2022 Central New York Dairy Day

Our virtual Central New York Dairy Day program took place on March 8 with 70 people signed up for the event. In addition, many people who missed the live program asked for the link to the recording of the day’s event. This year’s program concentrated on heat abatement, early calf nutrition and epigenetics. Epigenetics is the study of how behaviors and the environment can cause changes that affect the way your genes work. This year’s program feature Dr. Geoffrey Dahl from the University of Florida. His topic was Dry Period Heat Stress Effects on the Cow. Dr. Jimena Laporta from the University of Wisconsin also spoke. Her topic was Heat Stresses Lifetime Impacts on the Unborn Calf. The final speaker from Cornell was Dr. Robert Lynch, DVM. The title of his talk was Are We Doing All The Right Things With Our Colostrum? These presentations of the current research are critically important to dairy producers and their advisors. It tells us that heat stress in utero and early life nutrition has lifetime and even multi-generational impacts on the milk production capability of these animals. These impacts can have either positive or negative long-term economic impacts on a dairy farm business, depending on how they manage these risks. Our virtual Dairy Day also included a trade show. We are very grateful and pleased that over a dozen sponsors came through to support our program this year.
In February, Erik hosted the annual Central NY Corn Day. As in 2021, this year’s event was virtual. The program featured eight presenters from Cornell University and beyond who discussed important topics such as compaction mitigation in no-till systems, Integrated Pest management and nutrient management in a time of input shortages and limitations, silage variety trials, and the future of farmer-led research and precision ag. It was attended by more than 80 farmers, researchers, and industry professionals and was sponsored by 12 local businesses in a joint sponsorship arrangement with Dave's 2022 Dairy Day.

**Know Your Numbers, Know Your Options**

The Farm Business Management Team created a pilot project based upon Annie’s Project coined “Know Your Numbers, Know Your Options” utilizing Annie’s curriculum but tailoring it to New York agriculture. At the conclusion of Annie’s Project in the fall of 2021, an assessment survey identified many farm women requested a course solely on financial analysis. The Farm Business Team adopted a 6-week, 2-hour program where farm women had the opportunity to delve deeper into the financial analysis of their farm businesses. Folks learned basic accounting methods, financial ratios, chart of accounts, analysis of profit/loss statements, balance sheets and statement of cash-flows. Although a small cohort, the ability to work in small groups gave the ladies a voice with the ability to ask questions of the instructors and their peers.
Net Zero for NY Dairy - What You Need to Know
Hosted by Cornell Cooperative Regional Dairy Specialists and Cornell CALS Pro-Dairy

This webinar took place over a two-day period in early February. It was part of a collaborative effort by CCE Regional Dairy Specialists and Cornell Pro-Dairy staff. The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy unveiled the Net Zero Initiative on October 12, 2020. It is an industry-wide effort that will help U.S. dairy farms of all sizes and geographies implement new technologies and adopt economically viable practices that will bring the dairy industry to a Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050. Over 500 people signed up for this webinar. Most were from New York and the northeast, but some attendees were from other parts of the globe. The webinar was meant to explain what Net Zero actually means and to bring in some expertise to describe some examples of practices that will bring the industry closer to the Net Zero by 2050 goal. Although this topic is not a short-term immediate decision making subject, it is something that local dairy producers will need to be thinking about and making decisions about as the next few decades come along. A recording of this program can be found by searching for Net Zero for New York Dairy - YouTube on the internet.

NYS Farm Show, Syracuse NY

In February, Ashley McFarland conducted a two-day workshop for NYS Beef Cattle Producers. The workshops were designed to cover a few popular topics in the field: The Importance of EPD’s, Pasture Management, How to Get the Most Out of Your Purchased Feed, and Meat Suite-How Can I Benefit From this Software. All 4 presentations were highly attended and we received a lot of positive feedback regarding the topics that were chosen for the farm show. After the presentations each speaker received some follow-up questions to address and walk through with producers statewide.
Other Educational Activities: January - March 2022

- Dave wrote an article on Epigenetics that was included in the team's winter 2022 Newsletter. That article also appeared in other publications.
- Along with other CCE Dairy Specialists across the state and Pro-Dairy Staff, Dave worked on planning & producing a number of virtual educational programs for dairy producers and their advisors. They can be found at: https://cals.cornell.edu/transition-cow-tuesdays-webinar-series
- Dave coordinated the sponsorship efforts for the virtual dairy programs that were planned and conducted by the regional dairy specialists across the state. This sponsorship from agribusinesses allowed us to conduct these programs free of charge for our producers.
- Nicole attended the Education Risk Management Conference in Omaha, NE in March. Here, she met with other extension folks from throughout the U.S.
- In March, Erik was an invited speaker for the Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team's Field Crops Congress on March 25th. He presented the latest research on soybean cyst nematode in NY as well as the most effective management strategies for this damaging pest.

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: awarded beginning Fall of 2022: feeding, economics, & environmental impacts with grass fed beef cattle. (McFarland, Balbian, Smith)
- Nicole and Katelyn Walley-Stoll from SWDLFC Team received a NYFVI grant to collect statewide land lease data and incorporate custom harvest data this will begin Summer 2022.
- Erik will be co-creating a human-machine interface better adapted for on-farm data recording, curation, management, and use.
- The Team is serving on the Grasstravaganza planning committee that is meeting routinely. The event will take place at SUNY Morrisville in Summer of 2023
- 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 was awarded a grant as a Co-PI alongside Katelyn Walley-Stoll from SWDLFC for Risk Management. This will commence Summer 2022
- 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.