



Educational Activities

Central NY Dairy Day - East & West

Dairy Day was held in Sherburne and Ballston Spa on the same day this year. The total attendance was around 100 participants, which was similar to when one session was held in Cooperstown. Theme for the day was: "Breeding, Raising and Managing Your Future Herd of Super Cows". Speakers focused on genomics, reproduction and calf raising. (Balbian)



Dr. Julio Giordano DVM, Cornell Animal Science discusses what it takes to consistently get top reproductive results from our dairy herds today

Milk Quality Webinar

Held in Norwich and Ballston Spa on three Thursdays one each in January, February, and March. Participants learned the cost of not controlling mastitis and the importance of cow comfort, environment & equipment maintenance play in controlling mastitis. An excellent program, but only lightly attended. (Balbian)

2015 Corn Day

Corn Day was held in Sherburne and Little Falls on the consecutive days this year. The program focused on new USDA risk management programs for corn growers and on insect and weed control. (Ganoe)

Small Grains Meeting

Interest continues to grow for planting more small grains so a meeting was held this year intensely focused on best management practices for profitable production. Growers recognize the need to diversify their crop rotation and are looking for information on grains for malting and distilling and also heirloom wheat varieties for flour production. Featured speaker was nationally recognized grain drying expert Ken Hellevang from the University of North Dakota. Other topics included variety selection, disease and weed control and a grower sharing strategies for high yielding wheat. (Ganoe)



Dr. Margaret Smith from Cornell University talks about white winter wheat varieties that perform well in our area at the Small Grains Meeting

Current Projects and Grants

NY Farm Viability Grant for Selecting Malting Barley Varieties

For the second year in a row we were able to gather growers, maltsters and brewers in a roundtable format to discuss the potential and problems related to growing malting barley. We were able to share the 2014 data available from the malting barley variety trials. (Ganoë)

Dairy Acceleration Program

Dave continued to work with farms on the Dairy Acceleration Program. The second round of funding has now received all of the signatures it needs to move forward. Farms have applied for funding. We have two applications this quarter that have been approved and I am working with those farms to coordinate their efforts. (Balbian)

Emerging Issues and Individual Assistance

This quarter Dave met once with three different dairy farm profit teams and also coordinated with Farm Net on a farm dealing with business transition issues from the older to the younger generation. (Balbian)

Dave received a number of calls for assistance regarding new calf barns and also assistance regarding ventilation issues in existing calf barns. There were enough calls to warrant calling in Sam Steinberg, who works with the Ag Engineer in the Pro Dairy program, for a day of farm visits. (Balbian)

Speaking Opportunities:

Kevin had a number of speaking opportunities this quarter. He spoke:

- on no-till and also corn diseases at a soil health meeting sponsored by Goldstar Feeds and Seedway in Richfield Springs. (Ganoë)
- on corn and soybean diseases and malting barley at a Doeblers and Page Seed grower meeting in Norwich. (Ganoë)
- on corn diseases at the Mohawk Valley IBA farm supply grower meeting in Fort Plain for Amish producers. (Ganoë)

Kevin presented information on growing malting barley at the Farmhouse Malt and Brewery "Maltster in the Making" seminar in Owego in March. This program draws potential maltsters from around the country. (Ganoë)

In-service & Professional Development:

Dave attended the Herd Health Conference in Syracuse which is held every other year. This conference deals with dairy health issues related to management and nutrition. Veterinarians and agribusiness people make up a big part of the audience. (Balbian)

Kevin attended the Farmer Brewer Weekend at Valley Malt in Massachusetts. This nationally recognized program invites experts from across North America to speak on malting. (Ganoe)

Newsletters and Media

Country Folks again provided great coverage of our programs in their weekly publication, such as the Dairy Day, Corn Day, and Small Grains Meeting.

Next Quarter and Future Activities

Begin 1st Cutting Forage Quality Project in May (Balbian, Ganoe, Jerauld and Schmidt)

Continue Checking the Back Forty newsletter (Ganoe)

Continue with individual assistance on facilities & nutrition (Balbian)

Conduct soybean scouting program for soybean producers. (Ganoe)

Work with Quirine Ketterings on N rates for Winter Forage research. (Ganoe)

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