

Central New York is Growing!

In January of 2024, Daniela Gonzalez Carranza began her career with the Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops as the Dairy Specialist. Daniela was born and raised in Mexico City. In 2018 she earned her degree in Veterinary Medicine and enlisted in the Mexican Army as Veterinarian Soldier working with dairy cattle for two years. Subsequently, she worked on a dairy farm as a veterinarian and manager. At the same time, Daniela began as an independent consultant, collaborating with small and medium dairy farms in the community, allowing her to gain experience and interest in extension work. Daniela's first year on the job has been eventful, meeting farmers, hosting events, and getting her hands dirty in the field. We can't wait to see more from her in 2025!



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.

The success of the two-day event inspired the team to use this format for both Dairy Day and Corn Day in 2025.



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



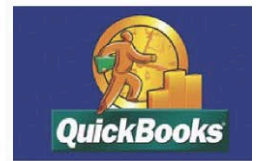
Producers at Otesaga Hotel

Small Grain Production

Field Crop Specialist Erik Smith and CAAHP Agronomist Aaron Gabriel co-hosted a second small grain production twilight meeting in Schoharie county in November, attended by 18 area producers. Growers learned what to look for when scouting fields before winter dormancy, assessing weed pressure, and the importance of soil health and fertility.



QuickBooks for Farmers



Over the course of six weeks, Nicole Tommell and Steve Hadcock taught producers the mechanics of QuickBooks through the Cornell Small Farms Program. This program is taught in a flipped style classroom setting where students are assigned weekly homework and videos to learn basics. During the classroom setting, participants learn the WHY behind accounting principles and receive answers on the material learned. Adult education in this style is far more appealing and thought provoking as participants learn by doing rather than by learn by watching examples.

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.



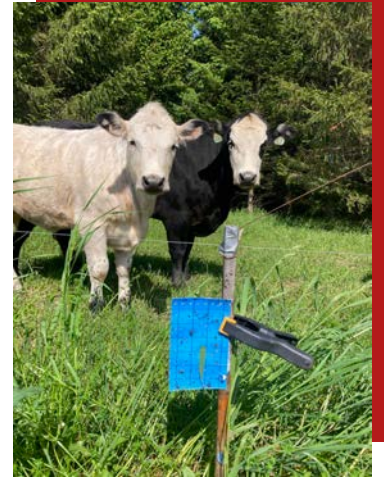
Colgate/Upstate Inst./CNYDLFC intern Mary Thomas Powell sweeping for potato leafhoppers in alfalfa

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 presented data she's collected and analyzed on a soybean variety trial at the annual Upstate Institute Scholar poster session in Hamilton.

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).

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.



FARM – Animal Care Program Madison and Schoharie Counties – March 15 & 22, 2024

The FARM program goal is to provide science-based standards to improve best management practices in different areas and, with this, show consumers and customers the continuous improvement of today's dairy industry. Several cooperatives and processors have joined this program as part of committing and demonstrating that farms are producing the safest and highest milk quality. With this, most farms have to adopt these standards to their farm management practices.

Dairy specialists identified a need to provide updates and continuing education on the best management practices in the five areas required by the program: calf care, non-ambulatory care, euthanasia, heifer stockmanship, and fitness for transport.

Regional specialists throughout the state organized this interactive and hands-on workshop in March 2024. For the Central New York region, the team offered the program at SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Morrisville dairy farms. The program had attendance from English and Spanish-speaking participants, with this, the team will continue to build a strong Spanish community for the next programs. Participants earned FARM continuing education and gave great feedback regarding the program topics and activities, as well as some suggestions for future programs.



Fecal Analysis Road Show: Morrisville, Norwich, Herkimer, and Cooperstown, NY

Rachel Moody and Ashley McFarland, Livestock Specialists, organized a roadshow across the CNY and Capital District regions for small ruminant producers. The roadshow included a fecal analysis lab where participants learned to examine fecal samples under a microscope to detect parasites. This lab complemented our focus on parasite detection in our FAMACHA workshops where we observed significant demand for this type of training. We were pleased with the attendance, considering it was our first time holding such a workshop.

