Each year presents new challenges to learn and grow from. This month’s The Manager recaps some of the challenges crops face last year, and looks forward to new opportunities this year.

A collaboration between Soil and Water, Cornell Cooperative Extension and PRO-DAIRY has identified life-threatening hazards from gypsum, and provides handling suggestions. Cornell’s Quirine Ketterings and Karl Czymmek review how weather conditions relate to nitrogen availability for corn. Adding more nitrogen won’t always cause green-up. Along with Shona Ort, they also conducted field trials of nitrogen fertilizer rates for winter cereals. Cornell’s Larry Chase provides guidelines to evaluate corn kernel processing for maximum starch utilization and milk production by the cow. He also provides recommendations for using small grains in dairy rations and reviews the latest research on shredlage. Cornell’s Bill Cox provides guidelines to prevent corn lodging in corn silage. Cornell’s Keenan McRoberts and Debbie Cherney provide NDF targets to maximize mixed-alfalfa grass stand quality. Regional Extension Agronomist Bill Verbeten outlines challenges and benefits to growing triticale silage in the Northeast and reviews research on using fungicides on forage. Margaret Smith, Cornell University professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics, provides the ABCs of GMOs. Consumers have many questions, and Smith outlines the science to respond.