

# QUARTERLY REPORT

First Quarter 2025

## 2025 Dairy Day in Madison & Saratoga County

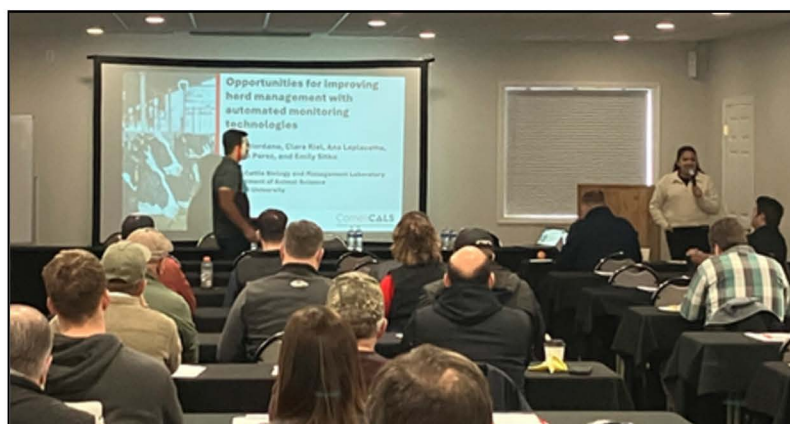
Farms can benefit from having access to new information and research on different management practices that could represent a profitable strategy for their farms.

Dairy farms depend on quality feed to maximize milk, and new opportunities with High Oleic Soybeans have been of interest to dairy farms. This feed could represent an opportunity for low-cost diets and at the same time, a feed that can increase milk fat without too much risk of milk fat depression.

On the other hand, automated monitoring technologies are more common in dairy herds, depending on the farm management, this could represent an advantage on labor costs, increased reproduction efficiency, and more importantly, prompt care for sick cows.

The CNYDLFC team organized an event for farmers to hear from Cornell University professors, extension agents, and industry experts. The event also included a farmer panel, where farms that have already adopted these strategies could share their experiences and expertise with the rest of the audience.

The event was held in two different locations, with a total attendance of more than 140 attendees.



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# Central NY Corn and Soybean Day

Central NY Corn Day got a soybean boost for the first time this year, as Field Crops Specialist Erik Smith was keen on expanding the focus of his annual crop congress. Also new this year was a change in venue, as Central NY Corn & Soybean Day was held in both Hamilton and Ballston Spa. Nearly 100 total attendees heard talks featuring updates and management information for the latest invasive corn diseases to strike NY, tar spot and corn stunt, as well as management strategies for invasive, herbicide resistant weeds in soybeans and corn. Olivia Godber, of the Nutrient Management SPEAR Program, discussed her work on soil nutrient balances in NY farm fields. We also heard from DEC specialists on how to effectively manage vertebrate pests like deer, bear, and birds on farms.



*Dr. Olivia Godber speaks to attendees at Central NY Corn & Soybean Day, held at the White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton.*

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## 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 are set to be conducted in 12 fields around our region this year, including a demonstration plot at SUNY Cobleskill, which will investigate and show how different cropping strategies affect seedcorn maggot pressure and damage.

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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.

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# Field Crop & Vegetable IPM Roadshow

This spring, CNYDLFC teamed up with the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program and CCE of Madison County to take their show on the road. Between March 25–28, the Field Crop & Vegetable IPM Roadshow was held in seven locations throughout Central NY and the Mohawk Valley region, focused on equipping crop farmers with the latest Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies for insect pests, diseases, and weeds. A few of the topics discussed by Erik Smith, Regional Field Crop Specialist, were the identification and management of invasive weeds like Palmer amaranth and tall waterhemp, and crop diseases like fusarium head blight of small grains. He also provided updates on seedcorn maggot research, and updates on the spread of corn tar spot and NY's newest corn pathogen, corn stunt. Regional Vegetable Specialist, Crystal Stewart-Courtens, and Madison County Agricultural and Horticulture Resource Educator, Mary Ellen Sheehan, discussed IPM in sweet corn and pumpkins, including updated weed control recommendations, variety recommendations, and spray programs for insects and diseases in both crops. A surprise attendee at our Cobleskill location was the NY State Commissioner of Agriculture, Richard Ball, who was one of nearly 70 who attended this program across all 7 locations.



*Dr. Erik Smith, speaking about weed biology and Integrated Pest Management principles to a group of farmers at the Field Crop and Vegetable IPM Roadshow in Cobleskill.*

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## Precision Feeding for Grass Fed Beef

Ashley, and Erik are working on the NYFVI grant project. The delayed state budget held up funding for the NYFVI. Even though we have begun work on this grant, details on reporting benchmarks and producer meetings have been delayed and the grant will now be complete in the spring of 2025.

## Other Educational Activities: January - March 2025

- Organized a 7 week webinar series from January -March about dairy welfare and longevity. (Gonzalez)
- Provided training on milk quality and milking routines in different dairy farms. (Gonzalez)
- Held a presentation about new research on colostrum with Dr. Melissa Cantor from Penn State University, 21 producers attended. (Gonzalez)
- Presented a module on "Ag Supervisory Leadership certificate" in Spanish. (Gonzalez)
- Individual assistance, questions and issues centered on dairy alternatives, livestock grazing opportunities, and overall, the livestock industry (McFarland)
- Assisting with pork supply plans if/when ASF (African Swine Fever) hits the U.S. (McFarland)
- Guest lecturer at SUNY Cobleskill, speaking to students about growing small grains in NY. (Smith)

## Future Grant and Project Activities:

- The team will once again measure alfalfa crops at more than 50 field sites as a part of their annual First Cutting Forage Quality program.
- The team will welcome Heer Patel, their full time program aide.
- Daniela will hold forage and herb inventory meetings.
- Daniela will hold an Artificial Insemination Course.
- Daniela will conduct an in-person ag workforce development module.
- Erik will begin his corn pest pheromone trap program, as well as the weekly Field crop Update e-newsletter.
- Ashley and Erik will continue to work on their grant-funded project investigating forage quality and finishing metrics in beef.
- Ashley will be hosting a hands-on Integrated Parasite Management Training for small ruminants.
- Ashley will be hosting 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. They are eager to be able to utilize this technology in the region.
- Ashley will hold Swine 101 workshops across the region in May.
- Ashley will host a workshop in conjunction with CCE Otsego & Schoharie Counties regarding finishing livestock.
- Ashley will host a workshop on Farm Products and how to sell them with Matt Leroux.
- Ashley will be hosting a weeklong workshop on weighing livestock on farms.
- Ashley will be hosting a workshop with Pro-Livestock on pasture management.
- Ashley will be hosting a Fencing 101 hands on workshop.

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