

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

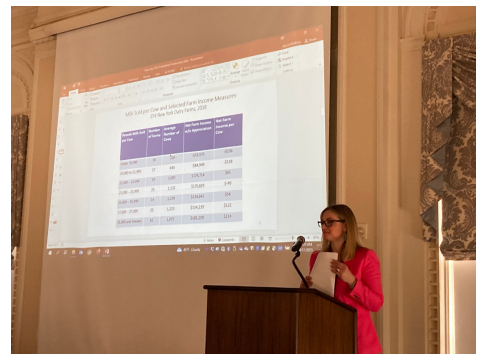
Third Quarter Report 2023

2023 CNY Dairy Day "Putting All the Pieces Together" Cooperstown, NY

Dairy Day was rescheduled due to a blizzard that impacted New York on the original scheduled date in March. The new date was April 11 and a record number attended, nearly 150 people. This year's program was different from most. Instead of information about new research, two local dairies that are achieving herd averages over 30,000 lbs. of milk on 2X milking presented information on how they managed their herds. The program was titled Putting All the Pieces Together! Nicole Tommell opened the program by providing information about economics and high production titled "Profitability~Productivity~ Data: The Other PPD.". In addition to the on-farm teams, their herd nutritionists and veterinarians also provided insights into how they work with these herds to achieve this high level of productivity.



Dave Balbian, Dairy Specialist moderating the farm session



Nicole Tommell, FBM Specialist discussing Dairy Economics

Modern Manure Management Technology

CNYDLFC is working with researchers from Cornell PRO-DAIRY, Illinois-based manure management technology company Newtrient, and Norwegian tech startup N2 Applied to study a novel manure treatment technology that aims to increase the crop-available nitrogen content of dairy manure while removing greenhouse gasses. A trial of the technology is taking place at a farm in Chenango County, where the CNYDLFC team members are helping to collect data and monitor the system through the trial phase.



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.



Precision Feeding for Grass Fed Beef Cattle



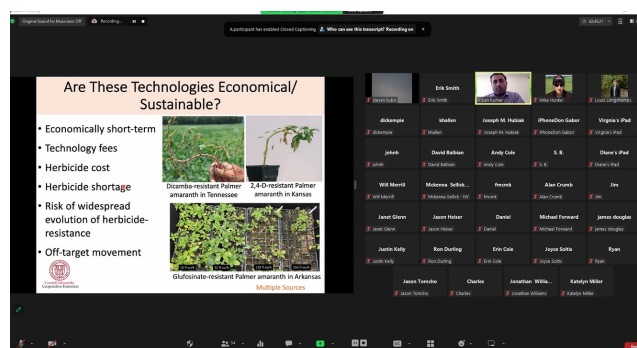
Ashley, Dave & Erik have continued to work on the NYFVI grant project. The delayed state budget has held up funding for NYFVI and that has delayed the official start date of the project. Initial data & forage analysis has been collected. A meeting was held for participants on June 1 at the Otsego County CCE office in Cooperstown to review the project goals, explain how to read a forage analysis and to review preliminary data & economics. The team and producers discussed the impacts of varying forage quality comparative to growth rates and cost per pound of gain. The meeting was recorded so those who were not in attendance could review the information at their leisure. Ashley & Dave also met via Zoom with two participating farms in southwestern New York along with their regional Livestock Specialist to review the same material covered at the June 1 meeting.

Spring Forage Quality Monitoring

The team conducted weekly first cutting alfalfa monitoring this spring on 50 fields across our region that provided our producers with detailed optimal harvest dates for lactating cow forage quality. Producers and Agribusiness Professionals look for this information every spring. 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. Hay crops were ready for harvest earlier than ever seen since beginning this effort many years ago.

2023 CNY Virtual Soybean and Small Grain IPM Congress

Field Crop Specialist Erik Smith hosted the Central NY Virtual Soybean and Small Grains IPM Congress on April 4th. Thirty attendees earned 2.0 DEC recertification credits and 2.5 CCA credits while hearing the latest management strategies for weeds, diseases and insect pests of soybeans and small grains, two crops that continue to increase in acreage and economic importance in our region. Dr. Gary Bergstrom, Cornell professor of field crop plant pathology, gave his final extension presentation before retiring and assuming a role as Professor Emeritus, while we welcomed Dr. Vipin Kumar, Cornell's newest field crop weed science professor. NYSIPM's Ken Wise discussed our efforts to launch a new project targeting cereal leaf beetle, which has re-emerged as an important pest of grain crops in recent years, Dr. Louis Longchamps discussed our project aimed at helping farmers make better sense of their data, and North Country extension specialist Mike Hunter shared his work identifying successful chemical weed management of roundup-resistant weeds.



