

## CORNELL NWNYS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS JULY – SEPTEMBER 2016

*Serving:  
Genesee, Livingston, Monroe,  
Niagara, Ontario, Orleans,  
Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming,  
& Yates Counties*

### Helping the Next Generation Learn about Extension

The summer of 2016 was busier than usual for the NWNYS Team. Five interns worked with the team covering projects from artificial insemination with beef heifers to precision agriculture. Three of these were through Cornell's CALS/CCE Internship program, one was completing college requirements, and one was grant-funded summer employment.

Chelsey Downs was completing internship requirements for SUNY Morrisville. She worked on the Beef Farm Business Summary program with farm business management specialist Joan Petzen. Peter Bertoldo was a malting barley pest management scout working with field crops specialist Mike Stanyard.

Dennis Atiyeh, Brooke Ryan, and Lindsey Chamberlain are all Cornell students in CALS (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences). Team members worked with a faculty member to develop proposals and students applied late winter. Interns were paired with faculty and team members to complete their projects. Brooke worked with collecting surveys on dairies with bilingual dairy specialist Libby Eiholzer; Dennis worked on estrous synchronization and artificial insemination with a beef farm and small farms specialist Nancy Glazier. Lindsay Chamberlain worked with precision agriculture technologies with Mike Stanyard.

The CALS interns recently put together a poster for display and provided a short overview of their projects. There were 35 interns involved with projects last summer across the state. The overall theme was the important connections they made and the practical 'field' knowledge they learned. "I enjoy working in an applied research environment," Lindsay said. "I think the best way to get information to growers is by making personal connections – get them involved and talking to researchers."

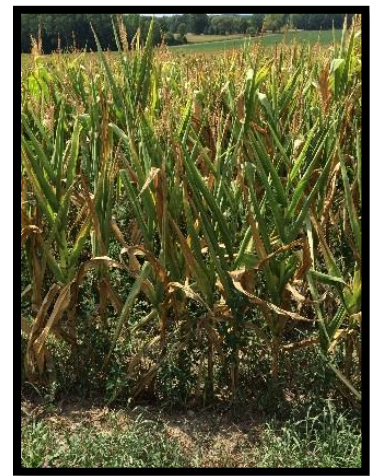
### Working through the Drought of 2016

In counties served by the NWNYS team, the hot, dry summer of 2016 challenged producers' abilities to produce adequate quality forages. Farm business owners sought information regarding best management practices for harvesting, storing and feeding forages, and other best management practices that might help them achieve farm business objectives over the next several months.

For the September 2016 issue of [AgFocus](#) titled, "Working through the Drought of 2016," team members researched and wrote on a variety of topics focusing on best management practices for conserving every ton of forage that can be harvested. Writers also addressed opportunities for producing additional forages.

Approximately 645 readers of the September 2016 issue of [AgFocus](#) learned about the following.

- Ways to tighten up management of harvest, storage and feed out to minimize feed shrink, including the possibility of covering trucks.



- Best management practices including: tips for assessing where you are now and expect to be with respect to forage inventories; suggestions for maintaining quality, including proper cutting heights; and others.
- Balancing livestock numbers with available feed supply.
- Growing winter cereals, for example, triticale, for spring harvest as forage.
- Fall 2016 corn silage price estimates that reflect scarcity of production relative to demand.

Resources were shared with NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and highlighted in their recent Drought Resources guide, [http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/Drought\\_Resource\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/Drought_Resource_Guide.pdf).

### **Tactical Ag Teams: Educating the Next Generation of Corn Growers**

Tactical Ag Teams (TAg) have been a staple for hands-on grower education in NWNy for 16 years. For a second year in a row, we focused on field corn. With an estimated 660 thousand acres of corn grain planted this spring in NY, continued education to maximize production is desired by producers. This year a young group of seven corn producers was assembled in Seneca County who collectively grew and managed 3,200 acres of corn grain on their family farms. This was a unique TAg as it was requested by many of the participants' parents, most who had been through the TAg program 15 years ago.

Participants completed twelve hours of in-field and classroom training covering crop production and IPM practices with a focus on weed, disease, and insect pest sampling and management. At each of the 6 meetings, a field guide and handouts were utilized and assembled in a folder for future reference. Each meeting was at a different participants' farm to view a variety of production scenarios with a hands-on approach.



Participating producers benefited from the educational materials and timely sampling techniques to make the most economical crop and pest management decisions to maximize their corn production. Participants learned how to correctly identify, sample, assess and apply different management tools on potential corn pests and make management decisions based on economic thresholds. Pre and post-tests were given at the first and last meetings of the season. Collectively, participants increased their general knowledge of corn management from 37% to 78%; an increase of 52%. All participants highly agreed that this program helps growers understand the importance of pest and crop management issues and they all would highly recommend this program to other corn producers.

### *Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.