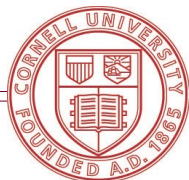


Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team

Annual Report

A year in review



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension



Serving Chenango,
Fulton, Herkimer,
Montgomery,
Otsego, Saratoga
and
Schoharie Counties

Selecting malting barley varieties for New York conditions

In June of 2012 the NY State Legislature passed the Farm Brewery Law which means to receive a Farm Brewery license the business must primarily use NY produced ingredients in the production of their product. Malting barley is an important ingredient in beer production but no malting barley is currently being grown in NY. To meet the demand The Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team and the Cornell Small Grains Project received a \$40,000 grant from the NY Farm Viability Institute to test for malting barley varieties that will perform under NY conditions. Currently

available malting barley varieties are grown under the drier conditions of the Upper Midwest and are prone to greater disease pressure here in the more humid east. Preliminary results from 2013 show that although some varieties have promise Fusarium Head Blight will be a major problem for growing malting barleys

without the use of fungicides or finding more resistant varieties. As a result of this project potential malting barley growers should have the agronomic and malting characteristic information available to choose varieties adapted to NY when that information does not currently exist.



Cornell Small Grains Project technician David Benscher harvesting the spring malting barley trial near Sprout Brook.

Inside this issue:

Getting the Most Out of Your Feeding	2
Helping producers make first cutting timely	2
Team aids farms amid times of wet weather	2
Optimize corn nitrogen applications for profit	3
Making dairy farms more resilient	3
Soybean scouting program	3
Dairy Day and Corn Day	4

NY Farm Brewery Law
The beer manufactured under these guidelines would be designated as "New York State" labeled beer. Initially by the end of 2017, at least 20% of the hops and 40% of all other ingredients must be grown or produced in NY. By January 1, 2023, no less than 90% of the hops and 90% of all other ingredients must be grown or produced in NY.

Workshops helps dairy producers get the most out of their feeding program



Getting the Most Out of Your Feeding workshop participants discuss proper bunk silo management

The cost of feed (both home grown & purchased) is the single largest expense on a dairy farm. The *Getting the Most Out of Your Feeding* workshop was conducted on six farms throughout the team region so that participants have a hands-on experience seeing how these farms parlay feed into profitable milk production.

Participants learned how to manage feed inventories and minimize shrink on forages & grains, make the most out of

wet feeds with proper fermentation and feed out management, and how to deliver feed to the cows daily while dealing with dry matter, cow number and actual intakes changes.

Evaluations returned by the 46 participants showed what they appreciated: *"To see an actual program in process. The hosts had good information"; Very informational, I was able to leave with new information on bunk management; Information exchange between farmers in their own farms*



Alfalfa height is a great indicator of alfalfa and grass quality in the field

Helping producers make first cutting harvest timely and profitable

For the past 10 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. Producers are emailed the results within the day of measuring so they can

make important management decisions. Each year we receive more requests to be emailed the results of this weekly monitoring.

This year we tracked 67 fields in the teams region and worked with Madison County CCE staff as well. In 2013

there was a difference in elevation of fields of over 1300 feet from low to high and 80 miles north to south. These differences in field location create over a week difference of when to begin cutting grass hay fields.

Team aids farms amid times of wet weather and flooding

The wet weather that started in late May and carried through the floods of late June and early July had a huge impact on the farming community. Many acres of corn were never planted or lost to wet soil conditions and flooding. Hay crops were never harvested or late. The Central NY Dairy and Field Crops

Team provided support by answering questions on: replanting corn, how late corn can be planted, what are alternatives to corn late in the season, how much nitrogen lost due to the saturated soils and changes to herbicide programs with taller weeds sprayed late. The team also provided information on how

to price corn silage as dairy farms were looking to replace lost crops and farms that had extra were looking to sell.



Wet fields stopped corn planting and reduced yields

Project helps farms optimize nitrogen applications for profit and environment

In 2013 The Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team has continued work on two National Fish and Wildlife Foundation precision feed management and corn nitrogen management grants through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.

A highlight of this summer was a meeting held at Cheshire Valley Farm owned by Bob and John Hofmann who have been participating in the project for three years. This year the Hofmanns have ap-

plied multiple rates of N in a field and make yield checks to see if suggestions that have been made for fine tuning how much nitrogen should be applied are accurate. Meeting participants were encouraged to see if they could tell the various nitrogen rates apart visually. The 25 participants also learned how the Corn Stalk Nitrate Test (CSNT) may help them assess the nitrogen status of their corn crop at the end of the season and adapt farm specific rates.

Dr. Quirine M. Ketterings from the Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program demonstrates how to take a Corn Stalk Nitrate Test (CSNT) at the correct height



Winter Dairy Management Schools look to make dairy farms more resilient in changing times

The saying is “bend but don’t break” certainly applies to how dairy farms need to manage if they are to survive in the future. This years *Dairy Winter Management Schools: Managing Your Dairy for Resiliency* held through out the state looked to identify key areas where dairy farms need

to improve management if they are to survive. The 99 participants who attended local sessions in Ballston Spa and Richfield Springs heard a message that emphasized on modernizing facilities, cow comfort and lighting to improve health and performance for profitability.



Dr. Jerry Bertoldo talks about how reproductive efficiency affects profitability on dairy farms at a Winter Dairy Management School

Growers learn about soybean diseases and micronutrients through soybean scouting program

For the fourth year the Central New York Dairy and Field Crop Team has offered a scouting program to help soybean growers identify insect pests and diseases. The 12 participating growers received a scouting card with each visit so they knew what insect and diseases were pre-

sent and also plant height and growth stage. This years scouting program emphasized in particular testing for micro nutrients through leaf analysis and soil testing. This testing will lead to research on the effect low levels of micronutrient are having on the profitability of growing soybeans.



**Central New York
Dairy and Field
Crops Team**

Kevin H. Ganoe, MS, CCA

Team Leader

Area Field Crop Specialist

Phone: 315-866-7920 Ext 230

Fax: 315-866-0870

David R. Balbian, MS, PAS

Area Dairy Specialist

Phone: 518-312-3592

E-mail: drb23@cornell.edu

Mark Schmidt

Program Technician

Phone: 607-674-6025

Email: mschmidt@citlink.net

A program and funding partnership between Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga and Schoharie Counties

Advisory Committee

Jeff Case

(Chairman)

Chenango County

Timothy Cantwell

(Vice Chairman)

Otsego County

John Kellett

(Secretary)

Montgomery County

Dr Nicholas Chuff

Herkimer County

John Kemmeren

Chenango County

Robert Tracy

Otsego County

David Thompson

Schoharie County

Craig Spofford

Herkimer County

Rick Welsh

Schoharie County

Andrew Kross

Chenango County

Neil Peck

Saratoga County

Chris Mitchell

Saratoga County

Mark Giles

Craig Trowbridge

Cornell Cooperative

Extension

Regional Agriculture

Programs

Cornell University

**We would like to
acknowledge other partners
for their financial support:**



NY farm viability

INSTITUTE

**Dairy Day and Corn Day
highlight of winter meeting season**

Lutz Feed representative Harry Bristol and Cornell Dairy Nutrition Specialist Larry Chase offer suggestions on how to best utilize whey as a feedstuff at Dairy Day



The team's annual Corn Day (February) and Dairy Day (March) are held each year at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown with over a hundred people attending each. Speakers may range from farmer panels on a particular topic to internationally known experts in their field.



Keith Waldron from the Cornell IPM Program discusses the spread of Western Bean Cutworm across NY at Corn Day