

## ENHANCED MANAGEMENT



By Julie Berry

# PRO-DAIRY shares research through education to enhance management

### INSIDE

Managing the environment to maximize cow comfort **page 19**

Lameness recording for enhanced management **page 20**

The impact of bedding on cow comfort and lameness **page 22**

Nutrition management and lameness in dairy cattle -- Many pieces to the puzzle **page 23**

Key considerations in fan cooling **page 24**

National FARM Program and Version 3.0 changes **page 26**

Farm uses grants to construct manure storage **page 27**

NY issues 4th generation CAFO permit **page 28**

How to use corn silage hybrid trial results **page 29**

How does managing phosphorus with reduced manure rates affect soil nitrate and organic matter? **page 30**

**P**RO-DAIRY's mission is focused on research and education. Throughout the year PRO-DAIRY organizes and supports educational programs, and PRO-DAIRY specialists serve as guest speakers. This issue of *The Manager* highlights speakers and topics from the statewide 2017 Winter Dairy Management meetings, with a focus on lameness, and the March 2017 Cow Comfort Conference held in Syracuse, NY.

PRO-DAIRY Dairy Herd Health and Management Specialist Rob Lynch, DVM kicks off the lameness articles, with a focus on locomotion scoring and record keeping as key to lameness prevention. Larry Chase, Professor Emeritus, Dairy Nutrition at Cornell University links nutrition and lameness. Lindsay Ferlito, Cornell Cooperative Extension North Country Regional Ag Specialist, who also coordinated the Cow Comfort Conference, shares research about the impact of bedding on lameness and cow comfort.

Cow Comfort Conference speaker Heather Dann, Research Scientist, Miner Institute, suggests inclusion of occupational and sensory enrichment on farms, like what are provided to zoo animals. "Modest investments in housing or changes in cow management routines can pay large dividends in greater cow health and performance." Kimberly Morrill, North Country Regional Ag Specialist, and

**This Manager issue from PRO-DAIRY focused on management.**

Cow Comfort conference organizer, provides an update on National FARM Program changes that went into effect in January.

Also included are timely updates for spring planting, including advice on how to use corn silage hybrid trials results, co-authored by Joe Lawrence, Cornell PRO-DAIRY Forage Systems Specialist, who with his hire, re-started

Cornell's corn silage hybrid trials. Another article highlights research that shows soil organic matter only increased in trial plots with high rates of composted manure. With warm weather on the way, PRO-DAIRY Senior Extension Specialist Curt Gooch co-authors an article on key considerations in fan cooling.

PRO-DAIRY Senior Extension Specialist Karl Czymmek provides an issues updates for NYS CAFO farms and briefly summarizes the Clean Water Act and the Environmental Conservation Law permits.

Davis Valley Farm LLC, Eagle, NY is profiled for their construction of manure storage and implementation of nutrient management plan practices, partially funded through multiple grant awards, including from the Dairy Acceleration Program.

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### Save the date!

**Herd Health and Nutrition Conference**  
[prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/](http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/)

**Presented by PRO-DAIRY and Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance**

*The Herd Health and Nutrition Conference provides an opportunity for dairy producers, veterinarians, feed industry representatives and agriservice personnel to increase their knowledge of current herd health and nutrition management techniques while interacting with other professionals.*

April 12, 2017 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool/Syracuse, NY