



Tips for a Challenging Growing Season

The unusual weather of 2011 posed many difficulties for crop management. The combination of severe wet and dry periods created a challenging growing season. Crop Consultant Tom Eaton dealt with flooded corn crops in Vermont. Here, he shares some tips based on what he learned.

The most important lesson was *segregation* of normal and affected harvests. Keeping the flooded corn separate from the good corn is key to making the proper adjustments when it comes time to feeding it in the daily TMR. By segregating the flooded corn, our clients have been sampling the bunk weekly to see how the fermentation is effecting the presence of mycotoxins. This will save them a lot of headaches and money if they do find that the corn is tainted before feeding it to their cows. The crop insurance folks require this as well, so going forward, it's a good idea to have a back up plan/area to store the affected feed.

The other lesson learned was the importance of *bunk management*. No matter how much time and money was invested in treating the corn going into the bunk with acids and or inoculants, proper packing and covering of the bunk is the key to beating the mycotoxins. By taking the extra time to pack and cover the bunk carefully, ensuring the creation of an anaerobic environment, you're giving the bad bacteria little to no chance of taking over.



Flooded corn crop in Vermont

Available Grant Funding—Act Now!

The Round 18 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and Abatement Program is offering public funding for cost-sharing of best management practices. Applications must be filed with local Soil and Water District Conservation District offices. *Grants are due January 1, 2012, so if you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact your local office as soon as possible.* ACS Planners can work with district conservationists to develop stronger applications.

The purpose of the grants is to implement best management practices to protect Waters of the State. With the advent of the 2009 permit, the definition of Waters of the State changed to include lakes, bays, sounds, ponds, impounding reservoirs, springs, wells, rivers, streams, creeks, estuaries, marshes, inlets, canals, the Atlantic Ocean within the natural limits of the State of New York and all of the bodies of surface or underground

water, natural or artificial, inland or coastal, fresh or salt, public or private (except those private waters that do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface or underground waters), which are wholly or partially within or bordering the State or within its jurisdiction.

Please check with your ACS planner to evaluation the new designation and impact these changes may have on your farm.

ACS Clients Win World Forage Analysis Contest

ACS clients Merrell Dairy of Wolcott N.Y. and Sugar Creek Farms of Dansville N.Y. were champions in the 2011 World Forage Analysis. The contest is held in conjunction with the World Dairy Expo in Madison WI. Over 400 samples of hay, haylage or corn silage from 23 states and Canada were submitted for the competition. Dairy samples are judged on lab analysis (60%), visual judging (20%), herd production (10%) and calculated milk per ton (10%).

Jon Merrell was awarded Grand Champion for his Mycogen F2F 488 Brown Mid Rib corn silage entry and Sugar Creek Farms won the Quality Counts Award for Alfalfa/Grass forage. Both farms use progressive crop management techniques developed by ACS to achieve success in their crop production. Ask your ACS agronomist today how to improve your forage quality.

Congratulations to both farms on their achievements!



The Merrell Family

Coming soon...

Yield Analysis Lab

Agricultural Consulting Services is working with Agrinetix to build a Yield Analysis Lab. If you have crop yield information that you would like to share as part of the lab database, please contact your Service Manager, or the ACS office at 877-310-1100.

Precision Ag Demonstration

R & R Dykeman have partnered with ACS to operate precision guidance systems on farm tractors and automated controls on manure pumps that shut off manure spreading as the tractor approaches regulated "no spread zones" as called for by the farm's Nutrient Management Plans. This project promotes environmental protection of water bodies by eliminating the ability of a manure spreader to operate within 100 feet of Department of Environmental Conservation regulated water bodies and other areas requiring a manure-spreading setback.

ACS and Agrinetix will be hosting a tanker truck demonstration of this technology on December 13 (with a rain date of December 14) at R & R Dykeman's farm in Fultonville, New York from 10am until 12pm. All are welcome to attend. Contact your ACS consultant for details about the location, or call the Rochester ACS Office at 585-473-1100 for more information.

Environmental Resource Mapper Available Online

The Department of Environmental Conservation has an online Environmental Resource Mapper to help you identify waters that are of environmental or conservational concern on your farm (waters of the state). This information is especially useful

if you are planning to apply for funding through the Round 18 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and Abatement Program.

The mapper is located at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/38801>.

