



A partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in these nine counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne and Wyoming.

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

January - March 2020

NWNY Growers Stand Tall in 2019 NYS Yield Contests

The NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association (NYC&SGA) sponsors the annual NYS corn and soybean yield contests. It is an opportunity for farms to push their practices to the limits, experiment a little, learn a little and enjoy some friendly competition and bragging rights at the coffee shop.

The NWNY Team supervises the contest for NYC&SGA. There are cash prizes for the top three corn and soybean yields in the state and plaques for the top place winners in each of five designated regions (West, Finger Lakes, Central, North and East). The culmination of this event is the awards ceremony that takes place in January at the NY Corn and Soybean Winter Expo in Syracuse. The team has the privilege of emceeing the ceremony and announcing the winners to receive their awards. It is a great opportunity to promote corn and soybean production in NY.

In 2019, growers in NWNY made us proud at the state and regional levels. Orleans county growers won top honors in NY for both the corn and soybean contests! Adam Kirby was the NY corn champion with a yield of 277.44 bu/a. Robin Root (Root Brothers) was the NY soybean champion with an impressive 80.56 bu/a. Both growers won an all expense trip for two to the Commodity Classic in San Antonio, TX in February. Verratti Farms, Niagara County, also had some of the best corn and soybean yields in the state. They took home the 2nd and 3rd place awards for the soybean contest and 3rd place for the corn contest. If you would like to see all the regional winners from our area, check out the results on the NYC&SGA webpage at:

<https://nycornsoy.org/yield-contests/>



Mike Stanyard with Corn Champ, Adam Kirby (left) and Soybean Champ, Robin Root (center).

Photo provided by: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNY Team

Precision Ag Educational Program

Agriculture producers have quickly adopted precision agriculture (PA) technologies over recent years. The concept of precision farming is to do the right thing at the right time in the right place with the right amount. This practice results in improved sustainability, increased productivity, and higher profitability for farmers. New emerging technologies on farms have created education and training opportunities in the field of precision agriculture. Producers need further assistance in adopting innovative and proven conservation technologies and approaches to improve crop production.

The NWNY Team offered a series of PA workshop/meetings at varying levels of experience – beginner, intermediate and advanced. The target audience for the program was farm owners, managers, employees, industry, crop advisers, researchers and extension personnel. This Precision Agriculture Series was developed to answer producer questions, address precision Ag topics and introduce new PA technologies. Regional workshops were offered in five WNY counties: Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Seneca, Steuben – with collaboration from the CCE Associations in each of those counties.



Ali Nafchi presenting a regional precision ag program at CCE Genesee.

Photo: J. Veverka / CCE Administration

Seven workshops were held this winter prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. Participants learned about data, zone and site-specific management, soil EC mapping, generating prescription maps and calibrating machinery. Niagara County was the only group to complete all three workshop sessions. A survey of this group revealed that participants strongly believed that the workshops would be beneficiary to improving crop management and agreed to continue these sessions in the future. As a result, we have started collaborative efforts on implementing precision Ag practices with two of the participating farms this summer.

Modern On-Farm Preparedness Workshops

The NWNY Team, in conjunction with a statewide effort, hosted a series of six Modern On-Farm Preparedness Workshops designed to help dairy farmers reduce risk and plan for farm success. Workshops were held in Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming Counties from January into early March. Twenty-five farmers and emergency service personnel from Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans and Wyoming counties attended multiple workshops and represented nearly 7,000 cows in the region.

NWNY Team Specialists collaborated with the *NY State Cattle Health Assurance Program (NYSCHAP)*, the *American Dairy Association North East (ADANE)*, and the *NY Center for Agriculture Medicine and Health (NYCAMH)* to provide participants with tools to keep people, farm assets, and business reputations safe, along with resources to work through unexpected disasters.

The workshops focused on a variety of risks that affect modern dairy farms. On two days, farmers and emergency service personnel came together to discuss preparedness for natural disasters and how to make improvements in farm safety. Other workshops provided updates on the FARM 4.0 animal care program, and discussed what to do in the event of animal activist involvement at the farm or on a farm's social media page. Prevention of disease outbreaks and appropriate biosecurity protocols were also covered.

Participants left each workshop with the ability to assess their farm for safety and social risks and make improvements. Participant reviews showed an additional successful outcome: emergency service personnel gained a better understanding of the farming communities' concerns and how to collaborate with them, while farmers learned ways to make their farmsteads more accessible to emergency service personnel.



Participants discuss hazards and emergency response on farms.
Photo: M. Quaassdorff / CCE NWNY Team

Helping NWNY Growers Stop the Spread of Tall Waterhemp in 2020

Herbicide resistant weeds continue to be an economic issue for field crop producers. Of the three glyphosate resistant weed species we have, waterhemp has begun to take hold in almost every county in NWNY. This weed can be particularly devastating in soybean fields as management is limited by the lack of effective post-emergence herbicides. At the start of 2019, waterhemp was only identified in six counties in NWNY. At this time, it has been found in 12 counties.

The NWNY Team continues to educate growers about the importance of identifying these weeds and how to develop the best management plans. We learned a lot about this weed in 2019. Working with Dr. Bryan Brown, weed specialist with the NYS IPM Program, we were able to see that it was resistant to three different herbicide modes of action, not just glyphosate. We were also able to co-host a field day to show which herbicide programs were most effective in corn and soybean.

Winter meetings are the best time to showcase our work from the past season. Each winter the NWNY Team hosts our Corn Congresses and Soybean/Small Grain Congresses. Almost 1,000 growers, industry representatives and consultants attended our four meetings in January and February. Dr. Brown was able to present all of his local data on waterhemp resistance and effective herbicide management data for corn and soybeans at all of our congresses. These results will put NWNY growers at a huge advantage this spring as they know which herbicide programs will give them the best early season residual and post emergence control of waterhemp. See the full reports online.

Corn: <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/69650>

Soybeans: <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/69651>



Waterhemp taking over a corn field in Seneca Co.
Photo: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNY Team