



Educational Activities

Open House/Drive Yourself Tour

A one day event where 12 dairy farms in the team region opened up their doors for other farmers to see how they had achieved a transition from a tie-stall to a freestall/parlor system in the recent past. In fact, one farm was still in the construction phase! Sixty different people participated in this event many stopping at multiple farms. (Balbian)



Dairy farm tour participants at the Dygert Farm

Academy for Dairy Executives

This program conducted last fall and winter cooperatively with Cornell's Pro-Dairy program is designed for younger people moving into management level positions on a dairy farm. A local subgroup of the larger group met for a two day session this summer in our area. The group met at a participant's farm to see the operation and to brainstorm ideas regarding a herd expansion and transition from their tie-stall barn to a freestall/parlor system. Day two was at another nearby farm (participated in the Academy for Dairy Executives in the past) to discuss management and next generation transition issues. (Balbian)

Soil Health and Residue Management

This meeting was the second of two meetings held in conjunction with CCE of Delaware County in the Susquehanna River Watershed on focusing on soil health. Reducing tillage can be an important means of improving soils health by reducing soil compaction and runoff while increasing organic matter. The Jordan Brothers farm near Oneonta hosted a field day where interested crop growers could learn more about managing residue as the brothers do an excellent job of no-tilling corn and soybeans into high crop residue situations. This was a hands-on field day as participants learned how to measure and evaluate the amount of residue, corn seed planting depth and plant populations. (Ganoë)



Field Crop Specialist Kevin Ganoë discusses planting depth with soil health meeting participants

Margin Protection Program

The Margin Protection Program is a new federal risk management program for dairy farmers that is based on milk price and feed costs. Dave attended two training events about this program and then coordinated a major webinar effort for our region at various CCE and FSA centers. Producers were also able to view these from their home computers. It's uncertain what participation levels will be, as the most current projections indicate that the program (administered by FSA) will not pay back for this next year (2015). (Balbian)

Current Projects and Grants

Guide for Low Cost Parlors

Low Cost Milking Parlor resource guide is being organized. Approval was given for a \$500 NYFVI grant to put this guide together. This was special money from the Hannaford Supermarket chain that they had to spend in their market area. (Balbian)

NY Farm Viability Grant for Selecting Malting Barley Varieties.

A field day was held at Inverness Farm (Bob and Andy Crowe) where the thirty five participants were able to tour the spring and winter malting barley variety trials established on the farm. Discussions centered on variety selection, malting barley best management practices, and disease control. All plots have now been harvested for yield and samples of each variety have been sent to a lab for malting quality analysis.



Attendees look at the spring malting barley varieties in the test plots during the field day.



Kevin using hand-held combine to gather a grain sample

Kevin is also working on a statewide program with other extension educators to help potential malting barley growers with implementation of best management practices. Funding from the State of New York is helping extension educators document the practices that have the most potential for profitability for the grower and quality for the maltster. Emphasis has been placed on soil testing, disease scouting and harvest timing. Funding has provided educators with tools and tests to aid with the farm decision making process like a hand held combine that allows grain sampling for moisture. Harvesting at the proper moisture is key to having barley that stores well but still has the germination characteristics for malting. (Ganoe)

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Precision Feed Management and Corn Nitrogen Management Grants

Continued to work on the NFWF precision feed management and corn nitrogen management grant through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.

In September Corn Stalk Nitrate Tests (CSNT) were taken in over 200 fields on 20 farms and these will be the last samples taken as it is the last year of the grant. (Balbian, Jerauld, Ganoë and Schmidt)

Soybean Scouting Program

Soybean growers are participating in the 5th year of a scouting program to monitor soybeans during the summer for insects, disease and stage of development. This year's program consisted of 13 farms with 35 fields on This summer part of the scouting program was working with Dr. Gary Bergstrom on a state wide soybean disease survey to document the presence and intensity of soybean diseases. (Ganoë)



Wilted soybean plants, the result of the disease Sclerotinia white mold

Public Relations

The team participates in the CCE of Herkimer County legislative event that provides an opportunity to interact with local legislators regarding the programs the team provides to their clientele.

Each year the team puts up displays at various events and interacts with attendees. We put up an exhibit at the Empire Farm Days in the CCE building. The Empire Farm Days is the summer state wide agricultural exhibition for producers held each year near Seneca Falls. Farm Progress Show is the exhibition for local agricultural producers held in Mohawk every year. The team set up an exhibit for the event and visited with clientele.

The team participates every year in events for the general public to learn about agriculture. This year Sundae-on-the-Farm was in Montgomery County was held at Dygert Farms near Palatine Bridge while a similar event, A-Day-on-the Farm was held at Rogers Family Orchard in Fulton County. The team set up an exhibit about local crops and feedstuffs and talks to participants.

Speaking Opportunities:



A pasture walk was organized by the Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District at Honorone Farm in Canajoharie operated by Scott and Kathie Ryan and the team was asked to speak at this event. David discussed how to optimize milk production and Kevin talked about basic pasture management.



Next Quarter and Future Activities

Continue work with the Academy for Dairy Executives group. (Balbian)

Carry out the Calf Care program that we have been planning for months. This will take place in Herkimer and Ballston Spa along with an on-farm session in Fultonville. (Balbian)

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

Continue working on the program for the 2015 Central New York Dairy Day program. I have commitments from all the speakers for the March 2015 program. (Balbian)

Plan and conduct income tax strategies meetings per producer requests with Farm Credit. (Ganoe)

Plan and conduct final meeting for those participating in the Upper Susquehanna Precision Feed Management and Corn Nitrogen Management grant. (Jerauld, Balbian, Schmidt, Ganoe)

Plan regional small grain meetings with other extension educators. (Ganoe)

Continue planning for the 2015 Central New York Corn day program. (Ganoe)