Swine 101

The Swine 101 course, a collaborative effort between CCE, the National Pork Board, and NY Pork producers, was a resounding success. Held in Herkimer County on September 25th, the event attracted an enthusiastic crowd of 27 participants eager to learn about the swine industry. The comprehensive curriculum covered a wide range of essential topics, including swine marketing, understanding the Pork Check Off Program, biosecurity and foreign animal disease, health management, and parasite management.



Attendees had the opportunity to engage with industry experts, ask questions, and gain valuable insights into the latest advancements in swine production. The success of the Swine 101 course underscores the ongoing need for educational programs that support the growth and sustainability of the pork industry in New York.



Field Crop and Vegetable IPM on Plain Community Farms

Field Crop Specialist Erik Smith co-hosted this event with ENYCHP regional vegetable specialist Crystal Stewart-Courtens for one of the Plain communities in our area. Attendees earned 2.0 DEC recertification credits while hearing the latest management strategies for weeds, diseases and insect pests of their corn, small grains, vegetables, and forage crops. Because these events are held at working farms during the growing season, attendees see how to manage production issues as they arise. Plans are in place to hold this meeting at the same farm in 2025, and to expand this program to two more Plain community farms in other parts of Central NY.



ASPIRING FARMER

February 17, 2024



Cultivating Your Dreams in **Agriculture**

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program

Aspiring Farmer: Cultivating Your Dreams In Agriculture

In February, CNYDLFC partnered with the Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program (CAAHP) to host a beginning farmer workshop at Fulton–Montgomery Community College. The daylong event featured plenary sessions from Erik Smith (Reading Your Land to find inspiration for farming pursuits) and Steve Hadcock from CAAHP (Make Your Farm Enterprise a Business).

Over the course of the day, participants were invited to visit sessions on topics ranging from Marketing Farm Products to Ornamental Horticulture in a morning session and again in the afternoon. Adding to the experience, there were several sponsors and partners at the event. New producers were able to visit with Montgomery County Economic Development, Farm Service Agency, NY Center of Agricultural Health and Medicine (NYCAHM) and others!

We'd like to say a special thanks to Northeast Organic Farmers Association for their generous support.

Highlights of the Aspiring Farmer Program:

"I am a beginner farmer, and I was looking for lots of information and this provided me a very good segway into many unknown things in farming, related support and marketing."

"That you can do a farm on different levels i.e as a hobby, side hustle or main income. I also gained the confidence to start!"



Corn Dry-Down Day

Corn silage can represent more than 50% of a dairy cow's diet, directly affecting milk production on some farms. Farms have just one opportunity every year to plan ahead for next year's feed inventory. Corn needs a certain percentage of moisture to ferment and produce a high-quality silage.

Harvesting at an appropriate dry matter level (DM) is the most important factor in minimizing corn silage losses.

Corn losses are difficult to estimate, but some studies suggest that harvesting corn at 40% DM or greater can result in a decreased milk yield of 4.4 lbs per cow per day. On the other hand, if corn silage is too wet (less than 30% DM), some studies show that it can reduce milk production by almost 2 lbs per cow per day. For every 3,000 dairy cows, a 4.4 lbs loss would represent 13,200 lbs of milk per day, translating to an economic loss of \$981,000 dollars per year at a price of \$22.80 cwt.

The CNYDLFC team organized this Dry-Down event for farmers to bring corn samples and have them tested for moisture, starch, and protein content using NIR spectroscopy with the help of Cornell PRO-DAIRY.

The team processed 89 samples from different farms in our region, who were given an estimated harvest date to aim for their ideal balance of yield and DM.



Land Valuation and Lease Agreements

The month of January brought conversations of lease and land agreements. Our former Farm Business Management specialist, Nicole Tommell, presented the topic to a group of producers at the CCE Oneida Crop Congress. During this meeting, producers learned how to navigate local town assessors websites and understand the RP-305 process with the real property assessment.

To wrap up the month, a zoom meeting was held to elaborate on the topic. The meeting boasted over 130 registered participants with over 90 joining in for the hour long meeting. The meeting concluded with a question and answer session. This elicited great conversation from the participants.

Throughout the balance of the quarter, producers have had the opportunity to participate in a land rental survey. The survey sponsored by the NY Farm Viability Institute was published May of 2024.

ADDITIONAL LEASE COSTS TO CONSIDER?

