



## Educational Activities

### 2012 Central New York Dairy Day

Held in Cooperstown the emphasis of the day centered on producing quality forage and balancing dairy diets for Amino Acids. They both help producers meet the Precision Feeding Benchmarks that we have established. About 100 people attended this event. Presenters included Dr. Chuck Schwab, Professor Emeritus, University of New Hampshire, Kevin Ganoë, our own Regional Field Crops Specialist, along with a farmer panel made up of Jim Canary from St. Johnsville and Rob Collins of Chadwicks. (Balbian)



### Group Housed Calf Raising Seminar

Coordinated with Pro Dairy a seminar on group housed calf raising in two locations. This event came about because a statewide meeting in Syracuse held earlier was filled and had to turn people away. Our seminar in Richfield Springs had 60 attendees; the Oneonta location had 45. (Balbian)

### Field Crop Pest Management Meetings

Conducted Field Crop Pest Management Meetings at Herkimer, Norwich, Cobleskill and Cooperstown extension offices in January. Presentation was based on corn diseases, insect pests and weeds that were issues for 2011 growing season. Eighty four people attended these sessions and received 1.5 pesticide applicator training credits for doing so. (Ganoë)

### 2012 Corn Day

Conducted 2012 Corn Day at the Otesaga Inn in Cooperstown. With project technician Mark Schmidt developed a presentation on the nitrogen management tools we have been using that can help corn growers improve the nitrogen efficiency of their corn production. Speakers addressed the ninety three participants on issues such as reduced tillage, corn diseases and the Chesapeake Bay nutrient loading. (Ganoë)

### Soybean Management Meeting

Conducted Soybean Management Meeting in Richfield Springs for seventeen growers on topics such as plant populations and row spacing, disease and weed control. (Ganoë)



Aaron Ristow of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition talks Chesapeake Bay nutrient loading at the 2012 Corn Day

## Speaking Opportunities

Tri-Valley Crop service grower meeting on emergency forage crops (Ganoe)  
Schoharie County Ag Day on soil testing (Ganoe)

## Newsletters and Media

Sent out an early *Checking the Back Forty* newsletter in March to address questions regarding the unusually warm spring and start

## Current Projects and Grants

### 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.



- Held meeting for the 20 participants of the first grant who have been part of the project for a year. (Jerauld, Balbian, Schmidt, Ganoe )
- Recruiting twenty five more participants for the second grant for both precision feed management and corn nitrogen management. (Jerauld, Balbian, Schmidt, Ganoe )
- Started work with 6-8 participating farms and their nutrition consultants on the adoption of Amino Acid balancing. This change should lead to more efficient use of nitrogen in milk production resulting in higher profitability and reduced environmental risk. (Jerauld, Balbian)
- Reviewed information gathered with corn nitrogen management tools in 2011 participants to help assess what changes might be made for the 2012 corn growing season. (Schmidt, Ganoe)

### NY State IPM program grants

Applied for grant to look at control of corn diseases and production of mycotoxins by application of fungicides. Dr. Gary Bergstrom also wrote our team into a grant on scouting for Soybean Vein Necrosis an emerging disease found in our area.

## Individual Assistance and Emerging Issues

Help with dairy nutrition was on the increase with very high grain prices and slipping milk prices. Many Precision feeding strategies were recommended to individual producers, including balancing diets for Amino Acids. (Balbian)

## Professional Development

Attended the two day biannual the Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA) Conference in Syracuse. It brings together producers, university personnel, and agricultural business personnel to hear experts from across the country speak about emerging technologies and future market and environmental impacts on the dairy industry. (Balbian)

Attended EPA sponsored *Got Manure Conference* in Syracuse on the feasibility of using anaerobic digesters on a farm and community scale to solve the environmental issues. (Ganoe)

Attended Adapt-N workshop to better understand the function of the nitrogen modeling program we are using. (Ganoe)

## Team Administration



George Wilkinson has been hired as an educator to provide support to our NFWF project efforts particularly the corn nitrogen management phase for one year. He will also be responsible for the soybean scouting efforts this summer.

## Next Quarter and Future Activities

- Begin 1st Cutting Forage Quality Project in May. (Balbian, Ganoe, Jerauld and Schmidt)
- Continue *Checking the Back Forty* newsletter (Ganoe)
- Continue with individual assistance on facilities & nutrition (Balbian)
- Continue NFWF Precision Feed Management and Corn Nitrogen Management Grants
  - With interested Precision Feeding participants, pursue education & implementation of Amino Acid balanced rations. (Jerauld, Balbian)
  - Run Adapt N nitrogen modeling program on farms that have completed the first year. Some farms have agreed to do strip trials at different nitrogen rates based on what they have learned from the first year data. (Schmidt, Wilkinson, Ganoe)
- Conduct soybean scouting program for soybean producers.
  - Conduct 2-3 demonstrations of Sclerotinia White Mold control with Contans® biological fungicide. (Wilkinson, Ganoe)
- No-till tour in August (Wilkinson, Ganoe)