

**Western
New York**

CROP MANAGEMENT



Main Office: 5242 Curtis Road, Warsaw NY 14569

Randolph Office: 91 Jamestown Street, Randolph NY 14772

2016 WNY CROP MANAGEMENT ANNUAL MEETING

February 21, 2017

Quality Inn
8250 Park Rd, Batavia NY

AGENDA

- 9:30 - 10:00** **Registration**
- 10:00 - 11:00** **“Past Year Challenges with Strip Tilling & Cover Crops: What Worked/What Didn’t”**
Mike Verdonck, Owner of Stell-Ag Group
- 11:00 - 11:30** **“Nitrogen in a Healthy Crop — Not in Dirty Water!”**
Nate Herendeen, CCA, CCP, WNY Crop Management
- 11:30 - 12:00** **“Benefits of Higher Quality Alfalfa & Grass Mixes and Hi-Gest 360 Alfalfa Trial Results”**
Jerry Cherney, E.V Baker Professor of Agriculture, at Cornell University
- 12:00 - 1:00** **Lunch**
- 1:00 - 1:30** **Business Meeting**
- 1:30 – 2:30** **“Healthy Soils for Better Yields”**
Odette Menard, Regional Advisor, Soil Conservation of Canada
- 2:30 - 3:00** **“2016 Soil Health Cover Crop Data Results”**
Josh Harvey, CCA & Eric Nixon, CCA, WNY Crop Management

*****PESTICIDE CREDITS ARE PENDING*****

DEC Releases Two New CAFO Permits

by Rhonda Lindquist, Farmstead Planner

If you are currently permitted as a CAFO, you are in one of two permits, either the Clean Water Act (CWA) permit or the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) permit. For various reasons, the majority of large farms (over 700 cows) in New York State are currently in the CWA permit and most medium farms are in the ECL permit.

After two years in the making, and many compromises to satisfy environmental groups, farmers and especially EPA, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has finally renewed the two permits. Both permits were issued on January 25, 2017 and will become effective on July 24, 2017.

Even though the DEC has tried to mirror as much of the language in the two new permits as possible, there are significant differences between them. One notable difference is that the CWA permit requires the submission of your Annual Nutrient Management Plan (ANMP) to the DEC. It also requires that the DEC be notified immediately when there are certain changes to the ANMP. The ANMP, which will be available for public review and comment, must be approved by the DEC to ensure permit compliance.

Although the ECL permit does not require a plan be submitted to the DEC, it does require that farms develop Wet Weather Standard Operating Procedures (WWSOPs). WWSOPs are management strategies, above applicable NRCS practices, a farm would employ to prevent discharges to surface waters of the State up to, and including, the 100-year, 24-hour storm event. In both permits, practices only need to be designed to the 25-year, 24-hour storm event; this has not changed. In the CWA, a farm is not responsible for discharges above that rainfall. However, in the ECL, overflows from waste storage structures, whether or not they result in a discharge to surface waters of the state, will be considered violations of the permit. Overflows from practices other than waste storage structures are considered to be violations only if the overflow results in a discharge to surface waters of the state.

Another potential drawback to the ECL permit is that it does not afford the farm the same protection from a citizen lawsuit that the CWA permit provides.

To obtain coverage under the CWA permit, you will have 120 calendar days from the issuance date of the new permit to file a Notice of Intent (NOI), CNMP Certification and ANMP with the DEC. Within 60 calendar days after the DEC receives the required documents, the completed NOI and ANMP will be posted on the DEC's website; the public will be afforded 30 days to review, comment, and/or request a hearing; and the DEC will notify the farm if coverage under this permit is approved. To obtain coverage under the ECL permit, you will have 150 calendar days from the issuance date of the new permit to file a Notice of Intent and CNMP Certification. Unless otherwise notified by the DEC, coverage will begin 30 calendar days after the DEC receives the completed NOI and CNMP Certification, but not prior to the effective date of this permit.

While we are faced with challenges and new regulations in both permits, it is our position that the results could have been much more restrictive.

Your planner will meet with you individually to review the changes in the permits and help you determine which permit best meets your needs.

CAFO ROAD SHOWS WILL BE COMING TO AN AREA NEAR YOU

The DEC is scheduling meetings for February and March to present the new permits and answer questions. We encourage all CAFO clients to take advantage of these opportunities to gain more information.

Why Are There Two permits?

by Dan Steward

In a nutshell, when congress passed the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1972, it established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. The CWA made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was given the authority to implement pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry.

