

WNYCMA NEWS

Western
New York

CROP MANAGEMENT



Main Office: 5242 Curtis Road, Warsaw NY 14569

March 15, 2010

2009 Annual Meeting of the Membership

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

WNY Crop Management Main Office

WNY Crop Management Annual Meeting of the Membership was well received. We had four excellent speakers. Their presentation links can be found on our website: www.wnycma.com.

John Woodring The program coordinator for the NYS Agricultural Mediation Program <http://www.nysamp.com/> gave a presentation entitled "Good Fences, Good Neighbors, Good Business". The presentation focused on how mediation can be an inexpensive and effective way of handling farm disputes.

Bianca Moebius-Clune The Coordinator for the Cornell Soil Health Team <http://css.cals.cornell.edu/adapt-n.cfm> gave a presentation entitled "Adaptive Nitrogen Management for Corn Production". Her presentation focused on tools that the soil health team is working on to help tailor Nitrogen recommendations to different locations and weather conditions throughout the Northeast.

Joan Sinclair Petzen The Cooperative Extension Acting Director gave a presentation entitled "Ready to Get Off the Roller Coaster? "Tools" for Managing Price Risk". Her presentation covered the wide array of tools available to producers to help reduce price volatility.

Tom Kilcer of Advanced Ag Systems gave a presentation entitled "Managing the Whole Farm Feeding System with High Commodity Prices". This presentation covered topics ranging from corn grain composition and its' effect on digestibility to the use of small grains as forage crops.

Board Members

Eric Dziedzic,
President
Donn Branton,
Vice-President
Mike Dueppenglesser
Sec/Treasurer
Brad Almeter
Ben Atwater
Betty Nichols
Tim Wittmeyer

New WNYCMA Board Members

Elections for the WNYCMA Board were held at the meeting. Congratulations to our new board members **Betty Nichols, Ben Atwater, and Tim Wittmeyer**.

Sorting Out The Options In The New CAFO Permits

By Jim Booth, CCA, Farmstead Planner

New York dairy farmers will soon have to choose between two options for obtaining coverage for their farms if they can be defined as a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). These are farms with over 200 cows or 300 heifers (Medium CAFO) or over 700 cows or 1000 heifers (Large CAFO).

For farms that were previously permitted, their CAFO permit expired on June 30, 2009. They will continued to be covered under the expired permit until they apply for one of two new permits. One is the recently released ECL (Environmental Conservation Law) SPEDES General Permit (GP-0-09-001) commonly called the "State Permit" or "ECL Permit".

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Congratulations to our new officers **President: Eric Dziedzic, Vice-President: Donn Branton, and Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Dueppenglesser**.

Farmer's Almanac

WNY U.S. Weather

MARCH 2010: temperature 29° (7° below avg.); precipitation 2" (1" below avg.); **Mar 1-9:** Snow showers, cold; **Mar 10-14:** Snowstorm, then snow showers, cold; **Mar 15-22:** Heavy snow, then snow showers, cold; **Mar 23-26:** Rain and snow, cold; **Mar 27-31:** Sunny, then rain, turning warm.

APRIL 2010: temperature 48.5° (1° below avg. east, 4.5° above west); precipitation 3" (0.5" below avg.); **Apr 1-3:** Sunny east, showers west; mild; **Apr 4-6:** T-storms, then sunny, cool; **Apr 7-9:** Showers, then sunny, cool; **Apr 10-12:** Rain and snow, cool; **Apr 13-15:** Showers; **Apr 16-21:** Rain, then sunny, cool; **Apr 22-26:** Sunny, very warm; **Apr 27-30:** T-storms, then sunny, warm.



www.wnycma.com

Updated Website

Up to date news and events. Enter your zip code in Farmer's Forecast to view your local weather and news!

Check us out!

Glyphosate Pricing for 2010

by: Chad Stoeckl, CCA, CCP

As we approach and plan for the upcoming growing season and challenges that lay ahead we need to consider the current market prices of both fertilizers and chemicals. The costs for growing corn, alfalfa, soybeans, and wheat are predicted to be less than 2009. The dip in crop expense is led by dramatic decreases in the price of both fertilizers and in glyphosate products due to a worldwide recession and lower commodity prices. In general, glyphosate products have dropped by around 50% in price whether it is major brand name or a generic back down to the pricing levels of 2006-2007.

The drop in the glyphosate market may not translate in to lower prices for pre emergent chemical programs or soil-residual herbicides, as these have not moved in the market place. With the lower cost of glyphosate some growers may consider spraying glyphosate twice instead of using a soil-residual herbicide. However, CMA would recommend tank mix utilizing soil-residual herbicides for alternating chemistries, and multiple modes of action instead of spraying twice. We then are utilizing alternating chemistries preventing resistance while saving the cost of a spray trip.

One consideration with the drop in price is the ability of your local spray operators to keep up with a large amount of post emergent corn spraying. We have encountered this problem in 2008 and 2009 due to weather related conditions, increasing corn acreage, and increasing soybean acreage. Timely spraying is key to a competitive edge for your crop. Weeds that reach a height greater than 2-3 inches tall are reducing yield significantly. Utilizing a pre emergent program for your corn or soybean crop can help break the restrictive post spraying timeline and offer a bigger return. Another consideration is an incentive program offered by some chemical companies encouraging the use of residuals in tank mixes with major brand name glyphosate.

For a list of companies offering programs contact your local chemical dealers. If you are unsure of pricing, or programs to utilize in 2010 consult your CMA crop consultant.

Corn Planter Maintenance—The Why and How-To

by Dave Shearing, CCA

Corn planters operated out of adjustment and at too high a speed can lower yields up to 20 bushels, or 4 tons of silage per acre. Tire pressure also has a profound effect. Why does this happen?

