Prepare for Harvest with Summer Safety Trainings
by Joan Sinclair Petzen

Summer is upon us. Spring crops are planted. By the time you read this wheat harvest should be complete. This is a great time of year to take a deep breath and schedule some safety training before fall harvest is upon us. It never hurts to have reminders about safety on the road, keeping guards in place, being certain we employ safety practices working on a bunk or with harvest and storage equipment, being mindful of confined space hazards or getting enough rest and the list goes on.

Reminders about getting adequate rest can be beneficial before peak workload seasons. We all want to be safe but can get a little lax in our adherence to safety protocols. To keep safety training relevant and interesting be aware of resources available to assist with training and always take a few minutes to talk through or walk through how the topic of a training video or flyer relates to specific situations at your farm business.

A great source of agricultural safety training materials and assistance is the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH). They have specialists who come out to the farm to either do a safety audit or provide on farm safety training. They also have posters and articles that can help a farm to frame their own safety training program. As a business leader and manager one of the best ways to create a culture of safety on the farm is to engage with your family and employees about safety topics. Utilizing some of the resources from NYCAMH (https://www.nycamh.org/) one can easily accomplish some short safety reminder meetings. Perhaps incorporating one of these each week as harvest approaches will help remind your team about the importance of keeping themselves and their counterparts safe.

The FARM Program (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) provides an easy to access connection to many farm safety resources around the country. Resources like checklists, training videos and guides, outlines for 20-minute tailgate talks and more are linked on the FARM Human Resources and Safety Management Page of their website: https://nationaldairyfarm.com/hr-and-safety-management-resources/. Many of these resources provide a framework for talking with your team about safety topics in short digestible bites. Try them out - you just might find having some short discussions about safety is not that hard. They have partnered with Cargill to launch the Actionable Safety Review, an online tool dairies can use to identify opportunities and take action to improve safety on farm (www.cargilldairydreams.com/page/live-safety).

The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (https://www.necasag.org) is known for their National Farm Safety Week campaign. They are also a great resource for their “Grow Safely Videos” on a range of ag-

(Continued on page 3)
A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these nine counties:
Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne & Wyoming

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By law and purpose, Cooperative Extension is dedicated to serving the people on a non-discriminatory basis.

Remember To Check Out The NWNY Team Blog!
Our goal for this blog is to share with farmers and allied industry professionals, technical and applicable resources regarding all aspects of dairy farming, livestock and small farms, field crops and soils, and topics related to farm business management and precision agriculture.
The blog will feature Crop Alerts, Dairy Alerts, Bilingual (Spanish) Resources, Upcoming Events and more from our team members. When new material is published, subscribers will receive an email notification.
You can visit the blog at: https://blogs.cornell.edu/nwny-dairy-livestock-field-crops/
Prepare for Harvest with Summer Safety Trainings

(Continued from page 1)

Agricultural topics from grain bins to children on the farm, tractors, electrical, ATV, rural road safety and more. These short videos are great conversation starters for safety topics on your farm. They also have recorded webinars on confined space relating to both grain and manure storage and manure pit foaming. The Center also offers training for first responders related to working in an agricultural setting and how to execute rescue operations in typical farm related entrapment situations.

Now is the time to take steps to develop a culture of safety on your farm. Look at some of these great resources and start a regular safety conversation with people who make your farm successful.

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Wheat harvest should be just about wrapped up. That leaves about 125,000 acres out there in NY to plant some cover crops. Throw in the other small grains (barley, rye, and oats) and the acres continue to add up. There is also an opportunity to grow some more forage acres. Crops like sorghum, forage oats and triticale can help fill in some of those forage losses. The past couple of years have shown us that the first half of August has been the optimal planting window for success of most cover crops.

There has been a huge emphasis on soil health and cover crops are an important piece of this puzzle. There are a lot of options when it comes to choosing a cover crop species. You have to ask yourself, “What do I want to accomplish?” Is it soil conservation, increase organic content, a trap crop for nitrogen, comply with conservation payments or weed control? Some other things to consider is cost. Do you want a species that winterkills or overwinters? Is compaction an issue? Do I need some extra forage? We know that there is a benefit to keeping something growing and covering our fields at all times. It looks like there is also a benefit to planting multiple species together. Mixing tap root and fibrous root species together helps create soil microorganism biodiversity.

We know radishes do a great job of loosening up the soil when there is a compaction issue. However, there is some concern that we may not get the nitrogen back that we put into them. Radishes degrade very quickly in the early spring. Is all the nitrogen gone by the time the corn is ready for it? It might be more beneficial to plant an overwintering species like a winter grain or ryegrass with the radish to pick up that N and keep it around longer so the corn can utilize it when it needs it most.

