

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Second Quarter Report 2022

Alfalfa Height Measuring, IPM and More!

During the month of May, the team conducted weekly first cutting alfalfa monitoring on 51 fields across our region that provided our producers with detailed optimal harvest dates for lactating cow forage quality. Annually, producers and agribusiness professionals look for this information every week to develop harvest plans. Harvesting first cut hay crop on time is critical for dairy producers. Late harvested hay crop results in lower milk production and higher grain supplementation costs which increases overall cost of production.

In addition to the weekly monitoring, Erik Smith and Dave Balbian created six trainings placed across the region that piggybacked on the current collected alfalfa height measurement data and IPM (Integrated Pest Management) data. The goal was to reinforce the importance of producing quality forages in the dairy and look for potential pests before they become a problem during the growing season.

27 Attendees had the opportunity to receive 1.5 DEC credits for their participation.

Field Crop and Vegetable Integrated Pest Management on Plain Community Farms

In collaboration with Crystal Stewart-Courtens of the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program, Erik hosted and taught a series of Integrated Pest Management meetings for DEC credits (7.0 total) at Plain community (Amish) farms in Montgomery County on April 20th, 27th, and May 4th. The focus of the first meeting was insect pests, the second focused on weed management, and the third meeting focused on crop pathology. The Plain community has been unable to attend virtual meetings for DEC credits since 2020, so these meetings were of great importance to these families for maintaining their pesticide applicator licenses.

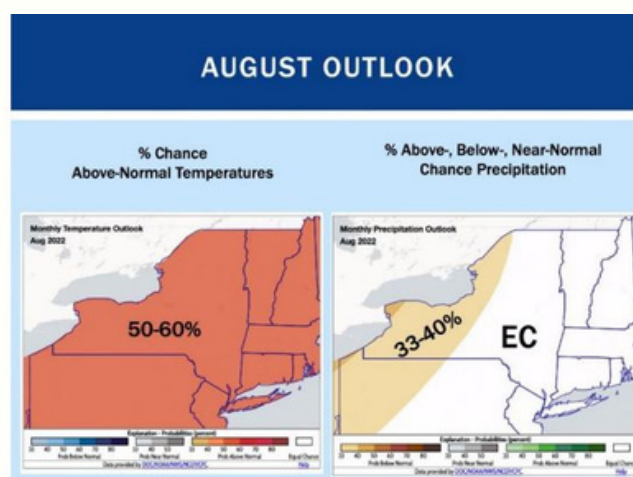
A program and funding partnership between Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga and Schoharie Counties.

Are you receiving the Central NY Field Crop Update?

Each week during the growing season (April through September), Erik produces a newsletter summarizing the week's farming conditions in the region, including growing degree days (GDD), the weather outlook, crop maturity, current pest and disease conditions and the relevant management strategies for that particular time, as well as any recent developments around the state or country that might have relevance to our region's field crop producers. This email is sent out via the CNYDLFC email list-serv, and reaches more than 1,800 inboxes each week.

If you would like to receive this publication, please send an email requesting at cnydlfc@cornell.edu.

	Week of:	25 July		
County	Town/Village	WBCW	TAW	FAW
Madison	Oneida	6		0
Herkimer	Poland	2		0
Montgomery	Canajoharie	1	0	
Saratoga	W. Charlton	12		1
Schoharie	Schoharie	6		0
Otsego	Index	0	0	
Chenango	Brisben	28	0	



Update on the NYFVI Precision Feed Management Grant!

Our team with Ashley as the Principle Investigator (PI) was awarded this grant from NYFVI (New York Farm Viability Institute), but it does not begin until December of 2022. This grant looks at nutrition, economics, & environmental impacts with grass fed beef cattle. We met in Cooperstown with the entire Delaware County Ag Staff about Precision Feeding for Beef Cattle because they are working on similar issues in the New York City Watershed. Their efforts have a high emphasis on environmental risks to water in NYC reservoirs. In years past several Cornell staff, our CNYDLFC team and the Delaware CCE staff worked on developing Precision Feeding benchmarks for Dairy Cattle. We hope to collaborate in a similar fashion with Precision Feeding for Beef Cattle. As with did with dairy, we hope to arrive at a common set of nutritional and environmental benchmarks that everyone in the New York Cornell Cooperative Extension system can agree upon.

The New Cornell Meat Pricing Calculator!

In April, Ashley McFarland conducted a two-hour workshop with Matt LeRoux for livestock producers to discuss the new and improved Meat Suite Meat Pricing Calculator. This project was funded by USDA Beginning Farmers and Rural Development Program in collaboration with Cornell and North Carolina State Extension.

During the workshop, folks learned about the original Meat Suite website and how it can benefit the producer and the consumer. The newest feature to www.meatsuite.com is the Meat Pricing Calculator for producers. This new development gives producers all the materials to assist them in pricing their products in one handy place. Within the calculator webpage, producers can find meat cut sheets, articles on price talks, data sheets for gathering the right data, and a video demo/overview from Matt LeRoux.

At the meeting in the Otsego County office, there were 14 producers in attendance. At the conclusion of the demonstration, a great discussion was had on how producers can use this resource for maximizing profitability in their farm business.



Farm Financial Peer Learning Circles

Over the spring and early summer, Nicole Tommell has been part of the Cornell Small Farms Farm Financial Peer Learning Circles. This program is a collaborative effort among Cornell Small Farms and Farm Business Management Specialists throughout the state.

This program connects new and beginning farms that are in business with teaching financial literacy. Our focus is on group lead meetings and individual one-on-one meetings to review daily operations, profit/loss statements, balance sheets and cashflow statements.

Nicole has been focusing on small dairy and diversified livestock operations that were awarded funding by an application process.

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Other Educational Activities: April - June 2022

- Delaware County PFM group met with our regional team to discuss the options of benchmarking for Beef Cattle.
- Dave, Ashley and Erik attended the Regional Team Retreat in Geneva, NY.
- Erik has begun monitoring area corn, soy, alfalfa, and small grain fields for insect pests and pathogens.
- On April 11th, Erik gave a lecture, Small Grain Production in NY, to Grace Armah-Agyman's Forage and Seed Crops class at SUNY Cobleskill.
- Dave participated in a number of webinars regarding climate and dairy production, cow comfort and milk markets.
- Nicole visited a Kosher Creamery and poultry processing facility in Bethel, NY to discuss the potential of a Kosher creamery in Upstate NY.
- Nicole attended the National Risk Management Conference in Omaha, NE. She collaborated with folks from across the US in extension.
- Nicole and Katelyn Walley-Stoll facilitated a mental health 3 part series with NY FarmNet for CCE Educators statewide. Very well attended.

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.
- The Precision Feeding for Beef Cattle grant through NYFVI was awarded to the CNY Team. It will commence fall of 2022 and will include topics on feeding, economics, & environmental impacts with grass fed beef cattle.
- 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
- SARE- Ashley has been working with SUNY Cobleskill on a grant they recently submitted for 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.
- SARE- Ashley, Dave and Erik are in the process of submitting a research grant to SARE for Altering livestock parturition date to ease the slaughterhouse squeeze.
- Nicole will be working with NY FarmNet to provide training on Mental Health First Aid in a statewide effort to local extension and public service folks.
- Plan the Dairy "Pieces of the Puzzle" programs in two to three locations in November 2022.

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