

Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team

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

Kevin H. Ganoe, MS, CCA

Team Leader

Area Field Crop Specialist

Phone: 315-866-7920 Ext 230

Fax: 315-866-0870

E-mail: khg2@cornell.edu

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

Advisory Committee

Jeff Case
(Chairman)

Chenango County

Timothy Cantwell
(Vice Chairman)

Otsego County

John Kellett
(Secretary)

Montgomery County

Ralph Thomas

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

Mark Giles

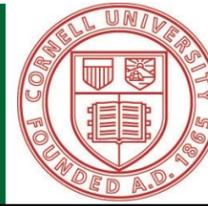
Craig Trowbridge

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Regional Agriculture Programs

Cornell University

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



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Annual Report:
A year in review

Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team

Inside this Report

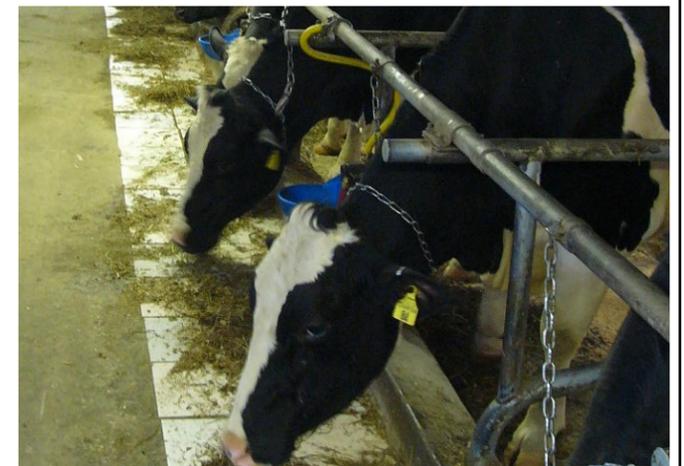
Dairy and Field Crops Team forage quality project helps farms harvest on time	2
Soybean scouting program helps growers identify pests	2
New field crop newsletter delivered by email!	2
Team assists dairy and field crop producers affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee	3
2011 Corn Day and 2011 Dairy Day	3
Acknowledgements	4

Taking Precision Feed Management nationally and internationally in *Hoard's Dairyman!*

Area Dairy Specialist Dave Balbian has authored two articles on Precision Feed Management that were accepted and published by the dairy industry leading publication *Hoard's Dairyman*. Local participating farms were featured in the articles. The first article was in the September 25, 2011 edition the second in the October 25, 2011 edition.

Efficient use of feed and plant nutrients makes farms more economically and environmentally sustainable

Feed and fertilizer prices are double the price they were five years ago so farms are looking to use animal and plant nutrients more efficiently to produce milk and grow corn profitably. At the same time regulations that look to reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous going into the environment are becoming more stringent.



A Precision Feed Management Project sponsored by the New York Farm Viability Institute helped farms in the region improve profitability and reduce their environmental risk. Participating farms compared their farm data to a series of benchmarks to see how efficiently they are feeding their cows and to see if there is room for improvement. On average the 38 farms participating in this project produced 2.7 lbs more milk per cow day. On a 100 cow dairy farm this means an increase of income of \$17,739 per year.

On average the 38 farms participating reduced their purchased nitrogen and phosphorous minus milk nitrogen and phosphorous by 18.7 grams of nitrogen and 2.0 grams of phosphorous per cow per day by the end of the project. So on average a 100 cow dairy farm would have 1503 lbs less nitrogen and 161 lbs less phosphorous remaining on the farm per year. Looking at the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous brought on to the farm minus the nitrogen and phosphorous that goes off in milk allows

us to measure the environmental risk. The team is currently working with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition on two National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants which will allow 45 farms in the Upper Susquehanna Basin to participate in Precision Feed Management over the next three years. Additionally 35 farms will be participating in an enhanced nitrogen management project as part of these grants to look at fine tuning nitrogen applications on corn.

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





Dairy and Field Crops Team forage quality project helps farms harvest on time



Alfalfa height is a good predictor of when to cut alfalfa and grass for optimum quality and yield

Making high quality haycrop is always a priority but making the first cutting high quality is of extra importance. Over 50% of the yield for the year comes off in that first cutting in May. Yet the difference of when to start may differ as much as three weeks year to year because the amount of growth depends on the heat accumulated.

The team continues to make communicating to producers the optimum time to start that first cutting a

priority. Alfalfa fields are monitored on a 5 day interval for height which is a good predictor of alfalfa and grass quality and when to harvest. Through the team website and emails producers can see what fields that are being monitored near them, in similar environmental conditions, are the optimal day to harvest. Producers and ag industry personnel have indicated the value receiving this information in the spring provides.

Soybeans acreage in the area continue to expand as growers find them a profitable crop and a great crop to grow in rotation with corn. However soybeans can be affected by a number of insects and diseases and growers are still learning how to identify and control them. For the second year the team has offered a scouting program to help detect these pests because of the interest of the growers. Participants found the weekly scouting reports timely to make management decisions and learned from hands-on demonstrations in field meetings.

Soybean scouting program helps growers identify pests



New field crop newsletter delivered by email!



Checking the Back Forty

Checking the Back Forty is the name of a new email newsletter which began circulation this spring. The goal of this newsletter was to provide up to date crop management information in a timely manner. Over 395 people received this newsletter during the 2011 growing season and the response was very positive. Crop growers and ag industry person-

nel indicated they appreciated receiving Growing Degree Day information so they could monitor corn growth and development. This was important because although corn was planted later than normal because of excessive rain, there was enough heat to mature corn earlier than expected. Growers were able to make better decisions on when to harvest corn silage as a result of this information. To receive this newsletter send an email to khg2@cornell.edu.

Team assists dairy and field crop producers affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee

On August 27 Hurricane Irene and on September 7 Tropical Storm Lee provided excessive rainfall that caused severe flooding of the Mohawk, Chenango and Unadilla Rivers and the Schoharie Creek. Besides the devastation to local homes and businesses the agricultural community was also hard hit as crops were left unharvestable by flood waters at a time just prior to harvest. In some cases barns and equipment were also destroyed and bridge and culvert wash outs left farms inaccessible.

The Central New York Dairy and Field Crops team responded by putting out information on how to handle flood damage crops by email and direct mailings to farms. Individual assistance was provided to farms that had specific questions on assessing flood damage, the hazards of utilizing flooded crops and where to find alternative forage crops to replace their losses. The team worked with FSA, NRCS, SWCD, Farm Bureau and crop insurance agents and adjusters to make sure they had the best information available on flooded crops to help their clientele make the best possible decisions.



From left, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Regional Dairy Specialist David Balbian

2011 Corn Day and 2011 Dairy Day



2011 Dairy Day speakers left to right: Dr. Mary Beth deOndarza, David Balbian, Jon Prokop, Jon Beller



Dr. Russ Hahn discusses weed control strategies in corn as part of the 2011 Corn Day

Each year the team conducts a Dairy Day and a Corn Day to address topics of interest to local dairy, livestock and field crop producers. Each of these meetings conducted at the Otesaga Inn in Cooperstown are attended by over 100 area producers. Speakers may be nationally and internationally known for their subject matter expertise or local producers who have implemented a new practice and are willing to talk about it.