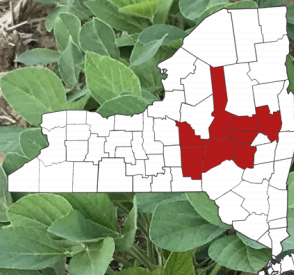


Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

*Serving Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer,
Madison, Montgomery, Otsego,
Saratoga and Schoharie Counties*

2019 3rd 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

Sexual Harassment Training for Employers: Why it is Important at the farm level

In January 2018, Governor Cuomo signed a law stating that all businesses with one or more employees on payroll must provide sexual harassment training and become fully compliant to NYS law by October 9, 2019. In many instances, sexual harassment training has been commonplace at employment throughout New York, except for farms. This new law reverberated back to the farm and brought with it the importance of on-farm compliance.

During the spring and summer months, a team of farm business management specialists and the Cornell Ag Workforce Development team created new materials that modeled the current NYS sexual harassment policy. In addition to simplifying the language, a Spanish version was also developed. All materials were submitted to NYS Department of Labor for approval.

In July of 2019, the work team hosted a 3-hour webinar to discuss the importance of sexual harassment training at the farm level. The CNYDLFC team hosted meetings at Herkimer and Saratoga over the course of two days. The trainings were recorded and made available on YouTube.

"Sexual Harassment prevention training at the farm level is not only good business, it's now the law. "

*Farm Business Management Specialist,
Nicole L. Tommell*

Ensuring compliance to this important new law, Farm Business Management Specialist, Nicole Tommell created opportunities for farm employers to gain knowledge and confidence in providing on farm trainings. Nicole held "train the trainer" meetings throughout the region demonstrating the new materials and answering questions from employers. Due to the popularity in the meetings, Nicole has scheduled an additional four within the region for October and November.

FAMACHA Workshops lead to healthier sheep and goats



Producers match color of a goat eye lid to a score card to determine if the animal needs to be dewormed.

FAMACHA, which stands for FAffa MAlan CHArt, training is geared towards sheep and goat producers. The program was designed to identify whether or not a sheep or goat needed to be dewormed. Over the past 40 years many small ruminant producers have thought the best management decision was to deworm their entire herds a few times a year. Unfortunately, researchers have found that by doing this livestock are building up a resistance to deworming medications. By using the FAMACHA method as seen in this picture, we can identify which animals are in need of being dewormed and which ones are not. We can then deworm only the animals who are in need of the medication to reduce the immune resistance.

This workshop was held at the Saratoga CCE office in September where we had 12 participants attend. At this workshop Dr. Tatiana Stanton, Small Ruminant Specialist from Cornell University talked about parasites and the proper ways to manage your herds to reduce the parasite infestation.

On-farm workshops focus on keeping the corn silage quality achieved in the field

On most dairy farms corn silage is the number one feed ingredient making up 35 to 50 percent of a lactating cow's diet on a dry matter basis. Forage quality can be lost during harvest and storage so managers need to be prepared to minimize those losses. Poor forage quality leads to lower milk production and higher feed costs.

Dairy Management Specialist David Balbian and Field Crop Specialist Kevin Ganoe have been holding pre-harvest corn silage meetings on farms the past four years to emphasize practices that will maintain forage quality. The on-farm meetings allow for hands on activities that make the learning experience even better. Some of the practices covered include optimum harvest timing, kernel processing scoring, particle size, and research on fiber digestibility.

In 2019 in particular, there were discussions on silage quality and yield, harvest and silo management of corn that was late planted and would be frosted before harvest. It is also an opportunity to discuss late season leaf diseases that always crop up at the end of the season, weed control, and nitrogen management.



Regional Dairy Management Specialist David Balbian, left, talks desired corn silage particle size with Pre-Harvest Corn Silage meeting participants

Dairy Cattle Summer Research Updates

Keeping cows healthy and getting them pregnant in a timely fashion are both key ingredients for a dairy farm's economic success. This past July our Central New York Dairy, Livestock, & Field Crops team partnered with PRO-DAIRY to bring new research trial results from Dr. Julio Giordano, DVM, PhD directly to the farm. In addition to Dr. Giordano, one of his PhD students, Martin Perez DVM, also presented information about the two research trials that were just completed. Two on farm meetings took place, one at King Brothers Dairy in Schuylerville, the second at Hemlock Valley Farm in Milford with 50 people attending these sessions.

