Robotic Farm Tour at Frontier Brook Farm

In June of 2022, Camila Lage, in partnership with Lisa Kempisty (CCE Chautauqua), hosted a "Robotic Farm Tour" at Frontier Brook Farm that drew 45 people from across SWNY, including farmers from Steuben, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Erie Counties. On this tour, farmers that adopted or are thinking about adopting AMS had an opportunity to tour the farm, talk to their peers about the new technology, interact with stakeholders and socialize over lunch.

National Association of Agricultural County Agents Professional Improvement Conference

In July of 2022, Katelyn Walley-Stoll attended the National Association of Agricultural County Agents Professional Improvement Conference and Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida. AM/PIC brings together hundreds of extension professionals working within agriculture for farm and industry tours, hardy trainings, professional improvement seminars, and award celebrations. While there, Katelyn received two communication and program development awards for her work on the CCE Farmer Tax School series and her monthly Dairy Market Watch publication.
Amy Barkley teaches processing and piecing out meat chickens at a farm as part of the NE-SARE Research and Education Grant, “Optimizing the Economic Return of Pasture-Raised Slow Growth and Conventional Broilers” (Right). This project follows 40 farmers across the state over two years to help them understand costs of production and how they can increase their production efficiencies. Katelyn Walley-Stoll will be analyzing economic data to create a statewide benchmark and cost of production enterprise budget. Nineteen of these farms are from SWNY. Teaching farmers how to process their own poultry on-farm can increase the efficiency and flexibility with their flocks. So far, the feedback from year 1 of the project has been overwhelmingly positive, with farms already making plans to make changes to increase their flocks’ efficiencies for next year.

Katelyn Miller and Amy Barkley worked with Elizabeth Buck of the Cornell Vegetable team to host a Cover Crop Field Day in Orchard Park at the Providence Farm Collective. With the help of Erie County Soil & Water and the staff at PFC, demonstration plots of sorghum-sudan, buckwheat, and teff were planted with a no-till drill to evaluate their suitability for short-term use in vegetable or vegetable-small ruminant settings. Those in attendance were able to see Erie County’s S&W drill and hear about their lending program, learn about resources available from NRCS and various incentives for cover cropping, and had the ability to network with various seed dealers, industry professionals, as well as each other. This demonstration provided insight into each crops’ ability to scavenge nutrients, suppress weeds and showcase drought tolerance, as well as create resources from crop samples which provided forage quality insight for livestock operations, and establishment BMPs for each crop, all of which will be a valuable grower resource. Currently, there is limited research surrounding these crops in both the vegetable and small ruminant industry allowing this field day to open the door for future research and connect individuals through great thought and conversation.