



Educational Activities

Spring Forage Quality Monitoring

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 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.



Soybean Scouting Program

Eleven soybean growers are participating in the 4th year of a scouting program to monitor soybean insect and disease pests during the growing season. The Cornell Field Crops Pathology Extension Program of Dr. Gary Bergstrom and his Research Support Specialist Jaime Cummings have been supportive of the program by identifying diseases found while scouting. This collaboration allows Dr Bergstrom to track what

diseases occur in NY and their severity. In particular this year growers are paying for specialized soil and leaf analysis to determine if micronutrients are a limiting factor in production.

Emerging Issues and Individual Assistance

Profit Teams

We continue work with a number of profit teams on dairy farms. These profit teams include agribusiness personnel that are working with the farm, such as nutritionists, veterinarians, and crop consultants. The teams meet on a regular basis to review progress of the farm toward goals set during previous meetings. (Balbian, Ganoe)

Facilities Information

Dave took two brothers and their nutritionist on a tour of a dairy farm that transitioned from a tie stall to a free stall and low cost parlor setup around 30 to 40 years ago. This farm is now milking 600 cows. The brothers wanted to learn what steps were taken on this farm to successfully make this transition. They found it to be a very valuable visit and were appreciative of the opportunity.



The hot and humid weather brought about several requests for individual assistance with ventilation issues. (Balbian)

Weather impact on crop production



Every growing season seems to have weather all its own and the 2013 growing season has certainly been no exception. Dry weather from April to mid-May allowed some early corn planting but was dry enough to reduce yields in early first cutting. However from about May 20th on rains have kept fields wet and not allowed for a lot of field work. There have been many questions on replanting corn, how late corn can be planted, and what the alternatives to corn are late in the season. Also questions on loss of nitrogen due to the saturated soils and changes to herbicide programs with taller weeds. (Ganoe)

Public Relations

Dave was asked to be a member of a new joint Pro Dairy Advisory Council and NYFVI Dairy Committee. Their first meeting, which took place in Syracuse on June 14th, is an interesting mix of producers, agribusiness, and Cornell staff. The purpose was to gain feedback on current dairy issues and to provide updates on programs that have recently been funded at the state level. (Balbian)

Kevin continues to serve on the Conservation Tillage Expert Panel of the Chesapeake Bay Program, Water Quality Goal Implementation Team. This group is looking to redefine how reduced tillage and no-till practices are handled in the Chesapeake Bay Model. (Ganoe)

Kevin is part of the Barley Initiative group directed by NYSDAM Deputy Secretary Patrick Hooker to look at increasing malting barley production in the NY. (Ganoe)

Newsletters and Media

Early season *Checking the Back Forty* newsletters focused on the more normal beginning to the growing season and alfalfa weevil. (Ganoe)

Central New York Dairy News May/June discussed forage sampling issues, whether your dairy herd's diet is balanced for Crude Protein or Metabolizable Protein, getting your dairy facility ready for the summer heat, and opportunity areas that affect overall profitability. (Balbian)

Country Folks covered a number of events and programs that we were involved in this past winter meeting season. For this quarter they covered *Dairy Day* and one of our *Putting Your Feeding Program to Work* programs.

Current Projects and Grants

NYFVI Dairy Modernization grant proposal

Dave is working on a grant application to the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI) regarding dairy farms transitioning from a tie stall barn to a free stall barn with a low cost milking parlor. One of the requirements for the grant is to have support from the dairy industry for what is being proposed. A group of dairy farmers who have made this transition were brought together to discuss what educational activities will be useful. To help others make this transition. (Balbian)



Academy for Dairy Executives program

Dave is working with Pro Dairy staff and other Cooperative Extension staff to organize this year's *Academy for Dairy Executives* program. This is the first time our region will be part of the targeted

geography for participation. This is a 3 session program targeted towards younger dairy people who are moving into management positions and who are also transitioning into ownership from the older generation. The emphasis is on business and financial management skills. All sessions include overnights to get participants away from the farm. The dates are November 13-14, 2013 and January 15-16, and March 12-13 2014. The team has taken the lead to manage the program registration and finances of this program. (Balbian)

Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP)

Dave is part of a planning group, working with Tom Overton, director of the Pro-Dairy program, to develop the details of how the Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP) will be carried out. This involves \$450,000 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. It is being administered by NY Ag & Markets and the Cornell Pro-Dairy program. Final details will be out as soon as the Governor makes an announcement that dairy producers can submit applications. (Balbian)



NYFVI Malting Barley trials

A trial was planted on a local farm as part of NYFVI project to find malting barley's adapted to NY. 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. Already we have learned that malting barleys are very susceptible to Fusarium head blight. Not only does head blight reduce yield, the fungus that causes the disease also produces mycotoxins rendering them unusable for malting and human consumption in beer. (Ganoe)

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

Continued work with on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation precision feed management and corn nitrogen management grants through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.

This summer we have established nitrogen rate plots on four farms to help farms establish on their own farms what optimal nitrogen rates might be. Two of these plots are field scale and will be harvested combines or forage harvesters and yields calculated. On other farms multiple nitrogen rates were used in smaller plots and the Corn Stalk Nitrogen Test (CSNT) will be used to determine the optimum nitrogen rate. By applying nitrogen at rates of 0, 46, 69, 92 and 138 lbs per acre and looking at the stalk nitrate level we can tell which rate was optimum. (Ganoe)

Professional Development

Kevin attended the Small Grains Field Day at the Musgrave Research Farm. The field day shows current research on small grains being conducted at the farm.

Dave attended a New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI) workshop in Voorheesville to provide myself with a refresher in regard to their requirements when applying for their grants.

Next Quarter and Future Activities

Continue with *The Central New York Dairy News* (Balbian) and *Checking the Back 40* (Ganoe)

Continue Precision Feeding Efforts (Balbian)

Hold meeting on nitrogen management as part of NFWF grants. Start Corn Stalk Nitrate Sampling in project corn fields. (Ganoe, Schmidt)

Continue work on the Academy for Dairy Executives program (Balbian)

Substantial effort and activities with the Dairy Acceleration Program will be taking place. Final details will be out soon as soon as the Governor announces that producers can submit applications. (Balbian)

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

Working on the program for the 2014 Central New York Dairy Day program. Commitments from some speakers need to be secured nearly a year in advance.