



Educational Activities

Summer Dairy Reproduction Update

A Summer Dairy Reproduction Update was held on a local dairy farm in the evening. 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. (Balbian)



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

Spring Forage Quality Monitoring

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. This year the team coordinated efforts with local Ag staff in Saratoga and Otsego Counties to more effectively cover farms. Above average temperatures got things moving quickly, but a quick turnaround to below average temperatures and frost slowed things down. (Balbian, Ganoe, Gibson Schmidt and Shoen)

Current Projects and Grants

Malting Barley Management Project

With funding from NY State Ag and Markets and the Genesee Valley Regional Marketing Authority four CCE educators from across the state, one of which is Kevin, have taken responsibility for putting together management information on malting barley. That information can be found at:

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

(Ganoe)

New York Farm Viability Institute Income Over Feed Cost Grant.

Dave continues to lead this grant with the participating producer groups having met for the 3rd time. The fact that producers can use their own info on feeding performance and costs in the same format as other participants allows for easier and more useful discussions.



2 row malting barley head

Speaking Opportunities:

Kevin provided information at a beef pasture walk in Otesgo County on how to improve pasture quality and yield.

In-service & Professional Development:

Dave attended the Herd Health & Nutrition Conference held in Syracuse. This is an annual event that attracts mainly veterinarians and agribusiness. (Balbian)

Dave attended the Advanced Dairy Nutrition Short Course held at Cornell. This four day event provided current updates in Dairy Nutrition and also insights into the CNCPS (Cornell Net Carbohydrate & Protein System) Model for ration analysis and balancing. This program is used around the world and is seen as the most advanced and dynamic ration balancing program that exists today. (Balbian)

Dave attended the MAC (Mid Atlantic Conference) for dairy educators at Cornell. It's typically a two day event held in Pennsylvania, but budget issues in Pennsylvania caused it to be held at Cornell under a new one day format. (Balbian)

Kevin attended the Franklin Covey 5 Choices to Extraordinary Productivity training at Cornell. An in-service aimed learning how to set priorities to work more efficiently. Also considerable time devoted to utilizing software and apps for time management and organization. (Ganoe)

Emerging Issues and Individual Assistance

Dave continues to work with farms on the Dairy Acceleration Program. Continue to coordinate and work with these farms to keep the process moving. (Balbian)

Individual assistance was provided to two farms contemplating the installation of robotic milkers. (Balbian)

Newsletters and Media:

Times Journal reporter Patsy Nicosia interviewed Dave about the current dairy situation given June is Dairy Month. (Balbian)

Next Quarter and Future Activities

Continue work on the Dairy Acceleration Program. (Balbian)

Continue with individual assistance on facilities & dairy nutrition. (Balbian)

Start planning Dairy Day and Corn Day for 2016. (Balbian and Ganoe)

Continue soybean scouting program for 12 participating growers. (Ganoe)

Coordinate state-wide malting barley efforts and locate and monitor local malting barley fields for sampling at harvest. (Ganoe)