

Other Educational Activities April – June 2019

- Ashley has continued working with the NY Beef producers group to help educate in the local classrooms across the region on beef cattle production. This opportunity has opened doors into many different enterprises within the beef industry.
- Nicole had the pleasure of speaking to a group of 4-H youth on financial management on April 29th. This 2 hour session taught the youth how to properly record their livestock projects to determine their net income of their fair project.
- Nicole was hosted by Chenango County FSA speaking to producers on alternatives of dairying in NYS. During this session, Nicole delved into the financial component and marketing objectives of diversifying or transitioning to a different species of livestock.
- Nicole presented to the Chenango County Ag Land Protection board to learn of opportunities in Ag Economic Development and how she can be of service to the board.

Grant and project activities April – June 2019

- Dave met with Precision Feeding Topic Specific Team in Madison County met on April 3rd to review results of the 1st quarter data and to learn some technical information about how the project works and what the outputs mean.
- Nicole is currently working with a team of Farm Business Management Specialists to create and host a 2 day live Zoom event for Sexual Harassment rules and regulations for the employer in the month of July. This group has also re-written all sexual harassment scenarios and PowerPoints to be agricultural friendly. As of June 15, NYS Department of Labor approved the rewrites and this group will be moving forward to produce educational pieces for farm use.
- The NYS Farm Viability Institute granted funds for a 2 year project to implement an Onboard training program for 50 farms in New York State. Nicole is currently serving on this grant project and will be searching out 5 farms in the next few months to kick off this training starting in January 2020.
- Kevin is part of the 2019 Soybean CAPS Survey where the NY State Department of Ag and Markets is supporting four extension educators and IPM staff to each survey five soybean fields for the Golden Twin Spot Moth, the Silver Y Moth and Soybean Cyst Nematode. Neither moth pest is known to exist in this country but the nematode has made its way into NY.

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Team Members

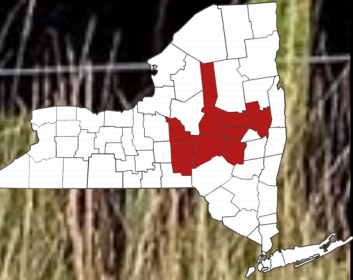
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2019 2nd
Quarter
Report



The Central New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in 8 counties

First cutting monitoring helps farms produce quality feed and more profit

First cutting is 50 percent or more of the yield of a hay field for a year. Cutting at the proper time to achieve quality can be difficult because there is a narrow window to achieve the optimum yield and quality. For grasses that window for making dairy quality feed is 5-7 days.



Alfalfa height is not only a great indicator of forage quality of the alfalfa it is also an indicator of the quality of mixed and pure grass stands

Poor quality hay can have a significant impact on milk production as delaying harvest 5 days decreases potential milk income by \$24,400 for every 100 cows.

But from year to year there may be a two week difference when cutting should begin depending on location. Elevation, geographic location and soil type all have an affect. Research by Dr. Jerry Cherney, state forage specialist for Cornell University focused on field observations that might be indicators of forage quality in the field. He found that of all measures considered alfalfa height worked best not only for alfalfa but also with mixed stands of grass and pure grass stands.

For the past sixteen years the Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team have utilized Dr. Cherney’s research to monitor local conditions by measuring alfalfa and alfalfa grass stands through out the region . In May of 2019 the team sent out weekly report to the 1859 members of our email list that contained information on sixty three fields across eight counties. These sixty three field locations were listed by county, town and road so that producers could see the predicted quality for a location near them.

Feed consultants and nutritionists are the biggest supporter of this monitoring program as they regularly make sure customers who aren’t receiving the emails get put on the team email list or personally pass along the information. They know their clientele must have high quality forage for higher production at a lower cost and can use the monitoring program to reinforce that concept.



Beef producers listen to Dr. Jerry Emerich of Select Sires explain how to use expected progeny difference (EPD).

High quality genetics can lead to a more consistent product

Beef producers should always be looking for ways to improve the genetics of their herds, but they may not understand how to do that in a way that ends in consistent results. Expected Progeny Difference's (EPDS) is a measurement tool that looks at the genetics of the parents and predicts the chances for improvement for various traits and the accuracy with which that may occur.

