A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these five counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben.

Quarterly Report
July - September 2020

Programming Highlights

Forage Variability Research Underway

SWNYDLFC is part of an effort to bring regionally specific research-based recommendations directly to our region by conducting research trials. Dairy Management Specialist, Alycia Drwencke, is working with Dr. Kristan Reed of Cornell University to collect forage sample data that will influence dairy cattle nutrition recommendations. This work will bring in over $10,000 in PGF for Alycia’s efforts.

Herbicide-Resistance Testing with Campus Connections

Josh Putman, Field Crops Specialist, is working with Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie to collect weed seed for herbicide-resistance testing this fall. This testing will help provide field crops producers with targeted management recommendations, protecting their crop’s production and their farm’s profitability.

Straight from our Farmers:

Public Facebook Review from The Vanstrom Homestead

“So our back paddock is cursed by the chicken gods. These birds are days away from butchering and something scared a bunch of them to death last night. Luckily (or not?) We already had Amy from SWNY Cornell Cooperative Extension coming out to see our youngest group of birds (who have not had a good week to say the least) and happens to be a poultry person. She necropsied the big birds and found most of them most likely had heart attacks. Except for finding a bunch of dead birds first thing, it was a neat morning learning how to do a preliminary investigation on chickens. If you ever have bird or farming questions be sure to check this team of awesome people out. Link in the comments.”
Katelyn Walley-Stoll worked with Cornell University professors to develop a central Farm Business Management website as part of a grant program that brought $12,000 in PGF to the team. This website will provide news, updates, and other helpful information for the agricultural industry.

Our 2020 Fall Pasture Management Series was a success! The program focused on late summer management topics and had 30 attendees. There were also videos and resources created to aid in future programming.

Programming and Presentations
- Steuben County Speakers Series - 7/14/2020. Public oriented presentation on SWNYDLFC and general agriculture.
- CORE Pesticide Training - 7/14/2020. Providing basic IPM information and DEC Credits to Field Crops Producers.
- CORE Pesticide Training - 9/22/2020. Providing basic IPM information and DEC Credits to Field Crops Producers.
- Attended Board of Director, Ag Program Committee, and County Association Staff meetings as requested.
- Provided updated reporting information with targeted success stories to assist with county funding efforts.
- Continue to release regular Press Releases, Quick Points Updates, Weekly Update Newsletters, Dairy Market Watch, and Field Crops Chronicles to keep our producers, stakeholders, and community members aware of our programming and support resources.

Research and Outreach Grant Updates and Awards
- Amy Barkley has been written into a SARE Partnership grant with the Providence Farm Collective to develop an on-farm training program for beginning marginalized farmers on how to raise and process broiler chickens. The goal of this project is to help these farmers develop an alternative income stream, become more self-sufficient, and provide them access to more traditional poultry meat. Other livestock species will be part of this project, and will be selected in the coming months.
- Katelyn Walley-Stoll completed four Beef Farm Business Summary Analyses across the region, bringing in $2,500 in program generated funds. This program provides sound financial data for farms to use to make management decisions that will improve the profitability of their farm businesses.
- Josh Putman is working with Toni DiTommaso’s lab at Cornell University to submit weed samples from SWNY Growers for identification as part of the Weed Ecology lab (NYS Weed ID Network) and communicate the findings with the grower. This project provides $700 in funding for the team.