn silage quality compared to those of others and to the Corn Silage Hybrid Trials conducted by PRO-Dairy.

## Nicole Tommell Hired as Regional Farm Business Management Specialist

We welcome Nicole Tommell as the new agricultural business management specialist on the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops team. Her primary goal will be to provide business analysis, planning and development support for agricultural businesses in the region. Nicole received her Bachelor of Technology degree from SUNY Cobleskill in Agricultural Business. She also holds a Masters in Agricultural Education from North Carolina State University.



**Central New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team serving Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga and Schoharie Counties**

### **Kevin H. Ganoe, MS, CCA**

Area Field Crop Specialist  
Phone: 315-866-7920 Ext 230  
Cell: 315-219-7786  
email: khg2@cornell.edu

### **David R. Balbian, MS, PAS**

Area Dairy Specialist  
Cell: 518-312-3592  
email: drb23@cornell.edu

### **Ashley M. McFarland, PAS**

Area Livestock Specialist  
Office: 315-866-7920 Ext 228  
Cell: 315-604-2156  
email: am2876@cornell.edu

### **Nicole L. Tommell, M. Ag.Ed**

Agricultural Business Management Specialist  
Cell: 315-867-6001  
email: nt375@cornell.edu

### **Advisory Committee**

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