

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

2020 Annual Report



Photo: Dave Balbian introduces Dr. Tom Overton, chair of Cornell's Animal Science Department, who spoke about butterfat and what producers could do to influence its content in milk

Early Corn Silage Harvest 2020 Webinar

The First Video on the Team's YouTube Channel!

Favorable conditions in the spring allowed most producers to get their corn planted in a timely fashion. Dry weather in the early part of the growing season put the crop under stress. However, rain did arrive along with excessive summer heat. Growing Degree Days (GDD) accumulated at a record pace. The corn crop was due to mature very early.

The lack of leaf diseases that commonly starts to cause corn leaves to turn brown late in the season did not occur this year. That is a common signal some producers use to gauge when to harvest. The crop was going to be ready early and its green leaves were going to fool some people. Corn that is too mature and too dry with rock hard kernels will not ferment properly and much of the feed value could pass right through the cow.

This webinar covered Growing Degree Day accumulation, Cornell's Climate Smart Farming website, a host of strategies producers could employ to be sure they ended up with a crop that gave them the best balance of getting the most off the field along with getting the most out of the crop when it was fed to their cows.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lx8EX8la_g



Photo Credit: Erik Smith, Field Crops Specialist

Dairy Day Helps Producers Increase their Milk Price and Milk Income...

Dairy Day in Cooperstown this year concentrated on the things producers could do to increase their own milk price. Market conditions drive milk prices for the most part, but dairy producers can often receive a premium for having high quality milk, and typically is paid as a per hundredweight bonus added to their price. Somatic cell count is one of the measurements quality premiums are based on. Low levels of somatic cells indicate low levels of mastitis in the herd.

Using 100 milking cows producing 25,000 pounds of milk/year as a baseline, a \$.15/cwt. quality premium would be worth \$3,750/year. Improving milk protein from 2.85% to 3.2% and increasing butterfat from 3.5% to 4.1% (using the most current milk prices) would result in more income by \$56,250/year! This comes out to roughly \$2 per cwt.

Dr. Rick Watters of Cornell's Quality Milk Production Services (QMPS) presented information about pathogen based mastitis treatments, selective dry cow therapy, and milking time audits. Dr. Tom Overton, chair of Cornell's Animal Science Department discussed butterfat, what producers could do to improve butterfat percent and what the common causes of butterfat depression were. Our final speaker, Dr. Chuck Schwab, Emeritus Professor from the University of New Hampshire, traveled from Wisconsin to be with us. He presented information about balancing dairy rations for Amino Acids and the impact that can have on Milk Protein percent, milk production volume, and overall health and immunity.



Meat Marketing Zoom Workshop

Cornell's former Marketing Specialist Matthew LeRoux spoke on a teleconference call for producers in April 2020 to explain the importance of a consistent product and correctly valuing their product in the marketplace. LeRoux also walked producers through the Meat Suite Platform, Cornell's free web meat marketing tool.

Corn Day Emphasizes Soil Health and What Grows in Soil...

Crop growers seek to use practices on their farms that would improve soil health, like no-till and cover crops, but especially on dairy farms it is hard to see how to implement those practices.

The 2020 Corn Day held at the Otesaga Resort, Cooperstown in February with Dave Magos of Morning Star Farms the featured speaker to address these soil health issues. Dave described to the ninety-eight in attendance how he has been able to have 850 cows, 2,600 crop acres and still be 100% no-till. Cover crops, manure handling and soil compaction were just some of the challenges Dave addressed in his talk and question and answer session.

A Farewell to Kevin Ganoe, Field Crops Specialist...

On June 30, 2020 Kevin Ganoe, long time Field Crops Specialist and Team Leader said goodbye to the Cornell Cooperative Extension system. After a tenure that lasted over 40 years, Kevin decided to retire and open a new chapter in his life. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him well on his new journey of being a grandfather and continuing to hone his guitar playing skills.



Dave Magos of Morning Star Farms answers questions from the audience about his no-till practices

Erik Smith, Ph.D. New Field Crops Specialist for the CNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team!

Erik comes to us with more than 15 years of experience conducting agricultural research and educational outreach as a graduate student, postdoc, and Extension professional. As a Finger Lakes native with grain and forage crop farmers in his family where he spent time helping out farming, he has a deep connection to New York's agricultural community, and is looking forward to the opportunity to combine his skills and passion into serving farmers in the Central NY region.



Did You Know?

**PRE-COVID
CNYDLFC
Held:**

**35 In Person
Meetings**

**With
669 In Person
Contacts**

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

Nicole L. Tommell
Agricultural Business
Management Specialist
Cell: 315-867-6001
email: nt375@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
Cell: 315-604-2156
email: am2876@cornell.edu

Erik A. Smith, Ph.D.
Field Crops Specialist
Cell: 315-219-7786
Email: eas56@cornell.edu

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