Monitoring Potato Leafhopper in Alfalfa

Alfalfa is a major part of a dairy cow's diet on most farms, and potato leafhopper is the most damaging pest of alfalfa crops each year. With funding from the Chobani Community Impact Fund, Erik is working with CCE Chenango County to put sweepnets in the hands of local FFA members in an effort to expand our potato leafhopper monitoring efforts and teach our future farmers about Integrated Pest Management and how we use science to protect our crops and make informed crop management strategies. At least three area FFA chapters are partnering with us on this project, where timely leafhopper population data is shared with farmers to help them make effective management decisions.



Potato Leaf Hopper
adult and nymph

Beef Quality Assurance- Fonda, NY

Ashley held a Beef Quality Assurance training at the Montgomery Soil and Water office in April. There were 15 folks in attendance who consisted of dairy farmers or small and beginning beef producers.

There are two components to this training: short course in a classroom setting followed by a chute side training session. The total training is 2-4 hours in length.

Upon completion of the classroom setting, the group visited the Bo Eck farm in Amsterdam, NY. This farm recently purchased a corral and chute system to properly restrain their cattle. Due to the newness of the chute system, the group assisted the farmer in understanding the mechanics of the system. Once understood, the participants were taught proper injection site techniques. It was a great Saturday event despite the poor, rainy conditions.



Other Educational Activities: April 2023-June 2023

- Submitted an article for our team's newsletter about Cow Comfort from Miner Institute. (Balbian)
- Wrote an article about acting sooner than later regarding how to stretch forage supplies when one considers the dry or drought conditions we have been experiencing. (Balbian)
- Central NY Virtual Soybean and Small Grains IPM Congress on April 4th from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm via Zoom (Smith)
- As an invited speaker, Erik presented Weed ID and Management in Agricultural Systems on April 18th at CCE-Oneida County. This event was attended by 26 local farmers, master gardener volunteers, and residents.
- USDA - PARP/ ERP Training Meeting (Tommell)
- Value Added Producer Grant Training (April 5th) with guest Erika Gogis (Montgomery Co), most recent awardee of the grant funds. (Tommell)
- During the Month of May, Nicole attended the Harold D. Craft Leadership program at Cornell.
- On May 9th, Nicole served on the HFM BOCES Agriculture Program committee. This committee meets annually.
- Annual alfalfa height measurement throughout the region.

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. (Tommell)
- The Team is serving on the Grasstravaganza planning committee that is meeting routinely. The event will take place at SUNY Morrisville in July 2023.
- Work with Cornell Pro-Dairy in partnership with a private company that received a NYFVI grant to conduct experimental work on a manure storage to determine if methane and other greenhouse gasses can be reduced. (Balbian, Smith, McFarland, Tommell)
- Received grant funding with other FBM folks for AgFTAP for tax education- Fall 2023 (Tommell)
- Applying as Co-PI on organic /grazing dairy benchmarking with Mary Kate MacKenzie (Tommell)
- Organize and carry out a Hands-on Integrated Parasite Management training for small ruminants (McFarland)
- Organize and carry out a Hands-on training for beef cattle producers with a newly purchased injection simulator. The injection simulator was purchased by the NYS Beef Council to help demonstrate the proper techniques of giving injections. We are eager to be able to utilize this technology in our region.
- Erik will adjudicate the Crop Management section at the NY State Fair 4-H Dairy Quiz (Smith)
- Erik will adjudicate 4-H Entomology (pinned insect displays) at the NY State Fair (Smith)
- Erik will work with Dr. Louis Longchamps (Prof, Crop and Soil Sciences) on area farms to identify the effects of plant biostimulants (soil-applied microorganisms) on crop growth and yield (Smith)
- On August 9th, Erik will co-host a Plain Community crop meeting at a Montgomery County farm with CCE-ENYCH (Smith)

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