



December 2013

CAFO Update

by Lori Whittington, Jr. Farmstead Consultant

The year is winding down and the holidays are soon to be here. I would like to take a moment and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Peace in our New Year!

In the CAFO Department, we are preparing and delivering record keeping calendars or binders and wrapping up construction projects. Last newsletter, Rhonda Lindquist talked about OSHA inspections. To follow-up on that article, I'd like to provide you with some key resources that you may find helpful:

- **Farm Credit East** hosted educational webinars about preparing for an OSHA inspection. You can still view the webinars from their website at <https://www.farmcrediteast.com/en/Webinars>
- **OSHA's** website, www.OSHA.gov, is helpful. You can search their website for "Farm Safety". Visit this link for a Fact Sheet on Farm Safety www.osha.gov/SLTC/agriculturaloperations. They also have a SHARP Program (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program) that can be accessed at <https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/sharp.html>
- **The National Safety Council** offers useful information at www.nsc.org/farmsafe/facts.htm.
- **The NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health** offers free services, including an on farm safety program. You can check this out at www.NYCAMH.com, click on "New York" then "Farm Safety Programs". In addition, they offer a rebate program for the purchase of Rollover Protective Structures. I will be distributing the rebate program details at upcoming farm visits to anyone interested.

- If you don't have internet access, or have trouble locating any of these resources, please contact your CAFO consultant for assistance.

In the July-August newsletter edition, Jim Seiler talked about Operation and Maintenance. One thing I'd like to point out about Jim's article is the importance of following that O&M schedule, especially on the VTA's. Several of our farms have had to replace the topsoil on their VTA because their soil tests came back with high phosphorus levels. Good operation and maintenance can help prevent this from occurring on your farm. Over the winter months, take the time to look over your O&M for your VTA and implement a consistent plan for regular maintenance. Not every farm has a VTA, some opted for full-collection and others have leachate ponds. But remember, those practices also require regular maintenance.

Animal mortality compost piles are a regular stop during a DEC inspection. Bulky materials seem to be key to a successful compost pile. They allow airflow, which helps speed up the composting process and reduces leachate. Leachate puddles can be an indicator that more material needs to be added, the pile needs to be turned, or maybe there are just too many animals in the pile. I personally recommend not locating it in the "back-forty" where it is "out of sight, out of mind". I work with a farm who has a curbed concrete pad that is located right next to their waste storage pond. This is an optimum set-up and works fantastic. Any leachate produced flows into the storage pond because the concrete pad slopes that way.

Hope you found this information helpful and again wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

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WNYCMA's First Annual Corn Grain Plot

With the positive response from our silage trials, WNYCMA decided to conduct a corn grain yield trial to assist our growers in variety selection for next year's corn seed purchase. This was our first year organizing a grain yield plot and it mainly focused on yield and maturity.

Three seed companies participated in this trial, evaluating thirteen different hybrids on three farms throughout WNY. The locations for the trials were R&D Janiga Enterprises, LLC (Marilla, NY), Mroczek Farms (Honeoye Falls, NY) and Hy-Hope Dairy (Stafford, NY).

Each of the cooperating farms planted (30" rows) and harvested six rows of each variety on two plots in the same field. The average final populations were 31,000 – 33,000 plants/acre. Fertilizer and herbicide programs were followed according to WNYCMA recommendations.

The plots were measured at 400 – 500 feet in length and harvested when grain moistures were acceptable for combining and weather permitted. Each hybrid was weighed in WNYCMA's grain weigh wagon separately for each plot for a trial total of six yield recordings. Grain samples were taken at harvest and tested for percent moisture and grain test weight immediately in our office using a DICKEY-john grain tester.

Trial data is shown in Tables 1-3.

Table 1: Marilla, NY

*Planting Date: 5/1/2013 ** Harvest Date: 10/28/2013

Company	Variety	Maturity	Moisture % at harvest	Test Wt.	Bu/acre @ 15.5% Moisture
Hubner	4021 RC2P	80	17.1	55.7	147.8
Doebblers	287 GRQ	85	17.7	55.5	236.1
Doebblers	328 GRV	89	17.8	55.5	217.5
Hubner	6040 RCSS	91	19.8	55.2	215.1
RPM	428 AMX	91	19.6	55.1	222.1
Hubner	4157 RC2P	94	19.2	55.7	234.3
Hubner	5151 VT3P	95	18.7	57.6	243.3
RPM	448 AMX	95	20.1	55.9	227.6
NK	36A 3111	96	19.6	53.9	239.0
RPM	497 AM	99	20.5	55.1	241.0
NK	42Z 3111	99	20.3	52.5	229.5
NK	45P 3011	101	21.6	54.5	247.6
RPM	537 AMX	103	24.8	54.8	235.8
		Av.	19.4	55.1	225.9

(Side Note) At the Marilla location, we had some moderate raccoon/deer/wind damage on the 80-day variety that we were unable to avoid. All remaining varieties stood and harvested well.



