

SOUTH CENTRAL NY DAIRY & FIELD CROPS PROGRAM

3rd Quarter Report

July-September 2017

Record Rainfall and Cool Temperatures set the Stage for the 2017 Growing Season

Wet, cold spring conditions turned into a summer long wet, cool growing season. Strong pop up thundershowers at times brought crop damaging hail. Intense, high rates of rain in a short time frame (minutes) were common throughout the region. The result is levels of concerning erosion.

In mid-September we were very fortunate with warmer than normal temperatures and a dry spell can helped make up needed maturity of corn and a last chance for making dry hay. This year has been the lowest for Growing Degree Day accumulation in the last 9 years.

The wet summer has been difficult at best, causing a lot of crop stress. The soybean disease, white mold is troublesome this year. Potato leafhopper caused widespread damage in alfalfa in both 2nd and 3rd cuttings.

For many, crop inventories have been restored but much of the hay crop will have less than ideal quality. The jury is still out on the digestibility of our pending corn silage crop.

Monthly Total GDD for FREEVILLE 1 NE, NY
Each column contains monthly value and monthly number of missing days
Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Year	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Season
2009	M 31	384 0	470 0	586 0	246 0	M
2010	310 0	451 0	637 0	554 0	314 0	2266
2011	270 0	457 0	646 0	514 0	373 0	2260
2012	329 0	403 0	624 0	536 0	275 0	2167
2013	247 0	404 0	636 0	451 0	233 0	1971
2014	210 0	451 0	523 0	425 0	290 0	1899
2015	364 0	399 0	516 0	509 0	449 0	2237
2016	197 0	411 0	632 0	655 0	365 0	2260
2017	176 0	405 0	563 0	459 0	284 4	1887
Mean	263	418	583	521	314	2118
Max	364	457	646	655	449	2266
Min	2015	2011	2011	2016	2015	2010
	176	384	470	425	233	1887
	2017	2009	2009	2014	2013	2017



Variability in corn due to ponded water stress



Downy Mildew on soybean



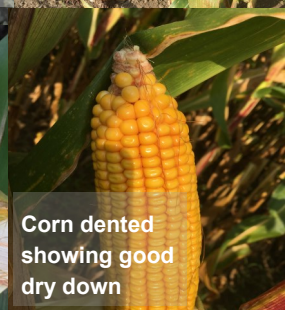
Rust on Corn



White Mold on soybean



Northern Corn Leaf Blight lesion & immature corn



Corn dented showing good dry down



Potato Leafhopper damage on non-resistant alfalfa variety compared to resistant

Cornell Cooperative Extension links the research and extension efforts at Cornell University, the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, providing the knowledge to maximize New York State's agricultural and natural resources.

Summer Dairy Events: Cow Comfort Facilities Tour and Safe Animal Handling

By: Melanie Palmer, Dairy Educator

A Cow Comfort and Safe Animal Handling workshop was held July 12, 2017 at Preble Hill Farms LLC. Realizing the importance of cow comfort in regards to excellent herd health and milk production, the SCNY Dairy & Field Crops Team planned this meeting keeping dairy producers considering expansion or facility improvements in mind. All livestock producers need to be reminded of safe animal handling. Working with animals daily can become “routine” and the safety aspect easily forgotten. Frequent reminders of safe animal handling may prevent serious injury or even death.

Farm owners Dave Griswold and Dr. Mike Griep opened their doors to host producers that were interested in seeing how Preble Hill Farms LLC facilities have changed through expansion. The meeting started in the shop with presentations from guest speakers. Jim Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist with NY Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health (NYCAMH), shared safe animal handling tips. He began his presentation with some statistics on injuries and fatalities that were linked to animals. He stated that when a person was hurt or killed by a bull on farm, in many instances it was by a bull that had previously never shown aggression. This was an important reminder to all not be complacent whenever working around any group of animals. Jim also presented a couple of videos that producers can use for training their employees. (Keeping in mind that dairies participating in the FARM Program must provide training to employees every year, the links to the videos are provided. These videos, published by Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health, are also available in Spanish so that all employees on dairies can get good basic safe animal handling training as well as dairy producers themselves.)

<http://umash.umn.edu/resources/> link for videos
<http://umash.umn.edu/> link to home page

Dr. Mike Griep along with Steve Hewitt, project manager with Vista Builders Inc. shared some of the critical points that farm and contractor should discuss when planning a new facility. Vista Builders was contractor for the most recently constructed barns. Steve stated that the planning

process is critical to success when a farm is building a new facility. An example he shared was that even though a farm may not be able to implement certain facets right away, planning for sprinklers and fans, by putting in taller posts along the feed alley and needed water lines, will make it far easier to install them in the future. They showed upgrades that have been made in the design of the newest barns, especially with the free stalls, with the goal of improving cow comfort.

