



Educational Activities



Notill Tour and Demonstration

The notill planting of crops can minimize soil loss, improve soil health and reduce machinery costs and labor. However adjustments must be made to planters, weed control programs and crop rotations to make notill work. Sixty nine people attended a notill tour and demonstration hosted by John and Dianne Kemmeren on their farm near Bainbridge. The Kemmerens demonstrated in the field to

attendees how they adjusted and modified their corn planter and notill drill to match their conditions so they consistently achieve the desired plant populations. Attendees were also able to see successful notill plantings of corn, sudangrass, sorghum-sudangrass, alfalfa, clover and various grasses. Of special interest was a corn field that had followed a cover crop of tillage radishes because of the ability of the radishes to reduce soil compaction. These radishes were analyzed for yield and carbon and nitrogen content by the Cornell Nutrient Management SPEAR program and the results added to the program's expanding cover crop database. (Ganoe, Wilkinson)



Taking Precision Feeding to the Next Level

To take our precision feeding efforts to a next level means focusing on feeding low protein diets and balancing dairy rations for amino acids to lower overall protein levels. The 42 attendees heard featured speakers Dr. Chuck Schwab from Wisconsin, Dr. Larry Chase from Cornell, and Ryan Higgs (PhD student at Cornell) explain how to implement amino acid balancing on their farms. All of the feed companies in our region (including northern PA and western VT) were represented along with consultants and veterinarians. (Balbian)



On Farm Fly Control Meetings

Flies can annoy animals and affect animal health resulting in decreased milk production and weight gain. Off farm movement of flies can lead to potential urban – rural conflicts and possible health concerns. IPM Specialist Ken Wise discusses fly control with the 22 people who attended meetings on farms throughout region. The State Veterinarian for our area attended one of these meetings and often serves as a multiplier for our efforts. (Balbian)



Emerging Issues and Individual Assistance



Dry weather had a huge impact on crop production in 2012 reducing corn and haycrop yields. The team responded to requests by from producers for help with feed budgeting and determining the cost of corn silage. (Balbian, Ganoe)

Potato leafhoppers continued to be an issue into July and early August with alfalfa growers. The team responded to the many questions about this pest through newsletter, emails, phone calls and farm visits. The result was that growers made timely applications of insecticides to eliminate the leafhoppers and improve yields. (Ganoe)

The team continues to provide assistance for to issue related to dairy facilities from improving barn ventilation to sizing bunk silos and planning heifer barns. (Balbian)

Current Projects and Grants

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

- Have continued to work with over 30 dairy farms participating and their nutrition consultants as part of this on-going project. The plan is to work specifically with the adoption of Amino Acid balancing on 6-8 farms. This change should lead to more efficient use of nitrogen in milk production resulting in higher profitability and reduced environmental risk. (Jerauld, Balbian)
- Took corn stalk nitrate samples form 171 field over 27 farms for these projects. This information will be combined with other farm corn nitrogen data to make recommendations on nitrogen use in corn. (Schmidt, Wilkinson, Ganoe)

The team received a \$3,004 NY State IPM program grant to look at the use of and reduce the production of mycotoxins when corn is harvested for corn silage. The results of this trial indicated

there were no economic difference in yield or forage quality due to the fungicide application nor were there differences in levels of mycotoxins (toxins from fungi growing on the crop) which were low to nonexistent. (Ganoe, Wilkinson)

The team received enough material from the manufacture of Contans® biological fungicide to put out two test plots on each of two farms for Sclerotinia White Mold control in soybeans. There was no white mold seen in these plots due to the dry weather which doesn't favor development of the disease. (Ganoe, Wilkinson)

Submitted grant proposal to New York Farm Viability Institute for funds to test barley varieties for malting characteristics. A new "Farm Brewery" category has been established and local breweries wishing to capitalize on that license will need to use NY grown ingredients including malted barley. (Ganoe)

Speaking Opportunities:

Young Farmers Group Meetings are organized by a local feed company representative in the Fulton and Montgomery County area and we are invited to participate in these informal evening gatherings of 15-20 people. In July the team led the participants in a discussion on the drought, feed shortages, and high grain prices. (Balbian, Ganoe)

Invited to the annual Midvale Veterinary Clinic Annual Picnic and spoke briefly about resources we have to help people calculate forage needs, inventories, and options to consider if short of feed. About 80 attended.

Public Relations



We had an exhibit highlighting what we do at the Herkimer CCE Legislative Open House. A short opportunity was available to tell legislators about what we do, why we do it, and to provide an update about the local Dairy & Field Crop industries. (Balbian, Ganoe)

The Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls and Farm Progress Show in Mohawk are farm shows for the agricultural community. Together we set up and manned an exhibit on projects and issues we are currently working on. (Balbian, Ganoe)

Together we set up and manned an exhibit on crops and feedstuffs for the Sundae on the Farm in Montgomery County and A Day on the Farm in Fulton County. These events sponsored by Farm Bureau are great opportunities to meet with the non-farm public and help them learn about agriculture. (Balbian, Ganoe)

Newsletters and Media

Discussed how to supplement dairy cows that are grazing on a video that was part of a special project in Chenango County to make videos on grazing. (Balbian)

Produced five editions of *Checking the Back Forty* newsletters. Focused on pest issues such as potato leafhopper, drought injury, corn diseases and predictions when to harvest corn silage based. (Ganoe)

The August edition of the Central New York Dairy News covered the current economic situation in dairy production, grain feeding under these economic conditions, and options available to deal with forage shortfalls. (Balbian)



Professional Development

Attended an Area Agricultural Specialists Conference sponsored by Cornell Extension Administration. (Ganoe, Balbian)

Attended a meeting in Watertown where Dr. Larry Chase & Ev Thomas spoke about drought conditions and options to consider. (Balbian)

Attended a program put on by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council covering how farmers can deal with Animal Activists. (Balbian)

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

Next Quarter and Future Activities

Continue Precision Feed Management efforts and ramp up efforts in the area of Amino Acid balancing. (Balbian)

Summarize data from Precision Feed Management and Corn Nitrogen Management grants and prepare for winter meetings for participants. (Jerauld, Balbian, Schmidt, Wilkinson, Ganoe)

Design and conduct dairy feeder schools. (Balbian)

Carry out the tour of transitioned (tie-stall to free stall/parlor) dairy farms with the Schoharie County farm family & provide guidance to them in the process. (Balbian)

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