A permitting process for farms or CAFOs did not even exist until 1999. States had the option of letting EPA carry out the permitting process or develop their own permit that met EPA's standards. State permits can be more stringent, but have to meet federal standards for discharge limitations at a minimum. New York opted to develop its own permit, and released it in 1999. Permits are usually issued for five-year terms, with revised permits released as the existing permits expire.

Since that initial permit, things became much more complicated due to lawsuits by various environmental groups, as well as differences in interpretations and enforcement by EPA as presidential administrations changed. Environmental groups especially pushed for the right to be able to review and comment on individual farms' CAFO plans. The courts agreed and demanded that states have a mechanism for review of individual plans.

New York State farmers did not want to make their plans available to the public for many obvious reasons, and the DEC did not want to have to go through a public review process for every covered farm. In response, the DEC crafted an alternative permit that was released in 2009 referred to as the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) permit. However, a new Clean Water Act permit was not updated, only renewed as the DEC hoped that ongoing legal actions would clarify what the EPA required for a federal permit. The 2009 ECL permit was only open to farms that *did not* "discharge or propose to discharge." CAFO facilities that *did* discharge or proposed to discharge were not eligible for this permit. The definition of "discharge" was loosely defined, but basically, if a farm had all of its structures designed to hold up to the 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event, the DEC let a farm into the ECL permit. The actual requirements of the ECL permit were very workable for most farms, with the exception that farms classified as large CAFOs (over 700 cows) were required to send in an annual Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) to the DEC. Farms were allowed to stay in the renewed CWA permit, so most large CAFOs did to avoid this annual NMP submittal. (Annual NMP submittal is no longer a requirement for large CAFOs in the new ECL permit.) Farms have been covered by one of these two permits since then.

One of the most significant developments in the release of the new permit was that the EPA decided that a discharge above the 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event is still a discharge. In order for the DEC to claim that this new ECL permit is a "no-discharge" permit, it required that a farm have a plan to keep that discharge from happening, ala the Wet Weather Standard Operating Procedures mentioned in the previous article.

CALLING ALL SCOUTS

WNY Crop Management is looking for individuals who would be interested in scouting for us this coming season, from mid May to mid August. You would be out walking the fields and reporting your findings.

Email your resume to office@wnycma.com for consideration for this position.

Crop Technician Needed

This position is full time and year- round in our Randolph office. Duties will be primarily in the Chautauqua County area. More information is available on our website. Email your resume or call with questions:

Dan Steward at (716) 358-3020
or
dsteward@wnycma.com

Are You and Your Corn Planter Ready for Great Yields?

by Dave Shearing, from various sources

Although there is still snow in the air as this article is written, we know that spring will arrive soon. With warmer weather comes farmers anxious to jumpstart the growing season. Although you may think that you are more-than-ready to start planting, it is important to be sure that your equipment is also. Corn planters operated out of adjustment and at too high a speed can lower yields up to 20 bushels of grain or 4 tons of silage per acre. Tire pressure also has a profound effect. Why does this happen?

Uniform seed placement and correct depth are very important. Poor seed depth and spacing will reduce yields and waste great genetics, good soil fertility and effective herbicides. Doubles or triples cause competition for sunlight, nutrition and water. Crowding results in barren plants or runty ears. This lowers grain yields and corn silage quality and yields.

A planter set to drop 30,000 seeds per acre can easily do it and still do a lousy job. If 5,000 seeds are in the form of doubles and triples or come up more than 48 hours after the majority because of poor depth control, they are essentially weeds!

Take these steps in your shop to ready your planter for picket fence stands:

1. Get out the operator's manual and find the correct tire pressure for your planter.
2. Finger pickup and vacuum units spit out seed as fast as a submachine gun spits out bullets. Minor wear can make them perform imperfectly. Your operator's manual tells how to care for these planter components.
3. Backer plates, brushes, springs, fingers and belts all need checking every year. To save time checking parts, take them to your dealer. There are also some very good independent companies that do a great job of maintenance on planter components at a reasonable price. Case IH planters have wear grooves in their seed disc; if they are gone, replace them. If the singulater springs have lost their springiness, change the group of springs. Seed brushes should be replaced if they are worn badly or they will not perform.
4. Disc openers should be at least 14½ inches in diameter. (Case IH openers are slightly larger, but they should not wear more than 1/2 inch.) When sliding business cards in at the 4 o'clock position, they should touch at least 1½-2 ½ inches apart. Make the adjustment on the arm. This will prevent a W shaped seed furrow. In Case IH planters, check the firming point. Do not hesitate to replace it. This insures a good seed furrow.
5. Gauge wheels need to be adjusted so that they slightly rub the disc openers. Ragged seed walls cause uneven seed depth resulting in uneven emergence.