The tour kicked off with Mike Griep giving an overview of the expansion that the farm has undergone in the past couple of decades and describing how the design of the free stall barns had evolved. The group walked through several of the barns with key cow comfort items being discussed along the way. Attendees were able to ask questions and see the differences between ‘old’ and ‘new’.

Evaluations of the meeting indicated that attendees thought the information presented was beneficial and very useful to their business. They also identified action items that they will focus on for their farm to improve cow comfort improvements with facility updates. One farm from Onondaga County that attended has recently started construction of a new barn. They are also working with Vista Builders Inc. and found this meeting helpful in making sure they have addressed key cow comfort items in design of their new barn.

Many thanks to Preble Hill Farms LLC owners, Dave Griswold and family and Mike Griep for opening their doors for a great Twilight Meeting!



Summer Dairy Events: Farm Safety & OSHA Workshop

By: Betsy Hicks, Area Dairy Specialist

Many medium to large farms fall in the category of farms that are subject to surprise OSHA inspections, known as the Local Emphasis Program (LEP) in NY. Managers on these farms have several aspects to stay on top of to remain OSHA compliant, including minimizing hazards on farm, keeping up-to-date records, and annual training of employees on hazards they may encounter during their daily operations. In knowing that operations change daily, new employees come to farms every year, and certain aspects of the LEP change periodically, many farm managers know that they need to get up to speed on being compliant with OSHA LEP standards but aren't sure about where to turn to for help and resources.

In response to this need, the team organized a Farm Safety and OSHA Workshop held at the Volles Farm in late August. About twenty-two farm managers, employees and agribusiness representatives participated in the workshop, where they heard from an array of speakers focused on safety and OSHA compliance. Presenters included; Pro-Dairy's Karl Czymmek, Keith Gillette, Donna Haley and Michael Cappelli from NYS Department of Labor and NYCAMH representatives Anna Meyerhoff and Bill Gibson. Owner Danielle Volles gave an overview of how she stays on top of compliance and safety, and led a farm tour focused on OSHA hazards and tips.

This workshop resulted in several touchpoints being made available to farms to make changes in their operations to become safer, as well as avoid fines and become OSHA compliant. Several farm managers picked up signage offered by NYCAMH to display on their home farms, and many took cards from the presenters to get in touch after the workshop. One hundred percent of the evaluations done by participants stated that the information shared was beneficial to their farm business, and one hundred percent also stated they would be taking some sort of action, the most common action being



Danielle Volles talks to the group about safety changes they have implemented on their operation during a tour of the farm focused on OSHA regulations.

“implementing safety measurements” followed by “more employee safety training”. Four of the farms stated they would also be contacting either NYS DOL for a farm safety audit and/or contacting NYCAMH for safety training. In addition to this, participants from the winter Manager's Discussion Group stated they wanted more intense training from NYS DOL on OSHA mandates this winter.

Anna Meyerhoff with NYCAMH offered this feedback after the workshop:

“Hi Betsy, thank you so much for letting us speak and set out materials at the meeting! I thought the DOL and OSHA LEP overviews were extremely informative, and the active group discussion during the classroom portion as well as during the walkthrough really highlighted how engaged all the participants were throughout the session.

Please consider doing more manager meetings on safety in the future and feel free to include NYCAMH if you ever want a guest presenter!

It was a great event! Have a great weekend, Anna”

Regional Team's Retreat—Lake Placid

From August 27-29, staff from the 10 Regional Ag Teams including Harvest NY and CCE Administration engaged in a team retreat at the High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid. It was a time to:

- ◆ Network, have fun and build relationships
- ◆ Develop a shared vision for CCE regional ag programs, and
- ◆ Learn and share education and outreach best practices
- ◆ Leave the retreat feeling motivated and excited about our work.



In addition to team sharing and updates we learned about consumer food trends, best practices for connecting, communicating and maintaining relationships with Association Partners and how to effectively “Program” and make an impact at a “regional level”.

On the Road with the Soil Health Trailer

A Diverse International Crowd at Eco-Village



Dates	Event	Location
July 6	Cortland County Jr. Fair	Cortland
August 5	Celebrating Common Ground	Eco Village, Ithaca
August 8-10	Empire Farm Days	Seneca Falls
August 12	TC Open Farm Days—Scheffler	Groton
August 15	UV Sustainable Farming	Charlotte, VT
August 16	Caring Dairy Farmer Training	Holland, VT
August 17	Caring Dairy Farmer Training	Franklin, VT
Aug 23	Glynwood Soil Health	New Paltz
Aug 29	Pasture Walk @ Red House Ranch	Van Etten
Aug 31	Pasture Walk with Organic Valley	Marathon
Sept 12 & 13	Environmental Awareness Days	Acra
Sept 27	Grass Fed Exchange	Sharon Springs
Sept 28	NODPA Conference	Truxton
Oct 17	Great Lakes Restoration Conference	Holland