

Spring In To Field Crops!

Central NY Field Crop Update

From late April through the first half of October, Erik is sharing his weekly Central NY Field Crop Update email newsletter to subscribed producers and stakeholders (<1,800). Each week Erik shares his field notes, providing up-to-date information on field conditions, and the status of pests, diseases, and weeds, as well as timely harvest forecasting and weather information.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops
Field Crop Update June 07, 2024

1. Field observations and weather outlook
2. Growing Degree Days
3. Pest monitoring

1. Field Observations
By now, most of our corn and soybean crops are in the ground for the year, and are hopefully receiving some welcome rain over these next two days. Most soil around the region seems to have decent moisture at this point, but some acres may have missed the various hit-or-miss showers of late.

This week we'll start tracking Growing Degree Day units (GDD) for corn development. The planting season was especially drawn-out this year due to the intermittent rain, so we'll track planting dates of May 1, 10, 20, and 30 for most locations.

Potato leafhoppers have arrived and are above threshold in a few places, so be sure to check your crops. Alfalfa weevil populations are also quite high this year, and damage has reached economic thresholds in several places as well. It's only advantageous to spray weevils when damage is present on >50% of regrowth stems and when weevils are less than 1/2" long. Any larger, and sprays are a waste of money - you're better off harvesting early. See Section 3 for moth numbers.

U.S. Drought Monitor
New York
June 04, 2024
Valid 9 a.m. EDT

Submit any local dry/drought conditions to
NRCC: nrcc@cornell.edu

Alfalfa First Cutting Forage Quality

Each spring, CNYDLFC measures alfalfa heights in advance of first cutting to provide producers with accurate and timely estimates of forage quality and predicted cutting dates. First cutting is a producer's best chance to harvest top quality forage, so we are happy to provide this information each year. In 2024, we measured 51 fields for 4 weeks



Colgate/Upstate Inst./CNYDLFC intern Mary Thomas Powell sweeping for potato leafhoppers in alfalfa

Colgate University Upstate Institute intern joins CNYDLFC for the summer

The growing season is always a busy time in Extension, so the team was fortunate to have some very capable assistance this summer. Mary Thomas Powell (Mary Thomas, or MT for short) is a 3rd year Environmental Studies major at Colgate University and has been helping Erik with his field work by collecting project data and helping to compile it for the weekly CNY Field Crop Update emails. In addition to sweeping alfalfa fields for potato leafhoppers (and insect predators) and checking pheromone traps for corn pests, MT has accompanied Erik on farm visits, she's helped assess seedcorn maggot damage in soybean and corn seed treatment trials, and on her first day with the team, she collected cow manure samples for a dung beetle study. Thankfully she didn't let one crappy day dampen her enthusiasm for the work, because on July 25, she'll present data she's collected and analyzed on a soybean variety trial at the annual Upstate Institute Scholar poster session in Hamilton. She's been a fantastic intern this year, and we wish her well in her future studies and endeavors!

Seedcorn Maggot Population Dynamics and Seed Treatment Efficacy

With the ban of neonicotinoid insecticide seed treatments set to take effect on corn, soy, and grain crops in 2029, Erik has been heavily involved in Cornell's efforts to assess the threat that various insect pests pose to our field crops, and to identify viable alternative pest management strategies. Erik has arranged for twelve farms across our region to participate in seedcorn maggot-related studies funded by NYSDAM and NYSIPM. Adult seedcorn maggot populations were monitored this spring, through planting season, and seed treatment trials were conducted in 6 fields on 5 farms throughout the region. Erik is also heavily involved with planning the next phase of this work, to be conducted on at least 10 farms in our region for the next 3 years.



One of Erik's sticky card traps, deployed to monitor seedcorn maggot on a local farm (with two curious members of the public).



Students practicing AI technique

AI Training in Saratoga County!

Artificial insemination is a common reproductive technology that has had a profound effect on today's dairy genetics. It is a specialized skill that requires training and practice.

The CNYDLFC dairy and livestock specialists organized this hands-on practical artificial insemination event in collaboration with GENEX. Participants were able to practice the artificial insemination technique and gained knowledge on anatomy, physiology (estrus cycle), heat identification, reproductive protocols for synchronization or timed artificial insemination, and reproductive evaluation.