We have seen cover crops planted with many different drills, air flowed, broadcast and aerially applied. All can be successful, however proper calibration can be tedious and frustrating. Most planters do not have settings for some of these non-traditional plants. Take the time to work it out! You do not want to waste your time by putting on too little and you do not want to waste money by putting on way too much. The cover crop seed suppliers may have worked some of the settings and rates for different seeds and planters out already and have resources available. See Cornell Nutrient Management SPEAR program’s Cover Crops for Field Crops factsheet for more details, https://tinyurl.com/SPEAR-CoverCrops-Factsheet.

There are also a couple of options for planting extra forage in early August. A common choice is spring/forage oats. They are usually in the boot stage by mid-October. I have seen from 1.5 to 2 tons dry matter per acre. You can add annual ryegrass to the mix and field peas or clover if higher protein is desired. Planting winter triticale has become popular after corn silage harvest. It is harvested in May just after flag stage emergence (GS 9). We have seen 2-4 tons of dry matter per acre in NY. See the Winter Triticale Forage factsheet at https://tinyurl.com/Winter-Triticale-Factsheet for specifics.

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**Don’t Miss Out on the 2021 NY Corn and Soybean Yield Contests**

The annual corn and soybean yield contests sponsored by the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association are underway. The 2021 yield contest entry form is available on the next page. This form and contest rules can be found on the NY Corn & Soybean Growers Association web page at https://nycornsoy.org/yield-contests/. Entry forms must be postmarked by August 30 and mailed or emailed to Mike Stanyard. Cost is $30 per entry. This year the overall corn and soybean champions win an all-expense paid trip for two to the 2022 Commodity Classic in New Orleans.

The deadline for the National Corn Yield Contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association is August 18 and the entry form can be found on their webpage at https://www.ncga.com/for-farmers/national-corn-yield-contest. Please remember that this is a different contest than the state contest sponsored by the NYC&SGA. I would encourage growers to enter both corn contests. Applicants in the NGCA contest can use their contest harvest results to fulfill the requirements in the NYC&SGA contest as long as they fill out the entry form and pay the NY entry fee by August 30. Good Luck!
# 2021 New York Grain Corn and Soybean Yield Contests

**Entry Form and Field Designation**

Entries must be RECEIVED and PAID by August 30, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Farm Name</th>
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*Only one person per farm may enter and no more than two entries each for corn and soybean*

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<tr>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Zip</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Work/Cell Phone</th>
<th>sponsor (if sponsored)</th>
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<th>Grain Corn Entry #2</th>
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<td>Company</td>
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<tr>
<th>Soybean Entry #1</th>
<th>Soybean Entry #2</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Company</td>
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<td>Maturity group (circle one): 0 1 2 3</td>
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<td>County</td>
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I hereby agree that all the contest information provided by me pursuant to this Yield Contest shall be the property of the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association and can be used and distributed at the sole discretion of the Association.

Signature of the Entrant: ____________________________ Date: __________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of grain corn entries (limit 2 per farm)</th>
<th>Number of soybean entries (limit 2 per farm)</th>
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<tr>
<td>$30/entry</td>
<td>$30/entry</td>
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New NYCSGA membership Renew NYCSGA

($99/year membership not required to enter state contest)

Total Enclosed: __________

Method of Payment (check one):

- Bill my seed provider-name/phone# ______________________ (contest only)
- Cash 
- Check (payable to NYCSGA) 
- Credit card

Credit card number: ____________________________
Expiration date: __________ Sec Code: __________ Billing Zip Code: __________
Signature: ________________________________

Return to: Mike Stanyard, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Wayne County CCE
1581 Route 88N, Newark, NY 14513 Email: mjs88@cornell.edu. Questions? Call 585-764-8452

If this form is properly submitted, you will receive the appropriate Harvest Report Forms in the mail or email if provided.
TAX PLANNING  Because of the economic uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing financial impact from the associated relief programs and tax law changes, it is more important than ever to work with a reliable financial advisor to have accurate year-end projections to support sound tax planning. Contact your Farm Credit East advisor to keep your business Strong at the Roots.

WESTERN NEW YORK ENERGY

- We support our local NY corn farmers by providing competitive bids for your old and new crop corn, including on-farm pricing. Payment within 2 days.

- Give us a call to discuss our high protein (31%+), low fat Dairy Distillers Grain.

