No Till Cover Crop Interseeding for Soil Health

On August 31st, Erik Smith and the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted an on-farm event at Inverness Farm owned by Andy Crowe in Canajoharie. Erik led a farmer-to-farmer discussion and demonstration on the methods, benefits, and management of interseeded cover crops in corn. This event was free, lunch was provided.

2021 Central New York Two Day Virtual Dairy Day Experience!

2021 Central New York Two Day Virtual Dairy Day took place on March 9 & 11. This year’s program concentrated on keeping cows healthy, productive & profitable. Increasing the percent of older cows (3rd lactation & greater) in the herd that meet these criteria can increase the daily milk output per cow which can increase profitability. One of our speakers was a local hoof trimmer, Charles Biche. He resides in Fulton County, but his list of progressive dairy producer customers are from Montgomery & Saratoga Counties. He is a well-respected professional who keeps up on the latest research and recommended practices in his field. He had been a speaker at SUNY Cobleskill and has trained others to provide this important and critical service. Our virtual Dairy Day also included a trade show. We are very grateful and pleased that a dozen sponsors came through to support the program.

USDA Value Added Producer Grant Writing Program

Early March, 2021 Nicole Tommell and Myron Thurston, CCE Madison designed a three session module on grant writing. The specific focus was on the Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) that USDA renews annually. Traditionally this grant is a 50/50 split funding focused on supplying soft goods, marketing and research to producers who are looking to expand their current line of products. With COVID, USDA expanded their funding and allowed for a 90/10 funding split.

The 3 sessions focused on the project details, grant writing tips and tricks and understanding what a grant reviewer requires.
2021 Virtual Corn and Soybean Summit: Great Success!

**Corn Day 2021.** This year’s Corn Day event was virtual (via Zoom), and was held on Wednesday, February 24th. There were four talks, focusing on insect pest, disease, and weed management and silage management. 1.75 DEC pesticide applicator recertification credits and 2.0 CCA credits were offered to qualified attendees.

**Soybean and Small Grain Summit.** CNYDLFC hosted a soybean and small grain program on Wednesday, March 3rd. Like Corn Day, there were four talks, focusing on pest, disease, and weed management. DEC pesticide applicator recertification credits and CCA credits were offered for this program.

**American Farmland Trust & Chobani : Dairy Forward Grant Program**

In February 2021, the farm business management team worked with AFT and Chobani to provide a grant opportunity for dairies in New York State. This grant opportunity assisted farm families with funds for transition to the next generation at a max cap of $5000 with no match component. Dairy Forward could be used in unison with Pro-Dairy’s Dairy Acceleration Grant (DAP) as the producer match component. Upon the conclusion of the program AFT/ Chobani awarded over 15 grants to producers with the CNYDLFC dairy producers among the awardees.

**FAMACHA Trainings Bring Producers and Cornell Small Ruminant Specialist Together**

FAMACHA training is designed for sheep and goat producers to identify animals in need of deworming. Over the past 40 years, many small ruminant producers have thought the best management practice was to deworm their entire herd multiple times per year. Unfortunately, researchers have found out that by doing this we are building a resistance to specific anthelmintics rendering them ineffective. By incorporating the FAMACHA method, we can successfully identify which animals are in need of being dewormed and which ones are not. Producers can treat the specific individuals who are in need and not mass medicate the herd/flock. The goal is to decrease herd/flock drug and parasite resistance and increase efficacy of the drugs when properly administered.

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

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