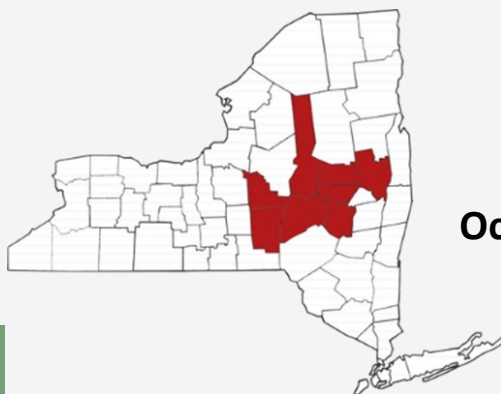


Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

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



2023 Annual Report

October 2022 - September 2023

Dairy Management

David Balbian

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.



The Statewide Dairy Specialists and Pro-Dairy organized and carried out 7 short webinars over the lunch hour for dairy producers, employees and advisors. Topics were Reproduction, Calves, Remodel or Build New, Drones for Feed Inventory, Looking Ahead, Milking and Integrated Barn Climate Systems. Dave spearheaded and hosted the last event.

Congratulations on
your retirement,
Dave!

Ashley, Erik and I
wish you much
happiness!



Alongside Statewide Dairy Specialists and Pro-Dairy the CNYDLFC team organized and carried out a calving & dystocia workshop for both English and Spanish speaking participants using a "model cow & calf" to depict various difficult birth situations and how to manage them. During this time, participants had the opportunity to practice various situations under the guidance of Dr. Rob Lynch, DVM. Both English and Spanish speakers gained knowledge through class/lecture and hands on learning depending on their specific needs!



2023
QUICK
STATS

2500+
Direct Producer Contact
(phone/text/on farm)
on topics related to Farm Business
Management, Field Crops, Dairy
Management, and Livestock Production.

830+
Event and program direct
participants who've attended one
of our many online and in person
events

219+
Newsletters, Mass Email and
Facebook posts providing timely
information to a large audience.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Field Crops and Forage

Erik Smith

Erik is leading a statewide group of CCE educators and specialists in another year of sampling soybean fields for this damaging pest. 15 fields were sampled across our region and up to 75 fields will be sampled across NY in our effort to monitor the spread of SCN and alert soybean growers to populations in their fields. Monitoring population levels is essential to cost-effective management, as SCN can cause up to 30% soybean yield loss with no above-ground symptoms, but low levels can be managed with resistant soybean varieties and crop rotation as opposed to more costly measures such as seed treatments.



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 worked with Emily Anderson of CCE Chenango County to put sweepnets in the hands of local FFA members. The goal of this project was to expand our potato leafhopper monitoring efforts and provide timely PLH population data and management recommendations with farmers, and teach our future farmers about Integrated Pest Management and how we use science to protect our crops and make informed crop management strategies. The team monitored 21 fields in 5 counties for 12 weeks from June through August.

Ashley McFarland and David Balbian organized an artificial insemination course for cattle at Insight Dairy, LLC, in Little Falls, NY. The course, led by John Jacobs from Select Sires, featured a classroom session covering the intricacies of reproduction. Additionally, there was a full day

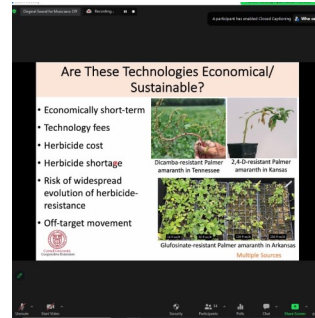
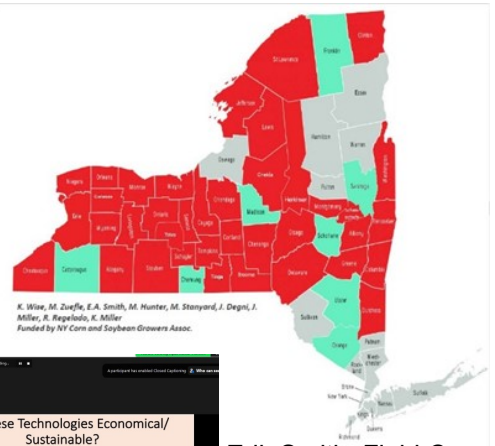


of hands-on training with live cattle, aiming to equip the 14 attending producers from across the state with the skills to perform artificial insemination on their own animals and understand the key steps for success.