- Bulk commodity and grain transportation services available through our subsidiary, Shelby Transportation. Give us a call for a transportation quote.

Call now for more information:
Corn: (866) 610-6705
Distillers Grain: (315) 247-1286
Shelby Transportation: (585) 734-4747
This article provides highlights from research designed to study soil health systems adoption by farms in the Genesee River Watershed in NY. For details, please see (Hanchar, John and Aaron Ristow. 2021 (in review). Achieving Improved Soil Health Outcomes While Maintaining or Improving Economic Viability: Case Study of a Dairy Farm Business in the Genesee River Watershed, New York. Working Paper 2021-01. Batavia, NY: Cornell Univ./CALS/NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program. <www.nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu>). AFT provided funding for the work described here, while owners/managers from the Mulligan Farm contributed time and effort to provide valuable information.

Summary

Owners of the Mulligan Farm, and individuals with key management responsibilities seek to increase operational efficiencies while providing the best care for animal, land and people resources. Commitment to using the most environmentally friendly practices guides crop production. Soil health practices come together as a system to improve results. Allocations of resources among possible uses have changed. For example, less labor allocated to tillage allows labor to be allocated to activities that provide additional crop value on a more consistent basis. Overall, the Mulligan Farm’s adoption of soil health practices coincides with improved economic performance.

To learn more about soil health work on farms in the Genesee River Watershed, please consider attending the AFT organized Soil Health Field Day scheduled for Tuesday, 31 August 2021, 10 AM to 3 PM, held at Mulligan Farm in Avon, NY. For more information or to register online visit: www.farmland.org/WNYFieldDay.

Economic Benefits

A marginal analysis approach provided estimates of the incremental benefits and costs associated with Mulligan Farm’s implementation of soil health practices. Compari-
son of the current system to the former cropping system focused on cropping program factors over time: 1) acres, production, yield, and value of production by crop; 2) fertilizers & lime, seeds & plants, sprays and other inputs, and machinery expenses per tillable acre. Analysts identified and incorporated only differences in value of production and cost factors. Results suggest that the Mulligan Farm successfully adopted an environmentally friendly soil health system, while realizing an increase in annual value of crop production above cropping program costs.

Selected observations regarding the cropping program relative to the above results follow.

“With the no-till drill we’re capable of planting more acres given available resources.” Efficiency of operations, reduced time [on tillage] are notable. Regarding cover crops, “... after rain, harvest continues the next day, operation efficiency goes up.” Cover crops help the farm no till corn crops versus strip till – the improved soil is easier to no till. The farm is “breaking up compaction with roots, not iron, saving time in the process.” Resources freed up are now used for other purposes. Winter cereals for forage, for example, triticale following corn silage, provide cover, and forage quantity and quality to meet goals.

When asked whether soil health practices had any effect on resilience when faced with varying weather outcomes, key cropping program personnel noted the farm is realizing “More stable yields. Resiliency is a big, notable factor.”

Randy is a Senior Lab Technician in the Dairy One Forage Lab. He works with about 35 other technicians and support staff.

Randy knows that his work in the lab helps farms and their nutritionists develop proper diets that result in more efficient use of ingredients. Customers can make ration adjustments based on Randy’s work that lead to healthier, happier cows and improved profitability. Randy believes in farming and so do we.
Feeding Sprouted Wheat to Livestock by Nancy Glazier

When it rains it pours. As I write this (7/13), the weather is wet, in the midst of what should be wheat harvest. As more rainy days are in the forecast, the risk potential for sprouted or poor-quality wheat rises. Poor-quality wheat can be fed to livestock, with some considerations. Wheat is high in energy and usually priced to be fed to humans. The energy is more readily fermentable from starch and contains more degradable protein than corn. Sprouted wheat may be a bit higher in nutritive value than that of quality wheat.

Storage
Sprouted wheat should be stored separately from quality wheat. Moisture levels need to be below 14% for long-term storage. Quantity and the economics need to be looked at if aerating or drying is needed. If wet, it may be ensiled. Texas Cooperative Extension Ted McCollum III recommends rolling or grinding to allow for better compaction. Moisture should be uniform at 23-35%. Inoculant is recommended.

Price Considerations
Grain prices are currently high. Depending on the amount of sprouting and test weight, it would be a good idea to pencil out the options. Table 1 was adapted from a University of Georgia Extension fact sheet. For a more complete comparison, crude protein would need adjusting with a source such as soybean meal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price of corn, $/bu</th>
<th>Price of wheat, $/bu</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>5.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>5.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>6.36</td>
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Table 1. Evaluation of price at which sprouted wheat can economically replace corn grain (Georgia).

