



Corn Silage Pre Harvest Meetings

Getting the most feed value out of home grown corn silage can help dairy farms get improved performance from their herd while also lowering their dependence on purchased feed. Harvesting with adequate processing and at the right stage of maturity is extremely important, so Dave put on a series of clinics on five farms in August just prior to harvest with 29 people attending.



Malting Barley Management Project



2-row malting barley head.

Kevin is working with three other CCE educators from across the state who have taken on the responsibility for conducting a statewide survey of grower practices. They have put together management information on malting barley that can be found at:

<https://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/small-grains/malting-barley>

Funding from NY State Ag and Markets and the Genesee Valley Regional Marketing Authority made this work possible.

Milk Marketing WebEx Program

Given current low milk prices producers were given the opportunity to interact with our Cornell Milk Marketing Specialist Andy Novakavic through WebEx technology at various CCE offices in the region. Topics included Market Outlook, Patterns in Milk Production Growth and Trends in Dairy Food Consumption. There was also time for questions and answers of participants.

Summer Dairy Reproduction Update

A Summer Dairy Reproduction Update was held on a local dairy farm in mid-June. This new research by Dr. Julio Giordano at Cornell helps dairy producers optimize their herd reproductive efficiency. Thirty producers got to hear about ways to enhance repro performance like how to select the ideal voluntary waiting period.



Matias Stangaferro, a PhD student at the Cornell Dairy Cattle Biology & Management Lab discussing dairy reproduction research.

Central New York Dairy Day...

Cow comfort was the main focus of this year's Dairy Day held at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown in March. Featured speakers were Dan McFarland, Penn State Extension Ag. Engineer discussing cow comfort in tie stall facilities and Dr. Heather Dann of Miner Institute describing how to optimize cow comfort in free stall facilities. A producer panel, which proved to be very popular featured four farms that had made improvements to cow comfort and described their results. The over 100 in attendance were also able to interact with vendors at a trade show.



Dr. Heather Dann of Miner Institute answers a question about cow comfort at the Central NY Dairy Day during the panel discussion

and Corn Day!

The Corn Day is also held at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown in February. The over 100 in attendance learned more about no-till production, customizing variable rate seeding prescriptions based on field specific properties and how to control corn diseases and western bean cutworm.

Field Crop Pest Management Meetings

Kevin conducted meetings at all of the CCE offices in the region to review pest management problems from 2015 and highlight areas of pest control field crop growers need to consider in the future. James Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist, with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health gave a general overview of the types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that may be required to safely apply pesticides, meeting changes to the Worker Protection Standard. The one hundred and two in attendance also received DEC pesticide applicator recertification credits which are needed to maintain their licenses.

Dairy Acceleration Program

The Dairy Acceleration Program, under Governor Cuomo's leadership, and in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation look to assist farms with planning for the future. Since the program began the team has provided facilitation for 19 dairy farms that received funding. This past year 5 farms have done Business Plans and 4 of the 5 are working on Environmental Improvement plans. Three of these 5 farms are now building new barns.



New York Farm Viability Institute Income Over Feed Cost Grant

Dave continues to lead this grant with three groups of seven producers focusing on improving dairy farm profitability. Each farm provides information so a series of benchmarks can be calculated to show the feeding performance on their farm. The producer groups then meet and use their own info on feeding performance and costs in the same format as other participants allowing for easier and more useful discussions.



Spring Forage Quality



For the past 13 years the Central New York Dairy and Field Crops team has monitored the quality of first cutting hay crop in the field to give producers a better idea of when they should begin harvest. Alfalfa height is a good indicator of alfalfa and grass quality.

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