There are three different sections for EPD's, production, maternal and carcass. Each section has different items the producer can focus on depending upon what they feel their herd could improve on. Example, CED (calving ease

direct), a producer would look for if they have had issues with calving in the past or look for a smaller cow, or first time heifer. Overall using EPDs should lead to animals produced should be more consistent which is what buyers want.

Ashley McFarland, Regional Livestock Specialist held an informational lecture on EPDs with Dr. Jerry Emerich from Select Sires as the guest speaker with over 30 people attending.

Helping local farms through a difficult cropping season

The 2019 cropping season started out rough and did not get better until late June. This winter was hard

on many alfalfa fields as plants were frost heaved out of the ground leaving fields with too few plants to provide a crop. Seeding hay fields is considered a four to six year investment and many producers saw this investment wiped out in one to two.

Conditions were so wet in April and May that new hay seedings usually planted in April and early May were not planted at all. Many producers who have corn planted by May 20 did not even begin planting until May 25 and didn't finish until later into June. Some farms stopped planting corn because they realized they did not have enough growing season to have the crop mature.

The rainy May weather meant first cutting hay was also delayed to the point where many farms harvested no quality first cutting. To add to the field issues, insect pests such as potato leafhopper began to damage alfalfa and black cutworm was reducing corn stands.

The Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team responded to producers who had questions on these field problems directly but also by various news releases and emails. Kevin sent out four Checking the Back Forty newsletters that addressed winter kill of alfalfa, saturated soil affect on corn stands, insect pests and where to find information on whether or not there was enough growing season left to plant corn. David Balbian sent out an email to dairy producers with a list of 10 ideas for dealing with the lack of high quality first cutting. This list of items was picked up by NYS Farm Bureau, several veterinarian clinics, and some other regional teams. It was disseminated across NYS to multiple groups.



Uneven height corn fields that we planted in June were more the norm in 2019

Ins and Outs of the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program

The new farm bill contains a new dairy program called the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. It replaces the old Margin Protection Program (MPP) that was in place during the last farm bill. For the 2019 calendar year participation in the program by dairy producers is a "no brainer" because it's retroactive to January 1, 2019.

The calculated margins at the \$9.50 level of coverage are already known to be greater than the premiums due. The maximum amount of net revenue dairy producers will receive for 2019 is around \$21,000, dependent on their production base and margins for the balance of the year.

Fifty seven people attended these sessions about the DMC program in Ballston Spa, Cooperstown, Fonda, Morrisville, and Sherburne. The meetings were held in cooperation with the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) personnel as FSA is the agency responsible for carrying out the program. And the last two sessions took advantage of a webinar that was conducted by Dr. Jenny Ifft of Cornell's Dyson School. Also for the first time in the current farm bill, dairy producers can participate in the DMC program and as well as use one of these risk management tools available to dairy farms at the same time. Two people from the Farm Credit from the affiliate, Crop Growers, spoke about the Dairy-RP (Revenue Protection) and LGM-Dairy (Livestock Gross Margin) programs as these risk management programs are handled through crop insurance.



African SWINE FEVER



Helping hog producers understand the potential loss from African Swine Fever

African swine fever (ASF) is a new threat to hog production in the United States and has been rapidly spreading across Asia and parts of Europe for the past few years. African swine fever is a highly contagious, deadly viral disease that affects all ages of domestic and wild hogs. However this disease cannot be transmitted to humans.

ASF is a high morbidity and high mortality disease that if reaching US shores and not stopped immediately would end hog production in the US as currently as there is no vaccine or treatment for the disease.

Regional Livestock specialist, Ashley McFarland held a series of workshops in the region on the disease with NYS Veterinarian Dr. Robert Scrafford explaining to veterinarians and producers the threat to US hog producers.

The disease can be introduced to uninfected herds a number of ways: feeding contaminating feed products, bites from soft-bodied insects, such as ticks, flies, lice; inoculation with contaminated syringes and surgical equipment; introduction of new pigs to the herd; and semen.

Transmission of the virus within the herd is generally through direct contact with infected bodily discharges, feces, vomit and dead carcasses. ASF has been tested and can live in an environment, feces, and tissues of infected swine for several months. This disease can remain active even while being frozen and smoking the meat products will not kill the disease. To learn more about this disease, please feel free to contact a State Veterinarian.