

Educational Activities



Left to right: Area Dairy Specialist David Balbian with speakers, Dr. Heather Dann, Research Scientist, W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute Nicole Martin, Associate Director of Cornell's Milk Quality Improvement Program, Dr. David Barbano, Professor, Department of Food Science, Cornell University

2018 Central NY Dairy Day

Dairy Day was held on March 13th in Cooperstown at The Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown. This year's topics were all about how new milk analysis tools can help people to manage their herd better. Speakers included Nicole Martin, Associate Director of Cornell's Milk Quality Improvement Program, Dr. David Barbano, Professor in the Department of Food Science at Cornell, and Dr. Heather Dann, Research Scientist from the W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute. Program sponsorship was at an all-time high of 18, although overall attendance was down. (Balbian)

CAFO Off-Road Show

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) managers are required to attend training on the storage and handling of manure over the next five years. The CAFO Off-Road Show, a DEC endorsed training, was conducted by Karl Czymmek the PRO-DAIRY Nutrient Management Specialist so that managers can meet the requirement. Held at five locations in the region, thirty farms and fifty seven managers and staff received the training. (Balbian, Ganoe)



Karl Czymmek, PRO-DAIRY Nutrient Management Specialist discusses winter spreading at a CAFO Off-Road Show

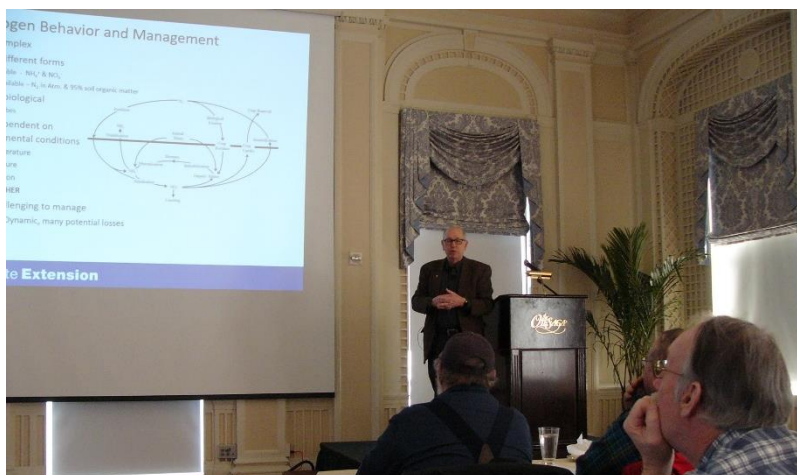
Field Crop Pest Management Meetings

Conducted at seven locations in the eight counties in the region these meetings review pest management problems from 2017 and highlight areas of pest control field crop growers need to

consider in the future. The over one hundred in attendance also received DEC pesticide applicator recertification credits which are needed to maintain their applicator licenses. (Ganoe)

2018 Corn Day

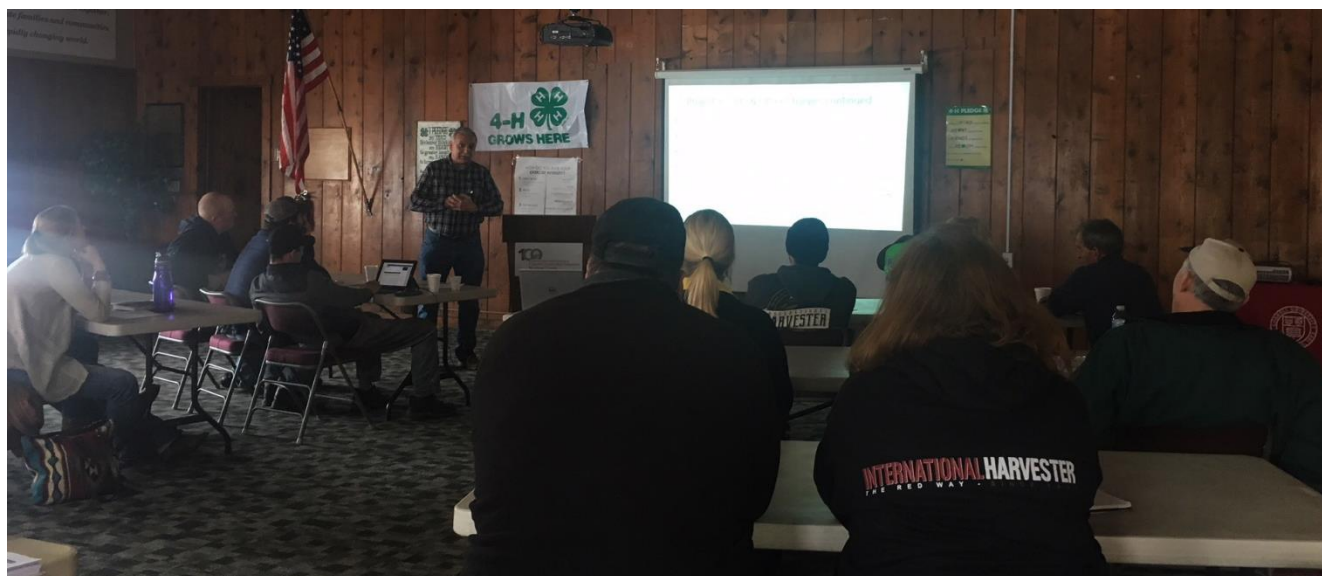
Keynote speaker of this year's program was Dr. Douglas Beegle, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Agronomy, Penn State University whose talk "Making the most of your nitrogen supply in times wet conditions and low market prices" was well received. The over 100 in attendance learned more about properly using dicamba, choosing corn silage hybrids, reducing herbicide resistance and increasing yields on variably drained soils. (Ganoe)



