

CORNELL NWNYS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS JULY –SEPTEMBER 2014

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Genesee, Livingston, Monroe,
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& Yates Counties*

Team Finds New Soybean Disease in NWNYS

The team collaborated on the assessment and diagnosis of soilborne diseases of soybean in NY as part of a statewide grant project funded by the NY Soybean Checkoff and coordinated by Dr. Gary Bergstrom at Cornell. The cool wet weather in 2014 was perfect growing conditions for many soybean diseases. Plant samples from seven NWNYS counties (<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=zJbpRKD0XqxU.k4sjaYlo9sel&authuser=0&hl=en>) were taken and submitted to Cornell at three growth stages during the season for diagnosis. Pathogens identified included: Brown Stem Rot, Phytophthora Root Rot, White Mold, Cercospora Leaf Blight, Brown Spot, Frogeye Leaf Spot, Downy Mildew, Soybean Vein Necrosis Virus, Bacterial Pustule and Bacterial Blight. Surprisingly, our plant samples submitted on August 25 were diagnosed with Northern Stem Canker. This is the first time that this fungus has been reported in NY. Cornell has since put out a detailed article on this disease which can be found on our webpage (<http://www.nwnyteam.org/submission.php?id=455&crumb=grains> [3]). We will educate producers how to best manage this new soybean disease at Soybean and Small Grains Congresses and invited industry meetings this winter.



Northern Stem Canker

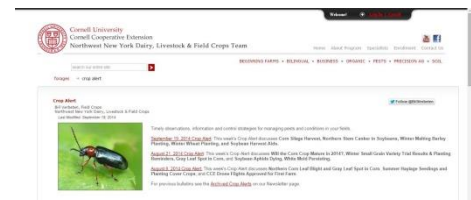
Yates Farm Safety Day

Farm safety is always a concern. Many operations are family-run with children involved at an early age. The NWNYS Team partnered with Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District to present at the 3rd Biennial Yates Farm Safety Day. Some of the topics were safe use of: bikes on the road, lawn mowers, chainsaws, tractors, and wagons and grain bins in 20-minute, round robin sessions. Our topic covered was manure and silo gas safety, a hot topic in the county. The use of gypsum bedding has increased the amount of hydrogen sulfide gas released from lagoons during agitation and some serious accidents have occurred. The team has worked closely with YCSWCD to provide further education on this topic. 315 people young and old attended the all-day event. Participants found the information very useful. A quote from one of the participants, "Maybe the best one (session) was manure & silo gas because our son is the one that was on the manure tanker and fell off this summer. God's protecting hand was over him."



Crop Alerts Keep NWNYS Growers Informed

Currently 17 Crop Alerts have been sent to over 800 farmers, consultants, and members of the agriculture industry during the 2014 growing season, <http://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/newsletter.php>. These bulletins cover a wide range of topics including pest & disease outbreaks, weather impacts on crop management, timely management tips & reminders, and upcoming events. The farming community continues to express their gratitude for these updates as a trusted source of information.



Cost of Manure Injection on Dairy Farms

Dairy producers in NY make decisions regarding manure rates, timing, location, and application method while attempting to achieve financial, environmental, underlying production, and other objectives. Environmental objectives include those related to CAFO regulations, and those related to desires to control odors, a very important objective for some producers. An area of particular interest relates to manure application method, specifically manure injection versus surface application.



The NWNY Team worked as part of a statewide, on farm research project group that included producer collaborators to develop analyses, seeking to answer the following question -- What is the expected change in profit associated with the change to manure injection from surface application?

Expected changes in annual profit were negative, -\$7,476, -\$7,245, and -\$1,798, for three example dairy farms, 500, 1000, and 2000 cows, respectively. Magnitudes of the expected changes are not large when compared to typical profit levels by farm size. Producers noted the advantages of manure injection with respect to odor control versus surface applications and would likely accept these changes in performance. Injection of dairy manure also requires additional investment in equipment when compared to traditional surface application methods. Producer collaborators noted additional capital investment requirements for injection tools ranging from \$20,000 to about \$55,000, depending upon equipment size.

Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP) a Boon for Local Farms

DAP is a partnership between the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that was announced in 2013. Through the program, farms can be awarded funding to help cover the cost of a business plan focused on growth, design of new or remodeled facilities or development of environmental and farmstead plans. When DAP was announced in the summer of 2013, dairy and farm business specialists jumped on board to help eligible farms apply for funding.



One look at these relaxed cows tells you how much they like their new waterbeds.

So far the NWNY Team has been involved in ten DAP projects with two more pending approval. Team members have served as facilitators and business planners for the projects. One especially successful project was with Loho Farms LLC in Niagara County. They received funding to develop a farm business plan, which helped them define two major goals: improve the farm's financial viability through increasing profitability and cash flow and to improve labor efficiency. Two major improvements they have made towards those goals to date include barn renovations that have resulted in a 15 lb. increase in milk production and milking parlor renovations that have cut milking time by one hour per shift.

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