Table 2: Lima, NY

*Planting Date: 5/18/2013 **Harvest Date: 11/26/2013

Company	Variety	Maturity	Moisture % at harvest	Test Wt.	Bu/acre @ 15.5% Moisture
Hubner	4021 RC2P	80	15.5	54.0	167.5
Doebler's	287 GRQ	85	15.9	49.6	173.0
Doebler's	328 GRV	89	16.2	50.6	166.7
Hubner	6040 RCSS	91	17.4	50.5	199.2
RPM	428 AMX	91	17.2	52.7	198.2
Hubner	4157 RC2P	94	17.2	53.5	215.5
Hubner	5151 VT3P	95	16.6	57.2	219.8
RPM	448 AMX	95	17.0	54.9	186.1
NK	36A 3111	96	18.2	51.3	165.4
RPM	497 AM	99	19.2	53.4	190.7
NK	42Z 3111	99	18.4	53	201.2
NK	45P 3011	101	19.5	52.8	203.1
RPM	537 AMX	103	23.4	51.7	200.2
		Av.	17.8	52.7	191.2

Table 3: Stafford, NY

*Planting Date: 5/17/2013 ** Harvest Date: 12/5/2013

Company	Variety	Maturity	Moisture % at harvest	Test Wt.	Bu/acre @ 15.5% Moisture
Hubner	4021 RC2P	80	16.1	55.6	131
Doebler's	287 GRQ	85	16.4	53.5	154.3
Doebler's	328 GRV	89	16.2	52	141.5
Hubner	6040 RCSS	91	17.3	54.9	184.2
RPM	428 AMX	91	18.3	55	187
Hubner	4157 RC2P	94	17.0	54	183.7
Hubner	5151 VT3P	95	17.1	56.4	211
RPM	448 AMX	95	17.3	55	172.6
NK	36A 3111	96	18.2	50.9	171.4
RPM	497 AM	99	19.2	53.8	184.4
NK	42Z 3111	99	19.0	53	186.1
NK	45P 3011	101	19.9	53.2	187
RPM	537 AMX	103	23.4	52.7	191.7
		Av.	17.9	53.8	175.8

(Side Note) At the Stafford location, we had some moderate raccoon/deer/wind damage on the 80, 85 and 89-day varieties. We selected less-affected areas to harvest in order to achieve more uniform yield data. All remaining varieties stood and harvested well.

We would like to thank Doebler's Pennsylvania Hybrids, Inc. (RPM), Hubner Seed, and NK for their participation and financial support in the trial. A special thank you to our cooperators, Rick Janiga, Andy Mroczek, and Dick and Shane Totten, for their time planting and harvesting the plots and for the use of their land. A special thank you also to Bill Corchran for his prompt response in assisting us with harvesting at the Stafford location.

A New Face at the CMA

My name is Colleen Makar- I am the new Farmstead Technician in the Warsaw Office.

I was born and raised in Western New York, where I took an interest in the environment at a young age. Extremely involved with my high school's ecology club, I became an advocate for environmental awareness in my community. I was an active participant with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, and, as a hobby, I took up SCUBA diving where I got to experience the outdoors in a whole new way. I continued on to attend University at Buffalo where I graduated with a BS in Environmental Geoscience and a BA in Geography, concentrating in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Although not directly related to agriculture, the multidisciplinary degree programs provided me with a diverse knowledge of environmental systems and natural resources.

With most of my previous experience concentrated in GIS and fieldwork, I had the opportunity to participate in a diverse array of field courses and internships throughout my academic career. In July 2011, I spent two weeks participating in an intensive field course on San Salvadore Island, the Bahamas, where I gained valuable experience as I studied species diversity, invasive species, and resource allocation. Then, in 2012, I received a grant from the National Science Foundation that allowed me to spend the summer studying invasive insects at the University of Idaho.

Working closely with Dr. Stephen Cook, an entomologist, I helped to develop predictive maps, based on climate change, elevation, and insect dispersal, which demonstrated areas susceptible to invasion by the balsam wooly adelgid.

Upon returning home to Western New York, I began a yearlong internship with the Erie County Department of Health. There, I participated in the beach monitoring program where I collected water samples from Lake Erie beaches and nearby streams, installed and maintained weather stations, and assisted in data collection and analysis for climate and beach conditions. Most recently, I held a GIS intern position at Veolia Water where I worked with Buffalo Water Authority personnel. My tasks focused on creating maps to be utilized for field maintenance and repairs. Additionally, my role involved data input and database management.

While improving my ability to perform fieldwork and refining my GIS skills, these opportunities helped me develop essential problem solving and project management skills. I have been interested in the field of agriculture for a long time, and I look forward to the opportunity to learn more with hands-on experience and exposure to the many processes and practices of agriculture. GIS is a growing technology in many industries, especially agriculture, and I am eager to put my skills and experience to use and become actively involved in planning. I couldn't be more excited as I start a career with WNY Crop Management.

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Did you hear? We have another technician that has become a Certified Crop Advisor.

**Congrats goes out to
 Randolph Tech, Dave Wiggers!**

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