Dr. Douglas Beegle, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Agronomy, Penn State University helps Corn Day attendees understand the nitrogen cycle.

Dairy Farm Business Planning in Uncertain & Challenging Times

This program was held in Morrisville to provide dairy producers with tools and information to deal with the economically challenging times caused by low milk prices. This program was carried out by David Balbian, Area Dairy Management Specialist, Ann Richards of the Pro Dairy Program, and by staff from Cornell's FarmNet Program. (Balbian)



Regional Dairy Specialist David Balbian explains the results of a project that focused on feeding performance to improve profitability at a meeting in Morrisville on March 27, 2018

Academy for Dairy Executives

The final two sessions of this program, which was coordinated with Pro Dairy staff and other Ag. Educators in Central New York took place in Auburn on January 23-24 and in Oneonta on February 20-21. This program was targeted toward younger people taking over management roles on the dairy. They were taught how to make management decisions on the farm. (Balbian)

Hay School

A two day school was held in Morrisville with 13 people in attendance. In the first week participants learned how to improve their hay fields and how to time cutting for highest quality. The second week focused on the hay and baleage making process and the associated machinery along with how to properly store hay. (Ganoe)

Current Projects and Grants

Using forage quality testing to improve the corn silage hybrid selection process on dairy farms

In January twenty one participants collected 28 fermented corn silage samples from silos for this NYFVI sponsored project. Dave and Kevin submitted the samples for forage quality testing, fermentation analysis and silage processing score. The summarized the results were presented to participants at meetings so they could see how their corn silage quality compared to those of others and discuss what management changes they may need to be addressed. (Balbian and Ganoe)

Dairy Acceleration Program.

Applications continue to come in for this program. This quarter Dave met with 2 farms that applied for business planning. (Balbian)

Emerging Issues and Individual Assistance

Dave has met once this quarter with two dairy farm profit teams. Other individual consultations dealt with dairy nutrition, feed costs, productivity, facility design, purchasing replacements, and dealing with the low milk prices. (Balbian)

Kevin has had consultations on soybeans, hay field and pasture weed control, malting barley and manure value. (Ganoe)

Ashley has met with livestock farms about record keeping, teaching them to produce a consistent product for their customers and vaccinations and castration tools and procedures. (McFarland)

Speaking Opportunities:

Dave was asked to speak at the Chenango County USDA Service Center Open House on March 6. He presented results of the NYFVI grant Using Precision Feed Management to Improve Profitability on Dairy Farms to those in attendance. (Balbian)

Kevin spoke on how weeds get introduced to pastures and hay fields for the “The Pathways to Invasion: What is on Your Property?” meeting at the CCE Saratoga meeting in Ballston Spa on January 23. (Ganoe)



Regional Field Crop Specialist describes how moving soil can also move weeds at “The Pathways to Invasion: What is on Your Property?” meeting.

Public Relations

In March, Ashley attended a SUNY Cobleskill event had an in conjunction with NYSERTA for local farmers to learn about what resources are available to them and that there is support from multiple organizations. (McFarland)

Newsletters

Ashley has started to write a newsletter for livestock producers, called The Livestock Journal. Her first Article went out in March and the Next one will be out in May. (McFarland)

Next Quarter and Future Activities

Continue work on the Dairy Acceleration Program as Dave is the facilitator for this program across our region. (Balbian)

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

Conduct soybean scouting program for soybean producers. (Ganoe)

Participate in state wide corn insect trapping program. (Ganoe)

Start Checking the Back 40 newsletter. (Ganoe)

Conduct 1st cutting quality monitoring and distribute summary. (Balbian, Ganoe and McFarland)

BQA Meeting with Dr. Baker in May. (McFarland)

Livestock Forage Meetings in May. (Ganoe, McFarland)

Twilight Meetings on Farm's in Multiple Counties during the summer months. (McFarland)

Newsletter (McFarland-May, June, July, August)

Livestock Committee Meeting in June (Bring in a few producers from each county to work through challenges they see) (McFarland)