



Educational Activities

Winter Dairy Management

This year Winter Dairy Management programs held in Cooperstown, Fonda and Schuylerville focused on the economics of increasing butterfat and milk protein output. Dave put together the presentation on nutrition and milk protein and presented that topic at those locations and Dr. Tom Overton put together the presentation on nutrition and butterfat and presented that topic. Dave presented both of these topics at Winter Dairy Management programs in Canandaigua and Oneida. The Canandaigua presentation was broadcast via WebEx to other sites in the state. Invited dairy producers made presentations on how their farms improved and maintained high component levels. (Balbian)



Josh and Heather Lathrop of Sherburne explain how they have achieved high protein and fat levels in their milk.

Current Projects and Grants

NY Farm Viability Grant for Selecting Malting Barley Varieties

The NYFVI malting barley variety trial work is ending this summer with 22 winter malting barley varieties evaluated for agronomic performance and malting barley quality. Winter hardiness was not an issue this past winter as the barley had good snow cover to prevent and survived the winter without difficulty. After two years of trials differences between varieties are measurable and seed of the better performing varieties is becoming available to growers. Fusarium Head Blight and pre-harvest sprouting are still continuing issues for malting barley as we move forward. (Ganoe)



Winter malting barley variety trials show maturity differences



Winter Rye in April at time of nitrogen application

Winter Forage Trials

Again this year Kevin worked with Dr. Quirine Ketterings of the Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program on a statewide project aimed at determining how much nitrogen is needed for profitable forage yields of crops like rye and triticale in the spring. Nitrogen applications in the spring may result in more yield and determining when the nitrogen is needed and how much is needed is the focus of this research. In 2015 trials were placed on a farm in Montgomery County. (Ganoë)

Spring Forage Quality Monitoring

For the past 12 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. A very slow start with cold dry weather quickly turned around with a week of record high temperatures that make some alfalfa fields grow 12 inches in one week! (Balbian, Ganoë, Jerauld and Schmidt)



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Precision Feed and Corn Nitrogen Management Grants

The entire team presented information on our National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Precision Feed Management and Corn Nitrogen Management grants to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and other Chesapeake Bay partners. Robin Jerauld and Dave Balbian summarized the results of the Precision Feed Management work and Mark Schmidt and Kevin Ganoë presented the Corn Nitrogen Management results. Robin Jerauld will continue working on an effort to educate and train Soil & Water Conservation District staff to collect the basic info needed that will be entered into the Chesapeake Bay Model. This includes Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) values and Ration Phosphorus levels. (Balbian, Ganoë, Jerauld and Schmidt)

NYFVI Grant Application Approval

Our grant application regarding precision feeding management and discussion groups has been approved, except they cut the budget from nearly \$150,000 to \$100,000. Now the budget needs to be modified and redo the to make it work. (Balbian)

Cover Crop Field Day

Kevin is working with CCE staff from Delaware County, the Eastern NY Horticulture Program and the Capital Area Agriculture & Horticulture Program to conduct a cover crop field day in early September. The first planting of crops went in early June and a second will follow in early August. This event hosted by the Carrot Barn in Schoharie will take place September 3 and will feature NRCS National Soil Health Expert Ray Archuleta. (Ganoe)

Speaking Opportunities:

Dave was invited by a feed company representative to provide information on dairy nutrition at a pasture walk in Otesgo County for a group of Amish farmers. (Balbian)

Dave was asked to speak at a meeting hosted by Center of Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE) meeting in Oneonta. Peter Fredericks from the Market Administrator's office in Albany covered how the milk pricing formulas work and how that determines the final on farm milk price. Dave covered herd management and nutrition during times of low milk prices. The 30 participants were an interesting mix, including retired dairy farmers, a few active dairy farmers, lots of media people, a lender, a dairy nutritionist, and agency people. (Balbian)

Dave hosted a Dairy Career Group of high school students from CCE from Lewis and Jefferson Counties for two days. Took them to see the only Robotic Milker dairy in Herkimer County on day one. On day two they toured a progressive dairy in Schoharie County and had lunch and a tour at Schoharie Valley Farms. They visited Howe's Caverns before they headed home. (Balbian)

Kevin was asked to speak on a conference call of King's Agriseed dealers about the Spring Forage Quality Monitoring project and explain the methods used so that dealers could work with their clientele on improving forage quality. (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 advice requested from an Amish Dairy farmer moving into the area from Ohio. Request from a dairy producer who moved in from Connecticut & resurrected an empty dairy barn & brought it back into production. Also had a request to properly size a bunk silo for an expanding farm that is transitioning from upright silos to bunk silos. (Balbian)

Work with the committee putting together the Academy for Dairy Executives is taking up more time. Tentative dates are Dec. 1-2, Jan. 19 – 20, and March 1-2. Snow date is March 22-23. (Balbian)

Kevin continues to provide assistance to livestock and hay growers on how to improve old meadows and increase yields. Received many questions on bedstraw this spring. Need to look at future programming for this group as demand for more information increases but in particular weed control. (Ganoe)

Newsletters and Media:

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

Channel 6 TV News interviewed Dave regarding the milk surplus situation and more specifically about the Mohawk Valley Producers Cooperative which was facing no market for their milk. (Balbian)

Produced two editions of Checking the Back Forty newsletter. Focus was on pest issues such as potato leafhopper, frost injury, and corn diseases. (Ganoe)

Next Quarter and Future Activities

Continue work on the Dairy Acceleration Program. I am acting as a facilitator for this program across our region. (Balbian)

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

The Academy for Dairy Executives program is being geared up for another program this fall and winter in Eastern New York. (Balbian)

Work on a committee to develop the Winter Dairy Management program this year. (Balbian)

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

Continue soybean scouting program for 10 participating growers. (Ganoe)

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

Work with two local sunflower growers on using pheromone traps to monitor sunflower head moths. (Ganoe)

Continue work on cover crop field day. (Ganoe)

Work with Montgomery County SWCD on no-till drill demonstration. (Ganoe)