Summary
This is a short overview of feeding poor quality wheat. A resource reviewed for this article was from North Dakota State Extension Service, plus ones mentioned above. There are many factors to consider when feeding sprouted wheat: amount sprouted, test weight, and quantity. Maybe we will dodge some showers this week and this article would be filed for another time!

Dairy Workforce Focus:
Changing Workforce Dynamics
August 16, 2021 - Noon (EST) | Webinar
Phil Durst, Senior Extension Educator at Michigan State University will discuss changing workforce dynamics and strategies to improve labor efficiency. Phil will share some of his work with the Michigan dairy industry and discuss how owners and managers can work with people in partnership to achieve the goals of the business. Register no later than August 13, 2021 by visiting https://extension.psu.edu/dairy-workforce-focus-changing-workforce-dynamics. Registrants will also receive access to the webinar recording. Free program!
There are a few reasons why unfortunately many herds are seeing milkfat depression this time of year. A clear one is the hot muggy weather that causes heat stress and reduces cows’ dry matter intake, leading to a disruption in rumen microbial efficiency. A reason less thought about, but one that is a strong contributing factor is the level of fermentable starch in the feeds in our cows’ diets. Right now, any corn silage, or high moisture corn, is about the most fermented that it is going to be (i.e. it is at its highest starch digestibility). That means that starch in well-processed corn silage is the most available to the rumen microbes at this time versus during earlier months of the year.

Your nutritionist should be able to get rumen starch digestibility numbers from the forage lab to help understand how this readily available starch is changing the way the feed is digested. Rapidly fermentable starch in corn silage should be balanced by backing out added starch and grain from the ration so that we do not mess with rumen fat metabolism. A good way to troubleshoot is taking a TMR sample, and looking at starch content and starch digestibility so that we can see how fast it is degrading. Generally, a safe window for rumen fermentable starch is 18-21% to help protect milkfat. If you find you are above this and need to slow the starch digestibility down, try exchanging fine ground corn for coarse ground to better compliment your highly digestible starch coming from your ensiled feeds.

If we continue to incorporate 2020 corn silage into the diet at the same rates as earlier in the year without adjustment elsewhere, there is a chance we will continue to see components being negatively affected, which decreases our bottom line. We certainly don’t want to give up the option of having highly available and digestible starch, we just want to manage it in the diet. How do we ensure that we have this option that increases feed efficiency year after year? It starts in the field. To improve starch digestibility for the new 2021 corn silage, and keep your options open, consider the following technique:

Crush the Kernels! Now to my favorite analogy. Think about the corn kernel as your favorite candy bar in a wrapper. You know inside is a delicious high energy snack (sugar in this case), but it is covered by a plastic wrapper. If you were to eat the candy bar with the wrapper on, your stomach enzymes would not be able to get past the wrapper and take advantage of the energy inside. The same is true with rumen microbes and a corn kernel. The outside casing of an intact corn kernel is called the “pericarp”, and it acts similarly to a candy wrapper. Without crushing the kernel (tearing open the wrapper) and exposing the starchy goodness inside, the digestion of the starch by microbes in the rumen and intestine of the cow is nearly impossible. These whole kernels usually pass still intact with the manure, and your money and feed efficiency is wasted on the floor.

To prevent this mistake, make sure you are continuously monitoring kernel processing during corn silage harvest. Get a large cup and take a scoop of the processed corn as it comes in from the field, or better yet at the field, so you can make adjustments right away if necessary. Lay it out on a surface where you can separate the kernels from the forage. Every kernel should be broken into quarters. If not, adjust your roller gap and chop length to get it there. If you are really cranked down on your roller gap, and still see whole or nicked kernels coming through, try loosening the roller a little to allow a steadier throughput of corn.

Stay tuned for more information on our upcoming 2021 Corn Silage Pre-Harvest Workshops and Burn-Down Days!
August 2021

Flock Talk via Zoom - August 25, 2021 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Dr. Jarra Jagne, Cornell Extension Veterinarian, will discuss Internal and external parasites of poultry. For more information contact Nancy Glazier at: nig3@cornell.edu or 585-315-7746.

Soil Health Field Day - August 31, 2021 from 10:00am - 3:00pm (Registration and Refreshments begin at 9:30am), organized by American Farmland Trust. Held at Mulligan Farm in Avon, NY. FREE to attend, registration is required by August 25th. CCA C.E.U.s will be available. For more information or to register online visit: www.farmland.org/WNYFieldDay.