



## Educational Activities

### Corn Nitrogen Management Demonstration

Bob and John Hofmann of Cheshire Valley Farm have been participating in a nitrogen management project for the past three years to look at how they might optimize the amount of nitrogen they apply to corn. Funding for this grant was provided by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.

This year they applied 0, 50 and 100 pounds of N sidedressed the per acre during the growing season to a corn field and will actually measure grain yields and compare them to recommended N rates to determine what actually worked best in that field. Each nitrogen rate is applied in the field four times. The 25 participants at an August meeting had the chance to see the demonstration and see if they could pick out the various nitrogen rates. Dr. Quirine Ketterings from the Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program discussed tools corn growers can use to determine the optimal rate of nitrogen for their fields. (Ganoë and Schmidt)



*Dr. Quirine M. Ketterings from the Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program speaks at the Corn N Management Demonstration*



*Soybeans with yellow chlorotic leaves like this one in the Soybean Scouting Program can be a sign of micronutrient deficiencies.*

### Soybean Scouting Program

Soybean growers are participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of a scouting program to monitor soybeans during the summer for insects, disease and stage of development. This summer diseases were found more often because good growing conditions which lead to tall plants are also the most favorable for disease.

This year 35 fields on 12 farms have had soil and tissue testing for micronutrients. Micronutrients are those that are very necessary to plant growth but only needed to be taken up in a small quantity. Deficiencies may be obvious like in the photo at left but this testing will allow us to identify fields that may respond to micronutrients and the signs are not as easily seen. (Ganoë)

## Public Relations



*David and Kevin showing various crops and feedstuffs to attendees of the "A Day on the Farm" held at Rogers Family Orchard in Fulton County*

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 sets up an exhibit there for both days of the event and visits with clientele.

Sundae-on-the-Farm was held on a beef farm in Montgomery County this year with over two thousand people attending. This is for the general public to learn about agriculture. The team had a display and David ran the milking contest.

Similar to the Montgomery County event, A-Day-on-the Farm was held at an orchard in Fulton County with over three thousand attending. Again, this was for the general public and the team displayed various crops and feedstuffs from the area. (Balbian and Ganoe)

## Current Projects and Grants

### Conservation Tillage Expert Panel

Kevin continues to serve on the Conservation Tillage Expert Panel of the Chesapeake Bay Program, Water Quality Goal Implementation Team. This group has worked on new definitions for conservation tillage practices that allows states to receive credit in the Chesapeake Bay Model for implementing new practices. (Ganoe)

### Academy for Dairy Executives Program

David has been working on The Academy for Dairy Executives, a program targeted towards younger dairy people who are moving into management positions and who are also transitioning into ownership from the older generation. The first of three sessions begins Nov 13 and 14 and the response was so great that the number of people participating had to be cutoff. (Balbian)

## **Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP)**

David has spent considerable time working on the Dairy Acceleration Program. He assisted with part of an on-farm regional training that took place for CCE Staff. This program is funded by money set aside by the Governor based on recommendations made at last summer's Yogurt Summit. Its goal is to help individual dairy farmers to modernize and increase milk output, while also being good stewards of the environment. (Balbian)



*Cornell Small Grains Project technician David Benscher planting the winter malting barley trial near Sprout Brook with their specialized grain drill used for research trials.*

## **NYFVI Malting Barley trials**

A spring malting barley trial was harvested in August on a local farm as part of NYFVI project to find malting barley's adapted to NY. A winter malting barley trial was planted in September at this same location. This two year project will look to identify spring and winter barleys that will have the desired malting characteristics desired by brewmasters yet have the good agronomic characteristics so that it is profitable to grow. A side benefit of having the Cornell Small Grains Project that conducted this research on local farms is that they also put out an oats variety trial that should supply information on newer oat varieties. (Ganoë)

## **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 grants through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.

This fall Corn Stalk Nitrate Tests (CSNT) were taken in 209 fields on 30 farms. The data suggests that over 50% of the fields have a low CSNT value which is not surprising given the excessive rainfall of this year. This should demonstrate to growers that they need to apply extra nitrogen in a wet year. (Ganoë and Schmidt)

## **Newsletters and Media**

CNY Dairy News September/October discussed The Academy for Dairy Executives Program, NYSERDA money that is available for farmers to install energy efficient equipment, how to deal with forage shortfalls and with immature corn silage, and the Dairy Acceleration Program. (Balbian)

David wrote an article that appeared in Eastern Dairy Business is a monthly dairy magazine. An article I wrote on cow comfort in tie stall barns appeared in the August 2013 issue. (Balbian)



## Emerging Issues and Individual Assistance

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. (Balbian and Ganoe)

Continued to work with two dairy profit teams on dairy nutrition and herd management issues that will result in improved profitability. Also, continue to work with individual farms on dairy nutrition and facility issues. (Balbian)

David filled a request by a local contractor to design a tunnel ventilation system on a dairy farm with many obstructions inside and outside of the barn that typically would result in a system failure. Installation cost will be a bit higher than most systems, but it will function properly. (Balbian)

## Professional Development

Kevin attended the Field Day at the Musgrave Research Farm in July. The field day shows current research on field crops being conducted at the farm. (Ganoe)

## Next Quarter and Future Activities

Continue work on the NFWF precision feed management and corn nitrogen management grants through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. (Balbian, Ganoe and Schmidt)

Summarize information from Soybean Scouting Project. (Ganoe)

Conduct first of the three session of the *Academy for Dairy Executives* program in November. (Balbian)

Continue work on the *Dairy Acceleration Program* as a facilitator for this program across our seven counties. (Balbian)

Plan winter meetings such as Corn Day and Dairy Day. (Ganoe, Balbian)