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6. Check the seed tube and mud scrapers for wear.
7. Shake the entire seed unit to see the amount of wear on the bushings. Worn bushings will cause emergence problems because of an inability to keep the unit level. This causes jerking in the drive, which results in uneven seed drop.
8. Closing wheels, no matter what type, should be centered on the seed trench. Ensure that closing wheels have good bearings, are unbent, and apply even pressure. If you have spiked closing wheels, the tips should be no closer than $2 \frac{3}{8}$ – $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches apart. They should not penetrate the soil beyond the unit. The closing wheels have the beveled side in and the flat side out. These 13-inch wheels were originally residue trash wheels designed to go in front of the planter. Therefore, you put the one marked “L” on the right side and the one marked “R” on the left side. If you have one spiked wheel, it will be a 15-inch wheel, and the rubber or cast wheel should be $1 \frac{7}{8}$ inches from the spiked wheel. There are many closing wheel variations on the market, and, if installed according to directions, they do the job well. Some work better in particular situations.
9. Check that chains and drives are taut and running smoothly. If the drive system is badly worn, electric motors should be considered as an alternative.
10. Down pressure springs should be sound. Have spares available. Hydraulic and air down pressure, if used, need careful checking. (They work well.)
11. Measure the distances between units. They should be 30 inches. If they are not, they have slid or are twisted. This can cause havoc in a lot of areas such as depth, singulation, row width, and chain lineup.

Once you have taken advantage of the winter weather to prepare your planter, you will be anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring. Watch for in-field tips for picket fence stands in a future edition of our newsletter.



2017 Board Member Candidates

Travis Torrey – Travis is one of the owner/operators of Torrey Farms, Inc., located in Elba, Genesee County. They crop 14,000 acres with 7,500 of those acres being dedicated just to vegetables. They milk 2400 cows in 2 different locations. Travis and his wife reside in Elba with their 5 wonderful children. When they are given the opportunity, they enjoy traveling and spending as much time with the family as they can. Travis and Torrey Farms, Inc. have been members of WNYCMA since 2001.

Bruce Howlett - Bruce Howlett is president and owner of Howlett Farms, Inc., a multi-generational family farm in Avon, Livingston County. He leads the day-to-day management of the farming and trucking operations and has, in recent years, brought his son Michael (fifth generation) on board to actively manage and further grow the grain merchandising business. Bruce grows corn, wheat and soybeans and provides feed to the dairy industry while the Howletts sell and provide product regionally, nationally and internationally. On the personal side, Bruce and his wife Sandy, a primary school teacher, reside in Avon and happily welcomed their first grandchild in 2015.

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. Russ is currently on the board of directors and is seeking re-election.

Please call (585) 786-5831, fax (585) 786-5289 or e-mail reservation to office@wnycma.com by **FEBRUARY 13, 2017.**

Name:

Number of persons attending: _____

WNYCMA STAFF

CROP CONSULTANTS

David DeGolyer, CCA, CCP
 Dan Steward, CCA, CCP
 Chad Stoeckl, CCA, CCP
 David Shearing, CCA
 Eric Nixon, CCA
 Josh Harvey, CCA
 Nick Youngers, CCA
 Henry Kelsey, CCA
 Nate Herendeen, CCA, CCP
 Dave Wiggers, CCA

JR. CROP CONSULTANTS

Jason Post, CCA
 Mike Youngers, CCA

CROP TECHS

Andy Marusarz, CCA
 Bob Scott
 Don Mitzel
 Joseph Keller
 Lorie Ames
 Chelsea Bouffard
 Justin Olin
 Tyler Boise
 Dylan Coyle
 Heidi Lee
 Kyle Redman

FARMSTEAD DEPT.

Jim Booth, CCA, CCP
 Rhonda Lindquist
 Jim Seiler
 Jared Norton, CCA
 Lori Whittington
 Jason Meyers
 Morgan Devitt

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Deirdre DeGolyer

COMPUTER/IT MANAGER

Avery DeGolyer

OFFICE SUPPORT

Heather Teachout

2017 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 Eric Dziedzic, 51 Liberty St., Warsaw, NY 14569 by February 15, 2017 so your vote *will* count.

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

*Travis Torrey (Elba, NY)

*Bruce Howlett (Avon, NY)

*Russ Klein (Perry, NY)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KEVIN NEDROW, PRESIDENT
BEN VERRATTI, VICE PRESIDENT
RUSS KLEIN, SECRETARY/TREASURER

AARON BROOKS
SCOTT DEGENFELDER
JOHN REYNOLDS
DON TELAAK



**WNY Crop Management
5242 Curtis Rd.
Warsaw, NY 14569**

«FarmName»
«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address»
«City», «State» «ZIPCode»

