



**Western
New York**

CROP MANAGEMENT



Main Office: 5242 Curtis Road, Warsaw NY 14569

Randolph Office: 91 Jamestown Street, Randolph NY 14772

2013 WNY CROP MANAGEMENT ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 20TH, 2014

Alexander Fire Hall
1055 Main Street, Alexander NY 14005

AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:30 - 10:30 | "Bt Rootworm Failure in Central NY: A Canary in the Coalmine"
Mike Stanyard, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NWNYS Team |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | "Fence Row Farming"
Dean Glenney, Ontario, Canada Grain Farmer
Winner of the 2010 Ontario corn yield challenge with 272 bushels p/acre
And in 2013 he yielded 301 bushels p/acre |
| 12:10 - 1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 - 1:30 | Business Meeting:
*Call to Order - Eric Dziejdzic
*Reading of last meeting minutes
*Treasurer's Report
*Nomination Committee Report and Election - Mike Dueppengieser
*Managers Report - David DeGolyer
*Announcement of Election Results
*Other Business |
| 1:30 - 2:00 | "WNYCMA App" and other new services
Avery DeGolyer, IT, WNYCMA
Bruce Hausman of Will-O-Crest Farm on the Grower Database and his experience working with it |
| 2:00 - 3:00 | "Shredlage" Panel Discussion
Dustin Bliss of Bliss Dairy Company
Ken VanSlyke of VanSlyke Dairy LLC
Corwin Holtz, Nutritionist at Holtz-Nelson Dairy Consultants, LLC |



***** 2 PESTICIDE CREDITS AVAILABLE *****

Finding 20 More Bushels in Corn **by Josh Harvey**

While I was at the National No-Till Conference, I had the opportunity to listen to guest speaker David Wolfskill from Wernersville, PA. He is a no-till dairy farmer who produces soybeans, alfalfa and corn. His session was titled '*Finding 20 More Bushels in Corn*'. I came away from his presentation with the following important points.

There are several things that contribute to an increased corn yield. First and foremost, the backbone of a productive crop is growing it in healthy, living soil. To achieve this, utilize a good crop rotation to break up disease and pest lifecycles, install a fertilizer program that suits your soil's fertility and potential, and plant cover crops and utilize conservation tillage to reduce soil erosion and compaction. Implementing these practices will help improve your soil's biological diversity and help keep soils active year-round.

A living soil consists of many types of decomposers. The most often discussed decomposer is the ever-popular earthworm. Healthy soils provide an environment for a healthy and abundant population of earthworms. They are known for decomposing surface residue, and their excretions, which are neutral, increase the soil pH. An earthworm burrow, reaching as deep as 5 feet, can aid in drainage and root development and reduce compaction. Think of all the nutrients and water that may be available at that depth, if a root were to follow a burrow.

Planter maintenance was also stressed to ensure consistent seed depth, seed to soil contact and seed spacing. This is a topic we also remind you of annually.

He was very passionate about tearing down your planter every year to ensure worn parts get fixed. If the planter row unit's bushings are worn, replace them. Worn-out bushings can result in poor down pressure and inconsistent emergence. After your corn has reached spike stage, corn yet to emerge should be out of the ground within 18 hours or it becomes a weed. Those plants behind in development will be shaded out by the rest of the crop and reduce yield by stealing nutrients and moisture from surrounding plants that have greater yield potential. It is very important to maintain your planter to ensure consistent seed depth.

Once your planter is in prime condition and the weather permits field entry, there are other items that require attention. Planter speed is crucial. Moving too fast can cause your seed to roll ahead, creating doubles and triples. Closing the seed trench to ensure seed to soil contact was another key aspect of Mr. Wolfskill's presentation. Monitor your seed trench often to be sure you are getting good seed to soil contact and not over-packing it, sealing out air and moisture. Depending on rainfall, this can make it difficult for the seed to emerge. The best seed trench closing system for your farm will depend on soil type and tillage. So, have an open mind to different systems that are out there that may benefit your corn crop.

This is my second time attending the No-Till Conference, and it was once again filled with a diverse group of people with many ideas. If anyone is considering attending this conference, I highly recommend it. Next year it will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, a closer venue to Western New York.

BOARD MEMBERS

Eric Dziejdz President	Donn Branton Vice President	Shawn Cotter Sec/Treasurer
Ben Atwater	Kevin Nedrow	John Reynolds
Don Telaak		

Calcium Base Saturation: Limestone versus Gypsum by Chad Stoeckl

Several CMA staff and members attended the No-Till Conference this year in Springfield, Illinois. One topic that was repeated several times in various talks and sessions, and really stood out in my mind, was the issue of calcium levels in soils. Sure, they are talking no-till, big flat fields, different soils with no rocks, and different management techniques. But really, aren't we talking the same language? Every soil possesses certain pH or calcium potentials, and pro's versus con's.

When we discuss calcium, what do we think of? Calcium is important for nutrient balance and soil structure. However, as important as calcium is, we can't forget the antagonist magnesium. They always work in tandem. So, first we have to stop and think. What is our objective? Are we trying to raise soil pH? Are we trying to raise the calcium level? What are our calcium and magnesium saturation levels? What is the clay content of the soil?

As exciting as this part is, here is some background chemistry. Soil particles are negatively charged and possess many different sites where positively charged particles can attach (examples are calcium, magnesium, sodium). These sites, as we know them, are your cation exchange sites (CEC). So, in order to raise the pH of a soil, acid cations have to be removed from the cation exchange site and neutralized by a liming material such a calcium carbonate.