In April, a Beef Quality Assurance training took place at the Montgomery Soil and Water office, drawing 15 attendees, including dairy farmers and small-scale beef producers. The training, spanning 2-4 hours, involved both a classroom session and a chute-side training. Post the classroom component, the group visited Bo Eck farm in Amsterdam, NY, which had recently acquired a corral and chute system for cattle restraint. Despite rainy conditions, the participants assisted the farmer in understanding the system's mechanics. The event concluded successfully, providing valuable insights on proper injection site techniques.



The FAMACHA method allows targeted treatment, reducing overall resistance. A workshop at the CCE Schoharie office in September, with 26 participants, addressed parasite management led by Rachel Moody from the CAAHP team and Ashley McFarland, regional livestock specialist for CNYDLFC.



Erik Smith, Field Crop Specialist, 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. The event covered the latest management

strategies for soybean and small grain pests. Dr. Gary Bergstrom gave his final extension presentation before retiring, and Dr. Vipin Kumar joined as the new field crop weed science professor. Topics included a project targeting cereal leaf beetle, data interpretation for farmers, and successful chemical weed management of roundup-resistant weeds by Mike Hunter, North Country extension specialist.

Livestock Management

Ashley McFarland



Farm Business Management

Nicole Tommell

A small group took part in the 4 week course designed to teach new and beginning farmers the basics of QuickBooks Desktop. During the course, the following topics were discussed: Chart of Accounts, Invoicing, Recording Expenses, Reconciling Accounts, Pulling Basic Reports, and Managing Vendors and Customers. This was a hands-on workshop where CNYDLFC provided pre-loaded laptops for folks participants to learn and ask questions in real time.

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2021-0027-34693.

Mental Health First Aid was a focus for 2023. Over the course of the year, a total of 3 programs were taught in our region. During the 8 hour program, students learn the signs and symptoms of mental health and how to approach and assist a person experiencing a mental health challenge. The program taught over 70 people from our region which included first responders, industry professionals and producers.



Over the course of the summer, CNYDLFC in conjunction with researchers from Cornell PRO-DAIRY, Illinois-based manure management technology company Newtrient, and Norwegian tech startup N2 Applied studied a novel manure treatment technology that aimed 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 the region. The CNYDLFC team members helped to collect data three times per week and monitor the system through the trial phase.



The team conducted weekly first cutting alfalfa monitoring this spring on 50 fields across our region providing producers with detailed optimal harvest dates for lactating cow forage quality. Producers and Agribusiness Professionals look for this information each spring as 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.

Whole Team Efforts



The NYFVI project faced delays due to the state budget, affecting funding and the project start date. Despite this, initial data and forage analyses have been collected. A summer meeting at the Cooperstown CCE office addressed project goals, explained forage analysis interpretation, and reviewed preliminary data. The focus was on assessing how varying forage quality impacts growth rates and cost per pound of gain.



During the month of March, the Farm Business Team created a three part series on understanding the tools needed to begin successful succession planning. The series delivered information on: Building a Strong Management Team, Assessing Your Business and Tax Management in Succession Planning. Each session was 1.5 hours and gave participants the opportunity to ask questions at the end. All materials gathered for the series are housed at www.farmbusiness.cornell.edu. Each participant received a link the recordings, PowerPoints and materials at the conclusion.



Connect with our Team!

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Central New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program provides free workshops, trainings, individual consultations, email and mailed newsletters, and research-based resources and information.



Nicole

Tommell

*Team Leader &
Farm Business
Management
Specialist*

315-867-6001
nt375@cornell.edu



Ashley

McFarland

*Livestock
Specialist*

315-604-2156
am2876@cornell.edu



Erik

Smith Ph.D.

*Field Crops
Specialist*

315-219-7786
eas56@cornell.edu

Jeff Case

(Chairman)
Chenango County

Timothy Cantwell

(Vice Chairman)
Otsego County

John Kellett

(Secretary)
Montgomery
County

Peter Kemmeren

Chenango County

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Schoharie County

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Saratoga County

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Madison County

Erik Haas

Madison County

Monica Cody

Madison County

Josh Lathrop

Chenango County

Peter Landre

Craig Trowbridge
CCE Regional Agri-
culture Programs
Cornell University

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