- Property Taxes (***)
 - Has the RP 305 been submitted?
- Insurance expenses ?
 - Property
 - Rental Insurance/ Insurance Rider on Renting Farms Policy?
- Mortgage Interest
- Non-Financial Objectives – Land owner/ Lessee?

For Landowners

Looking your goals or public land use helps meet your ownership goal, and increase farming opportunities.

MONITOR the submissions

LEARN about the issues

ASSESS your situation, tax and needs

NEGOTIATE the agreement

EXPLORE your options

MAKING YOUR LAND AVAILABLE FOR FARMING.

FIND a farmer

SET your terms.

Land Good

© 2024 Land Good, Inc. All rights reserved. | 800-871-1000 | landgood.com



Central NY Field Crop Update

From late April through the first week 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 timely information on field conditions, and the status of pests, diseases, and weeds, as well as timely harvest forecasting and weather information. During the latter part of summer, the focus of the newsletter shifts to corn silage and helping farmers use Growing Degree Day units to predict when their fields might be ready for harvest.

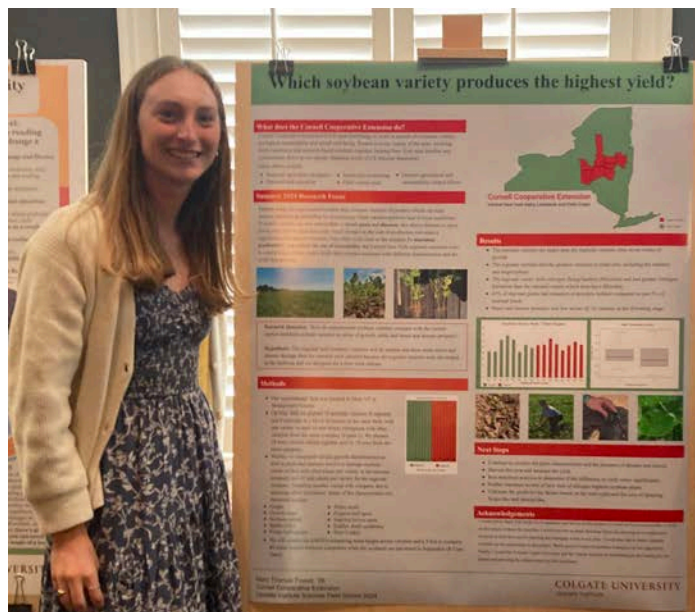
Time to make plans (35% DM anywhere between 5 – 11 days from now, depending on maturity)
Gas up the harvester and the trucks (35% DM in 2 – 3 days, depending on maturity)
See you in the field (35% DM in less than a week):
It's either already in the bunk or it's going for high-moisture corn or it's going in the bin for grain (DM likely > 35-40%)

As of: 11 Sept 2024 (Base: 86/50)			Planting Date				Silking Date				
Location	Elevation (ft)	Latitude N	May 1	May 10	May 20	May 30	July 14	July 18	July 22	July 26	July 30
Poland	675	43.23	2125	2051	1957	1797	990	899	833	756	679
Canastota	420	43.08	2356	2265	2147	1973	Past	997	927	839	760
Saratoga Springs	365	43.08	2334	2247	2140	1962	Past	999	926	839	753
Frankfort	530	43.03	2342	2257	2148	1947	Past	993	921	836	753
Galway	749	43.02	2226	2143	2040	1872	1036	939	871	791	709
St Johnsville	650	43	2153	2073	1978	1813	989	895	829	754	676
Fenner	1480	42.97	2094	2019	1929	1777	987	892	827	749	671
Fultonville	489	42.95	2289	2201	2095	1920	1048	950	879	798	714
Bouckville	1170	42.93	2095	2018	1930	1777	981	886	822	745	672
Richfield Springs	1580	42.85	2031	1956	1873	1719	943	851	790	718	646
Cherry Valley	758	42.81	1995	1923	1842	1689	923	833	773	701	630
Burlington	1959	42.72	1911	1837	1763	1623	894	808	751	683	618
Sherburne	1115	42.69	2147	2062	1972	1808	998	903	837	763	691
Cobleskill	937	42.68	2161	2077	1984	1821	1003	909	845	769	692
Oneonta	1107	42.47	1872	1898	1730	1593	881	795	740	673	613
Oxford	1499	42.4	1869	1796	1726	1591	883	798	742	676	611
Bainbridge	1000	42.3	1983	1902	1828	1683	934	843	782	711	645

This Growing Degree Day table comes from the September 12, 2024 edition of the Field Crop Update. Corn silage harvest is beginning for many producers in our region.