Ok, so lime raises pH. We all know it and use it. If my soil pH is correct, what can I use to raise the calcium level in my soil? This is where gypsum comes into play. Gypsum is calcium sulfate, which is used as a soil amendment to raise calcium levels without changing soil pH. It does so by attaching itself to the negatively charged soil particles. Among its contributions are improved soil

structure, improved water infiltration, reduced ponding, and an expanded root zone. Gypsum, which is water soluble, can move through the soil profile at a rate of 18 inches per year, whereas acid soluble limestone can only move 1 inch per year. In a minimum tillage system, this is how calcium can be moved through the profile without working it in.

So, if I need to use Gypsum to raise the calcium level, how much should I use? A lot of that answer falls back onto your soil sample result. What is the CEC, and how many exchange sites is this telling you? A CEC of less than 10 will be different than a CEC of greater than 15. At the No-Till Conference, this was the general annual recommendation:

CEC:
< 10 1,000 lbs/acre
10-15 2,000 lbs/acre
> 15 4,000 lbs/acre

These rates are to be applied annually until the Calcium Base Saturation level is raised to an optimum level. That number on your soil test is listed as CASAT. We aim for 60-70%. If the number is less than 60%, calcium can be raised in your soil by either utilizing limestone (if pH is low) or gypsum. We usually recommended a ton/acre as a starting point and retesting the soil later. The handling of gypsum can be a challenge, and it is best to avoid applying on snow-covered or frozen ground to prevent loss to wind and water.

Look over your soil test reports, specifically the pH & CASAT columns. Your consultant can look at these with you and develop a set of lime/gypsum recommendations to help balance or raise the calcium level in your soils.



Don't forget to install your WNYCMA App. for your farm's field information at your fingertips.

If you have a "scanner" app, you can scan the QR code above and it will take you directly to the app in the play store. Or, you can click on your play store icon and search for WNYCMA.

There is also an instruction sheet located on the website, www.wnycma.com to help you navigate through the app. You must contact the office via phone or email to get your farm's secret code for the app.

2014 Board Member Candidates

Jim Davis- Jim is a partner of Davis Valley Farm, located in Bliss, Wyoming County, with his father, James. They milk 260 cows and farm 500 acres of cropland. In addition to managing the farm, heading up calf raising, and participating in the day-to-day operations, he serves on the Town of Eagle Zoning Board and shoots pistols for a hobby.

Rob Harkins- Rob, in partnership with his father, Craig, and his brother, Tom, operates Harkins Dairy Farm in Wyoming, Wyoming County. They currently milk about 320 cows and farm approximately 570 acres of cropland. The farm has grown from 20 cows at its inception in 1983. Between the farm and his 3 kids, Rob never has a dull moment.

Russ Klein - Russ is a Marine Corps Reserve veteran who graduated from SUNY Morrisville with an A.S. in Ag Sciences then moved on to achieve a B.S. in Animal Science from Cornell. He now owns and operates Silver Meadow Farm with his parents, Stan and Michele. They milk 175 dairy cows and manage 800 acres of crops on the west side of Silver Lake. Russ served 2 years on the National Milk Young Cooperator Advisory Council and currently serves as the Town of Castile delegate on the Wyoming County Farm Bureau board.

Kevin Nedrow- Kevin is running for his second term on the WNYCMA board. In partnership with John and George Mueller and his wife Barbara, he owns and operates Willow Bend Farms, which consists of two dairies, one in the town of Manchester and the other in Hopewell. Altogether, with the help of 54 full time employees, they milk 3,000 cows, raise 2,400 heifers, and grow 5,000 acres of alfalfa, corn, grass hay, and wheat. Kevin's serves as the crop advisor on the farm.

WNYCMA STAFF

CROP CONSULTANTS

- David DeGolyer, CCA, CCP
- Dan Steward, CCA, CCP
- Chad Stoeckl, CCA, CNMP
- David Shearing, CCA
- Eric Nixon, CCA
- Tom Frederes, CCA, CCP
- Nick Youngers, CCA
- Henry Kelsey, CCA
- Nate Herendeen, CCA

JR. CROP CONSULTANTS

- Jason Post, CCA
- Josh Harvey, CCA

CROP TECHS

- Mike Youngers
- Andy Marusarz
- Ben Welch
- Bob Scott
- Dave Wiggers, CCA
- Don Mitzel
- Lorie Ames
- Travis Prallen

FARMSTEAD DEPT.

- Jim Booth, CCA, CCP
- Rhonda Lindquist
- Greg Tessmann
- Jim Seiler
- Jared Norton
- Lori Whittington
- Colleen Makar

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Deirdre DeGolyer

COMPUTER/ IT MANAGER

- Avery DeGolyer

OFFICE SUPPORT

- Jenn Elliott
- Christine Rase

Please call (585) 786-5831, fax (585) 786-5289 or e-mail reservation to office@wnycma.com by **FEBRUARY 14, 2013.**

Name:

Number of persons attending: _____

2013 WNYCMA ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Absentee Voting Ballot

If you do not plan to attend the WNYCMA Annual Meeting, please put a check mark next to the *TWO* director nominees below that you wish to vote for. Please return this voting ballot to **Mike Dueppengiesser 7835 Butler Rd., Perry, NY 14530** by February 18, 2014 so your vote *will* count.

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

*Kevin Nedrow (Clifton Springs, NY)

*Russ Klein (Silver Springs, NY)

*Jim Davis (Bliss, NY)

*Rob Harkins (Wyoming, NY)



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