

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Fourth Quarter Report 2021

Vegetable and Field Crop IPM Update at Byler Farm

Along with Crystal Stewart-Courtens from the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Team, Erik Smith hosted a farmer meeting on Wednesday, October 13th from 2-4 PM. This event took place on a Plain Community farm in Palatine Bridge, and was attended by members of the farm owner's extended family. 2.0 DEC pesticide applicator recertification credits were offered for this program. This program was free to attend.



On-Farm B.Q.A. in Montgomery County



Dr. Wratten working the chute

In October, Ashley McFarland hosted two Beef Quality Assurance trainings for producers in the CNYDLFC region.

The BQA program was designed by the nationally recognized Beef Checkoff program to provide a certification to producers on safe handling, vaccination/ antibiotic usage and injection site management. During the short course, producers have an informal presentation guided by the BQA manual, concluding with a short written test. After the classroom presentation, producers work with a veterinarian to gain their certification.

The hands on component teaches producers about safe livestock handling and proper injection site management. Each producer must demonstrate proper injection site placement and confidence in administering injections.

A program and funding partnership between Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga and Schoharie Counties.

Transition Cow Tuesdays

Hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Dairy Specialists
Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY

Transition Cow Tuesdays was a seven-part educational webinar series for farmers, employees, and agriservice professionals who work with transition cows or work on transition cow nutrition and/or management. It was a 20 to 30 minute webinar every Tuesday from November 2 to December 14 at 12:30 followed by a question and answer session. This allowed participants to connect at lunchtime and not disrupt the normal workday. It covered Transition Cow Nutrition, Feeding the Transition Cow, Selective Dry Cow Therapy, Facility Considerations, Calving Considerations, Post Calving Monitoring and Evaluating Transition Management. Speakers included CCE Regional Dairy Specialists, Cornell Vet School faculty, Dairy One and PRO-DAIRY staff. Dave Balbian, Central New York Dairy Specialist played a significant role in these sessions. They are archived and are available for viewing at any time.



New York State Annie's Project Series

Extension educators from across NY State who are certified in facilitating Annie's Project (www.anniesproject.org) held a six week course designed to identify and manage the six principles of risk management.

Twice weekly for two hours, over 30 farm business women joined the programming, 6 of which from the CNYDLFC region. Participants learned about communication, production, marketing, financial management, legal and human resources. Each session was designed to provide hands on learning activities, professional guest speakers, breakout rooms and specific content instruction. After each week, participants were encouraged to analyze their own business and identify areas where improvement may be warranted.

After reviewing the course survey, the Annie's Project Team identified three areas to increase education: Financial Management, Marketing & Record Keeping. Look for those courses in 2022.

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FARMER TAX \$CHOOL

Farmer Tax School

Hosted By Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional
Farm Business Specialists

In the 4th quarter of the current year, farmers oftentimes scramble to identify their current tax situation. Decreasing current tax liabilities is a goal of farm businesses. The Farm Business Management Specialist team offered four of the six tax classes in the fall of 2021 of their Farmers Tax School.

The first 3 sessions focused on farmers who are already filing a Schedule F, covering tax planning and goals, handling farm profits/losses, and strategies to improve your tax position while also working positively with your accountant/tax preparer. The first session provided an overview of tax planning, the management of tax liability, and assessing your record keeping system. Second session dove into everything Schedule F – depreciation and classifying revenues and expenses. The final session was led by Paul VanDenburgh of Farm Credit East who introduced tax planning strategies and the timeline for implementation.

Each session allowed producers an opportunity to ask farm specific questions and receive guided answers from the team and tax professional.

The 4th session on December 2nd was designed as a tune up on recording income and annual expenses, capital expenditures and depreciation with additional information covering loans & credit card or revolving loan payments, sales of business assets, and deducting losses.

Future classes will be held in January 2022 to round out the series. Topics will include Tax Management for Beginning and Small Farm Businesses and Farm Specific Tax Code Benefits.