Participants rated the training as excellent with great professional teaching and guidance.

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.

Two Days of Dairy in 2024!



In April, the CNYDLFC Team hosted Dairy Day over 2 days in Otsego and Saratoga counties. The event was preplanned by Dave Balbian, retired dairy specialist. During the event, producers learned about forage quality from EV Thomas and Rick Grant, both retired nutritionists from the Minor Institute. Although retired, Ev and Rick currently contribute to the Hoard's Dairyman magazine staying well informed in their field.

Additionally, Ev owns a consulting firm for dairy producers based on their forages and rations.

During the 2-day event, over 100 producers participated and approximately 15 agri-businesses sponsored the event.



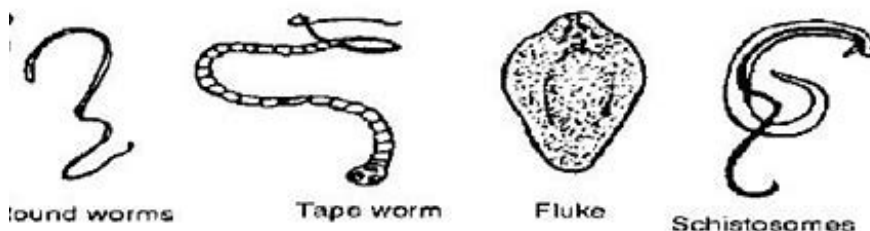
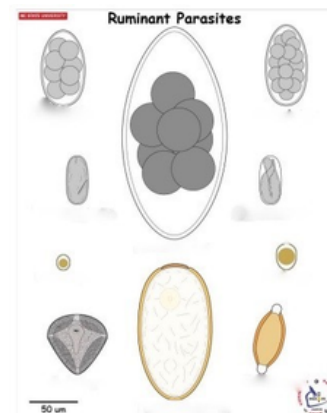
Although retired, Dave Balbian is up to his shenanigans with his choice of apparel!



Producers at Otesaga Hotel

Parasite Road Show For Small Ruminants!

Ashley McFarland and Rachel Moody from the CAAHP team held a fecal analysis road show. We had quite a few producers across the region participate in this workshop. At the workshop we looked at fecal's under microscopes to determine whether or not the producer should deworm their ruminants. We also identified the parasites we found.



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.

Other Educational Activities: April - June 2024

- The team continues work on the Forage Quality for Grass-fed Beef grant (NYFVI) by collecting forage samples and hosting producer meetings.
- Erik and the team conduct the annual Alfalfa First Cutting measurements around the region to provide area farms with timely harvest forecasts.
- Erik begins his weekly field season pest monitoring activities around the region.
- Erik hosts a high-oleic soybean variety trial at a local farm.
- Erik and Ashley are involved in a NYSIPM project researching dung beetle diversity on NY livestock farms, and investigating the effects of feed-through insecticides on dung insect communities.
- Nicole presented at the ERME (Extension Risk Management Conference) in Salt Lake City. She presented on teaching QuickBooks in a flipped classroom style.
- Nicole and Daniela continue to support all DAP funded grants with Pro-Dairy.

Future Grant and Project Activities:

- Ashley will organize and carry out a Hands-on training for beef cattle producers with a newly purchased injection simulator.
- In Fall/Winter 2024 Erik will host Integrated Pest Management meetings for growers in each of the region's CCE offices (1-2 DEC credits)
- Erik will host a high-oleic soybean variety trial at a local farm.
- Erik and Ashley will be involved in a NYSIPM project researching dung beetle diversity on NY livestock farms, and investigating the effects of feed-through insecticides on dung insect communities.
- Daniela will continue to support all DAP funded grants with Pro-Dairy.
- Ashley and Daniela will be hosting an Artificial Insemination class (English & Spanish), Summer 2024.
- A meeting on farm safety hazards with first responders and NYCAHM will be conducted Summer 2024.
- Nicole will be involved with CCE Broome's Farmers Market Grant with NERME - "Cultivating Profits"
- Daniela will be hosting a TLAER training in November 2024 at CCE Madison County for first responders.

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