High-Oleic and Food-Grade Soybean Variety Trials

In a partnership with a regional seed company from the midwest, Erik facilitated a soybean variety trial at an area farm. While the seed company is only interested in yield data, our Colgate intern, Mary Thomas, tracked growth metrics and pest/disease data of their 8 varieties (along with 8 varieties from a national standard seed brand) in order to get a better picture of why certain varieties might eventually yield better than others. Harvest took place mid-October, but Mary Thomas was able to share her preliminary results at the Upstate Institute poster session in Hamilton on July 25th.



CNYDLFC was fortunate to have two outstanding interns this summer. Samantha Thompson (Iowa State, left) and Mary Thomas Powell (Colgate, right) were all-star additions to our regional team. Thank you both for helping our producers, and best of luck with your studies!

Meat Marketing Workshop



This fall, our livestock specialist and the Cornell Agricultural Marketing Research Program offered a series of workshops on meat processing and marketing topics in 6 locations around Central and Eastern NY. The series was funded by the Northeast Risk Management Education program (NERME). Consumer demand for locally raised meats, sourced directly from the farm, spiked in 2020 as consumers faced pandemic-induced grocery store shortages and price increases. Market demand remains strong as consumers appreciate the quality and value when they purchase meat from local farms. While new demand presents an opportunity for NY's livestock farmers, selling meat direct-to-consumer also presents challenges and risks. This workshop taught producers how to avoid and address common challenges they encounter with meat processing and direct-to-consumer meat marketing.

The presentation series coincided with the announcement of the new Meat Processor Directory, an addition to the MeatSuite.com directory of bulk meat farm products. The workshops addressed a variety of topics, including:

- Evaluating Livestock for Ideal Harvest Timing
- Livestock Handling & Delivery for Meat Quality
- How to Work with your Processor & Navigate Difficult Situations
- Carcass Math Break-Down & Pricing
- How Much Value does Value-added Add?
- Creating Consumer and Processor-friendly Bulk Meat Sales

Presenters included Matt LeRoux, Extension Associate at Cornell's Agricultural Marketing Research Program and, from North Carolina State University's meat-focused "NC Choices" program, Sarah Blacklin, Director, and Lee Menius, Technical Specialist.

We were extremely pleased to have offered this program in our region and were happy to have almost 50 people in attendance.

Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue



Agriculture is a major contributor to New York's economy. Most agriculture is done in rural areas, which can lead to disaster emergencies due to weather, roads, or other factors. Having experienced personnel as well as a team to prepare, prevent, and respond to these disasters is a need. The CNYDLFC team organized a "Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue program". The goal of this program was to bring awareness to rural emergencies and disasters that involve large animals. The target audience was not only farmers or owners of large animals, but firefighters and emergency responders to understand and discuss priorities, roles, and considerations from all perspectives. We had a great turnout with a total of more than 50 people. This was a two-day course where we also collaborated with SUNY Morrisville Equine Rehabilitation Center and had hands-on activities.

Grant-Funded Research

The Beef with Dung Beetles and Biting Flies

Ashley, Daniela, and Erik are working with NYSIPM and the University of Vermont on a study of dung beetle and biting fly populations on beef farms. This work will help local producers manage biting flies while maintaining populations of beneficial insects like dung beetles.

Precision Feeding for Grass Fed Beef

Ashley and Erik are continuing to work on this NYFVI-funded project that seeks to better equip grass-fed beef producers to manage the quality of their pastures and stored feed. This grant will end in the spring of 2025.

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. Seed treatment trials were conducted in 5 fields around our region this year, and final yield data was collected prior to silage harvest. Through this fall, Erik will continue to monitor seedcorn maggot populations via sticky card traps at one field location. 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.