The Farm Business Management Team was grateful for the outpouring of sponsorship from the following businesses: 2020 Consulting, Anna Richards; NBT Bank; Farm Credit East; NY FarmNet. With their generous support, the FBM team was able to provide over 50 scholarships to folks. With over 400 registrations from across the state, the need was there to provide the key programming.

Other Educational Activities: October - December 2021

- David Balbian wrote an article titled “Reducing Methane Output from Your Dairy Cattle” for our team’s quarterly newsletter. He also submitted an article from a colleague regarding the use of aspirin in fresh cows. Our quarterly newsletter covers field crops, dairy, livestock, and financial management. A copy of this newsletter can be viewed at the following link: <https://bit.ly/Fall2021CNYDLFCNewsletter>
- Erik was an invited speaker at the University of Delaware’s Nematodes in Atlantic Soybean Production webinar, where he discussed the history and current status of soybean cyst nematode in NY. (Smith)
- Invasive Species in NY: What’s here, what’s coming, and what we can do about it. Hosted by CCE Madison County on December 10th from 10-11:30 am, Erik gave a webinar on twelve of the most damaging and note-worthy invasive species currently threatening NY’s agriculture and natural resources. The webinar was attended by 29 farmers and members of the general public from across the state.
- Nicole visited with various farms throughout the region to determine eligibility for the EIDL SBA loan funding for small businesses. She also worked with producers to determine eligibility for the NYS Small Business Grant funding that was announced in Q4.

Future Grant and Project Activities:

- Dairy Advancement Program (DAP) applications continue to come in. Our team plays a critical role by conducting baseline interviews and evaluation of outcomes. The emphasis has changed to resiliency with these applications.
- Precision Feeding for Beef Cattle: Working on a grant application regarding feeding, economics, & environmental impacts with grass fed beef cattle. (McFarland, Balbian, Smith)
- Nicole and Katelyn Walley-Stoll from SWDLFC Team submitted a NYFVI grant to collect statewide land lease data and incorporate custom harvest data.
- Erik will be co-creating a human-machine interface better adapted for on-farm data recording, curation, management, and use.
- Ashley has planned for a New Livestock operation series to occur in the spring. She has 4 weeks set aside to discuss different aspects of the enterprise. (Basics 101, Financing, Record Keeping, Funding opportunities and much more). Details will be released soon.
- New York Farm Viability Institute-Ashley, Dave and Erik have submitted an Estimating Pasture Biomass Based on Mobile Imaging in conjunction with Rochester Institute of Technology. If awarded, the grant would start in December 1, 2022 and run until November 30, 2024
- Nicole submitted a grant as a Co-PI alongside Katelyn Walley-Stoll from SWDLFC for Risk Management pulling in other farm business management specialists to bolster the application.
- SARE- Ashley has been working with SUNY Cobleskill on a grant they recently submitted in regards to Implementing shrub willow as a dual-purpose crop for nutrient runoff retention and feed for small ruminants. If awarded, the grant would start in 2022.
- SARE- Ashley has been asked to participate on a grant opportunity along with the South Central Dairy and field crops team. The grant that was submitted is The Importance of Dairy Beef cross calves. If awarded, the grant would start in the fall of 2022.

Nicole L. Tommell, M. Ag.Ed
Team Leader
Farm Business Management Specialist
Phone: 315-867-6001
Email: nt375@cornell.edu

Ashley McFarland, PAS
Area Livestock Specialist
Phone: 315-604-2156
Email: am2876@cornell.edu

David R. Balbian, MS, PAS
Area Dairy Management Specialist
Phone: 518-312-3592
Email: drb23@cornell.edu

Erik A. Smith, Ph.D.
Area Field Crop Specialist
Phone: 315-219-7786
Email: eas56@cornell.edu

Website: cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu

Facebook Page: facebook.com/cnydfc

Join our E-mail list: <http://eepurl.com/hh3vBj>