Uniform seed placement and depth is very important. 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! Poor seed depth and spacing will reduce yields and waste great genetics, good soil fertility and effective herbicides.

Shop steps 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. Minor wear can make them perform imperfectly. Your operator's manual tells how to care for these planter components. Backer plates, brushes, springs, fingers and belts all need checking every year. To save time checking parts, take them to your dealer. Or there are some very good independent companies that do a great job of maintenance on planter components at a reasonable price.
3. Disc openers should be at least 14 ½ inches in diameter. They should touch at least 1½ inches when sliding a business card on each side. This is in the 4 o'clock position. Make the adjustment on the arm.
4. Gauge wheels need to be adjusted so that they squeeze the disc openers to create distinct V -shaped seed furrows. You should never see a W-shaped seed furrow. Ragged seed walls cause uneven seed depth resulting in uneven emergence.
5. Check the seed tube, as well as mud scrapers, for wear.
6. 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. Spikes should be between 2 3/8 and 2 1/2 inches. Use very little pressure on spiked closing wheels.
7. Ensure that closing wheels have good bearings, are unbent, and apply even pressure.
8. Check that chains are in good repair and run smoothly.
9. Down pressure springs should be sound. Have spares available.
10. What about lubrication? Read the operator's manure!

Field steps to get a picket fence stand

1. Make sure the planter frame is level when it is in the ground.
2. Parallel arms should be level when planter is in the ground to achieve maximum benefit from down-pressure springs.
3. Maintain frame height between 20 and 22 inches from the ground.
4. If the frame is not level, it is better to have the tongue a little higher rather than a little lower. Never the opposite.
5. A no-till coulters or center zone-till coulters should be one-half inch shallower than planting depth.
6. The fertilizer coulters should be around 3 ½ inches deep and at least 2 inches away from the seed trench. Check this often!
7. Trash whippers, or residue managers, should only turn about 70% of the time. They should not move dirt or make miniature canals. This can cause the depth gauge wheels to ride too high, and the seed will be planted too shallow. Floating row cleaners with depth band wheels can alleviate this problem. The depth bands may have to come off in extremely heavy residue.
8. Seed depth should be checked with every soil condition change. Down pressure springs and depth gauge wheels may need changing as conditions change.

Corn Planter Maintenance

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- 9.** Seed depth should be no shallower than 1¾ inches. When checking depth, pat the little point of dirt down in the center of the row before you measure. It's better to be 2 inches deep than too shallow. Check last years corn stubble. If it has a lot of brace roots above ground, you probably planted too shallow in '08. Planting too deep early on wet heavy soils can result in crusting or in rotting seed.
- 10.** Closing wheels should be centered exactly on the row. If you have spiked closing wheels the gap between the spikes should be between 2 3/8 and 2 1/2 inches. Use very little pressure on spiked closing wheels.
- 11.** Remember to use graphite on finger planters and talc on vacuum planters.
- 12.** Plant large seeds in the early part of the plant season and small ones later.
- 13.** Planting speed should be between 4½ and 5½ miles per hour. You pay a penalty for high speed planting. In a trial by Ken Ferrie, a field agronomist for *Farm Journal* magazine, a planter running at 5 mph was compared to its operation at 7 mph. At the higher speed, yield was 11 bushels per acre less. The extra speed caused havoc with the meter, uneven distribution in the row and depth control problems.

With a 12-row planter traveling at 7 mph, you can plant 200 acres in a 10-hour day compared to 145 acres with a planter running at 5 mph. At 7 mph, it will take 5.2 days to plant 1,000 acres vs. 7.1 days at 5 miles an hour. Finishing two days early will cost 11,000 bushels at harvest, or \$44,000 at \$4.00 per bushel corn. The fine for speeding: \$2,315 per hour.

Sorting Out the Options *(continued from pg 1)*

The other is the soon to be released Clean Water Act SPEDES General Permit (GP-0-09-002) commonly called the "Federal Permit" or the "CWA Permit". The ECL is a no discharge permit, and the CWA permit is for farms that discharge or propose to discharge. When a facility prepares, follows and properly maintains a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) that meets NRCS standards they are considered to not discharge and so are eligible for the State ECL Permit.

While the final version of the CWA permit have not been released, it is the opinion of many dairy experts that the State ECL permit is the one most farmers should apply for. It is believed that the Federal CWA Permit will require more record keeping and be subject to more public review. Medium CAFOs have a strong incentive to file for the State permit because it gives them until 2012 to fully implement their CNMP. Under the expired permit, they had to be fully implemented by June 30, 2009. Large CAFOs that are eligible may file for the State permit now or may want to wait until the Federal Permit is released.

To be eligible for the new State Permit, Large CAFOs must have a fully implemented CNMP and Medium CAFOs must

have a fully implemented CNMP and Medium CAFOs must have implemented all of their required non structural practices. All CAFOs regardless of size must have had all of their existing open waste storage structures evaluated by a Professional Engineer. Farms that have an active compliance action in force may not be eligible for the State permit. Under the new DEC requirements, farms that are of Medium CAFO size but have not been operating under a CAFO permit will need to apply for coverage by March 31, 2010. Existing CAFOs will continue to be covered by their expired permit until they apply for coverage. If they do not apply for the State permit, they will be rolled into the Federal permit once it has been released.

If you have any questions concerning your options regarding the new CAFO permits, contact the Farmstead Planner that assists your farm. Our Farmstead Staff has visited many of our CAFOs this winter. We have discussed the new permits and have assisted many of our clients in preparing the necessary forms for permit coverage.