Other Educational Activities in 2024

- Webinar series (January through March) with different topics on farm management and efficiency.
- The 2024 edition of Grasstravaganza was held at SUNY Morrisville on March 9th. CNYDLFC were members of the planning committee, and Erik led a breakout session on pasture and livestock entomology with Ken Wise (NYSIPM Livestock Specialist).
- On February 28th, Erik hosted two grower meetings focused on weed management.
- Annual Corn Day was held on February 21, 2024 at the Otesaga Hotel, there were 96 people in attendance.
- NYSDEC Pesticide Applicator Exam Prep Course on March 27 & 29, 2024 with CCE Madison Ag Educator, MaryEllen Sheehan.
- CNYDLFC specialists met with the CCE Madison Advisory Board to discuss programming efforts.
- Erik and Nicole met with the Schoharie County Board of Directors to discuss programming efforts.
- AgFTap program for farm succession planning in Orange, Schoharie, Saratoga and Oneida Counties.
- Nicole and Daniela continued to support all DAP funded grants with Pro-Dairy.
- AWDC meeting in Syracuse, NY to discuss human resource, labor issues and farm worker housing.
- Montgomery County MCAMP grant classes to 15 people consisting on 2 - 2 hour trainings.
- NAP (Non- Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) for farmers in English and Spanish zoom meeting.
- Baskets to Pallets Workshop (10 hours of instruction) using the Cornell Small Farms curriculum online.
- Ashley has been working with statewide groups to formulate pork supply plans if/ when ASF (African swine fever) hits the US.
- Ashley and Daniela participated in the NY State Fair at the livestock Birthing Center
- Daniela organized a Calving Workshop focused on addressing dystocia at calving.
- Daniela provided training on milk quality and milking routines in different dairy farms.
- Daniela contributed to a monthly podcast with regional specialists statewide
- Daniela presented on Hypocalcemia on the Fresh Cow Disease Webinar Series.
- Erik was invited to adjudicate the Field Crop/Agronomy station at the NY State 4H Dairy Quiz at the State Fair in Syracuse.
- Erik was an invited speaker at an equine feed and nutrition event in South Minden, NY, sponsored by DAC Vitamins and Minerals. Erik presented on pasture/hay production management and weed control.
- Daniela delivered Milk Quality training at farms throughout the region.
- Daniela provided "Dairy and Poultry Farm Operations and Workforce Considerations for H5N1 Response" training for NYS Department of Health.

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.

On the Agenda for 2025

- Dairy Day will be held in two locations, Hamilton (1/7) and Ballston Spa (1/8)
- Corn day will get a soybean boost: Central NY Corn & Soybean Day will be held in Hamilton (1/14) and Ballston Spa (1/15)
- The team will finalize work on the Forage Quality for Grass-fed Beef grant (NYFVI) by hosting producer meetings.
- Daniela will be working on a dairy webinar series, "To Keep or Not To Keep" Every Tuesday at noon from January 21st through March 4th.
- In March, Erik will host Integrated Pest Management meetings for growers in each of the region's CCE offices (1-2 DEC credits)
- Daniela will host two Transition Calf meetings in March, accompanied by Melissa Cantor from Penn State.
- Ashley will hold a Fecal Road Show in April in Morrisville and Schoharie.
- Erik and the team will conduct our annual Alfalfa First Cutting measurements around the region to provide area farms with timely harvest forecasts.
- Erik will once again begin his weekly field season pest monitoring activities around the region, providing information for his weekly Field Crop Update email newsletter.
- Ashley will hold Intro to Swine Production workshops in Madison, Chenango, and Saratoga Counties.
- Daniela will continue to support all DAP funded grants with Pro-Dairy.
- The team will be hosting an Ag Summit with our county ag educators in the summer of 2025.
- Erik will team up with local and regional Ag educators to conduct IPM Field Walks for DEC credit on Plain Community farms around the region.
- Daniela and Erik will hold at least one Corn Silage Dry-Down event in the region for small dairies.

**Daniela Gonzalez
Carranza, MPS**

Dairy Specialist
Phone: 315-749-3486
Email: dg647@cornell.edu

**Ashley McFarland,
PAS**

Livestock Specialist
Phone: 315-604-2156
Email: am2876@cornell.edu

Erik Smith, Ph.D.

Field Crops Specialist
Team Leader
Phone: 315-219-7786
Email: eas56@cornell.edu

**Website: cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu
Facebook Page: [facebook.com/cnydfc](https://www.facebook.com/cnydfc)
Join our E-mail list: <http://eepurl.com/hh3vBj>**