Two research trial results were presented. They both were conducted on larger commercial dairy farms. Larger numbers of observations are needed to determine the statistical significance of the results that are observed. These larger dairies provide the numbers needed to prove or disprove a hypotheses with significance. The first trial covered strategies for improving dairy cattle reproductive performance and economics. This trial covered reproductive management programs for second and greater services for dairy cows. It was centered on cows expressing natural heat and the use of various timed AI strategies.

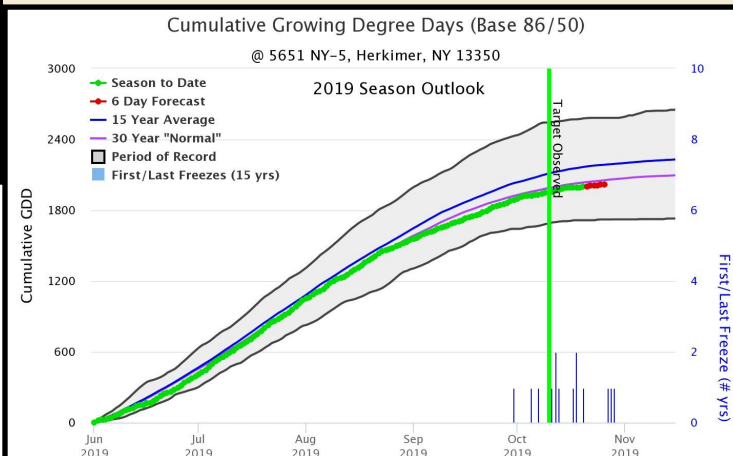
The second trail covered using automated sensors for improved dairy cattle health monitoring and management. These various systems can monitor rumination, activity, and milk weights. The pros and cons of these different technologies were studied along with the economics of these systems.



Dr. Julio Giordano, DVM discusses various timed AI strategies at King Brothers Dairy in Schuylerville

Helping corn growers understand using growing degree days (GDDs) to predict corn maturity

Heat during the growing season is what makes crops and even insect pests grow and mature. A measure for that heat is described as Growing Degree Days (GDDs) or the average temperature for the day minus a base temperature below which the plant or insect doesn't grow. Unfortunately, rainy, cold weather during the early part of the 2019 growing season meant corn planting started almost a month behind and then once planted there was little heat to bring it to maturity in September as usual. Regional Field Crop Specialist Kevin Ganoë used the Climate Smart Farming Growing Degree Day Calculator track to GDDs at various sites across the team region and published the results monthly in his Checking the Back 40 newsletter. Producers could see through the summer what chance late planted corn silage had to make the desired dry matter to make good quality corn silage. Although there was heat during July and August that certainly helped, the Climate Smart Farming Growing Degree Day Calculator was able to demonstrate from 15 and 30 year averages that late planted corn would not gain enough GDDs in September and October to mature late planted corn. See: <http://climatesmartfarming.org/tools/csf-growing-degree-day-calculator/>



This Climate Smart Farming Growing Degree Day Calculator graphic demonstrates how producers can use the tool to anticipate how many GDDs are left to the end of the growing season.

Other Educational Activities July – September 2019

The Team worked closely over many months with NRCS and SUNY Cobleskill on the Grasstravaganza event held July 25-27, 2019 at Cobleskill. This 2.5 day program was coordinated by NRCS and involved all Central NY Team members either conducting classes or guiding tours.

The team attended a number of a number agricultural industry related public relation activities and set up displays to let farm clientele know what educational activities are available:

- August 6, Ag Day, Chenango County Fair
- August 8, Empire Farm Days
- September 13-14, Central NY Farm Progress Show, Mohawk
- September 29, Fulton County Day on the Farm, Johnstown

Ashley conducted a Beef Quality Assurance training held in Otsego County with 24 producers in attendance.

Ashely assisted with the Junior Livestock Show in Cooperstown.

Grant and project activities July – September 2019

Dave continued to meet with a Precision Feeding Topic Specific Team in Madison County consisting of 12 farms who have their farms benchmarked so their feeding performance and profitability can be evaluated.

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.

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 has been recruiting farms to participate in the onboarding program that will commence on October 31st. Currently, she has 4 farms willing to participate in the project with hopes of having 10 farms over the next 18 months.

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