As the Agricultural News prints it’s last issue of this great publication, we have had many concerned readers wondering what is going to happen to the News as they know it. The answer is NOTHING. The Agricultural News will still provide the high quality informative information that it has supplied its audience with for so many years. It will still keep up with the latest procedures and techniques to make your farm a success, and it will still highlight area farmers making a change and sharing those changes with others. The only difference it will not come in your mailbox delivered by the post office, but will come in your mailbox delivered by Constant Contacts.

As we have mentioned and repeated many times throughout 2012 this will be our last printed Agricultural News. We have urged you all to contact Billie-Jo Slingerland to sign up for the FREE electronic version. Some of you have taken advantage of this opportunity, but many of you still have not. We urge you to send her your information so that you are still able to receive the news and information that you are used to receiving on a monthly basis.

For some of you we do understand that high speed internet in some areas is an issue and are not able to get the news electronically. For those of you that fall under this category, we will continue to honor your subscription and mail you a hard copy. Once your subscription is about to expire you will receive a subscription form to renew. This new printed subscription will cost $30.00 and will still be delivered to your home via the postal service.

We urge you all to take advantage of the free service. The electronic version will allow you to go to links in an article, view videos from classes and expeditions on You Tube, email the educators directly, all with a click of the mouse. All advertisers ads will be linked directly to their websites so that you are just a click away to the latest sales and classes that they have to offer.

How this works: Each month just like the print copy you will receive an email from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Once you open the email a front page (looking like the picture on the right) will appear in your inbox. This front page will have links to all articles, classes, advertis-
ten and settle at first mating, he should be sound in feet, legs, but I will move on to a few qualities you need to look for in many other attributes to look for in a grass based animal more difficult it is to finish on grass. Jeremy went on to list frame score. The larger the frame size of your animal the sound balanced udder. Your cows should be of a moderate that is deep and wide, slick coated, fertile, sound feet and should be: adapted to the environment, efficient, a body for the changes in every season. The genetics do not have to be breed specific and there is no silver bullet, only tools and indicators to help you choose.

Using those tools a grass fed cow, on visual appraisal should be: adapted to the environment, efficient, a body that is deep and wide, slick coated, fertile, sound feet and legs, balanced throughout, a strong immune system, and a sound balanced udder. Your cows should be of a moderate frame score. The larger the frame size of your animal the more difficult it is to finish on grass. Jeremy went on to list many other attributes to look for in a grass based animal but I will move on to a few qualities you need to look for in a quality sire.

A good bull should have great longevity and last 5 to 10 years. He should have high fertility and must check cows often and settle at first mating, he should be sound in feet, legs,

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**Selecting Genetics for Forage Based Beef Production**

Once again this year the Winter Green-Up Grass-Fed Grazing Conference had an excellent lineup of speakers covering a variety of topics. One of those speakers was Jeremy Eng who operates Lakota Ranch in Remington, Virginia where he runs an all forage/grazing test for all beef breed bulls.

Jeremy’s topic was selecting the right genetics for a forage based operation. Jeremy started out by saying there are two parts to a grass based production system forages and genetics. The forage needs to be of top quality with mixed varieties for a longer grazing season and needs to be managed for the changes in every season. The genetics do not have to be breed specific and there is no silver bullet, only tools and indicators to help you choose.

Using those tools a grass fed cow, on visual appraisal should be: adapted to the environment, efficient, a body that is deep and wide, slick coated, fertile, sound feet and legs, balanced throughout, a strong immune system, and a sound balanced udder. Your cows should be of a moderate frame score. The larger the frame size of your animal the more difficult it is to finish on grass. Jeremy went on to list many other attributes to look for in a grass based animal but I will move on to a few qualities you need to look for in a quality sire.

A good bull should have great longevity and last 5 to 10 years. He should have high fertility and must check cows often and settle at first mating, he should be sound in feet, legs,
and testicles, and he should display masculinity at a very early age. The bull must be adaptable and able to maintain adequate BCS on a forage only diet and most importantly your bull should be quiet and easy to handle. Crazy bulls produce wild and crazy inefficient calves.

If you would like to know more about selecting the right genetics for your grass-fed operation or hear what our other Winter Green-Up speakers presented I would urge you to order the DVD of this year’s conference. To order you copy of the DVD contact Gale Kohler at 518-765-3579 or gek4@cornell.edu.

ASHLEY PIERCE
Rensselaer County

Herbicide Resistant Weeds

Some previously effective herbicides are not working as they once were on problem weed populations in our field crops. “To date, at least 180 species of weeds are resistant to at least seven different herbicide families,” states an Extension Fact Sheet from Penn State. This presents a real problem for producers depending on these products. Understanding some of the causes of herbicide resistance can help us avoid its perpetuation.

Plants establish populations of resistant individuals often when the same herbicides are applied year after year. Some survive because of subtle structural and biological differences, reproduce, and pass along those resistant traits to the next generation. Weeds are able to spread and reproduce rapidly, making the job of controlling them when they are resistant to herbicides an even more daunting task. To better understand the weed's ability to resist, it is important to realize that there are many different “modes of action, sites action, and classifications” of herbicides. Herbicide groups are numbered and as examples can include seedling growth inhibitors, pigment inhibitors, photosynthesis inhibitors, and plant growth regulators. These can all act in different ways and target different parts of the plant.

In an effort to avoid herbicide resistance, try using the herbicide only when it is essential (scout fields often), if possible use with mechanical weed control, clean tillage and harvest equipment when moving from an infested field to a clean one, and rotate your crops (especially those that have different life cycles like summer annual corn and winter annual barley). Also, try using products that target multiple sites of action and rotate herbicides. Although it may take some change in practices to implement these steps on your farm, you can reduce the spread of these weeds and save yourself time and money in the future. If Ashley can answer any of your questions, she can be contacted at (518) 272-4210 or arp253@cornell.edu.

Source: Herbicide Resistance Management, Penn State Extension
Steve Hadcock
Columbia County

Are you direct marketing products for sale at the farm? There are a wide variety of tools available today to help “put you on the map” and make it easier for people to find you.

No longer do consumers need to rely on printed maps. Websites and companies (i.e., Google and Microsoft) offer map services that you can use to direct people to your farm. There are also web-based directories that can help customers interested in your product to find you as well. There are also apps that those with smart phones and tablets can use to find you as well. Many of the apps are connected to a website, so you only need to enter the information once.

Make sure that your place can be found on Mapquest, Google Maps or Bing maps. To get your business listed on Mapquest, use this link: https://listings.mapquest.com/apps/listing. Here are directions to add your place on Google maps: http://support.google.com/maps/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=144367. To use Bing, here are the directions: http://onlinehelp.microsoft.com/en-us/bing/ff808448.aspx.

The first website directory I would like to mention is New York Marketmaker. New York Marketmaker can be found at: http://ny.marketmaker.uiuc.edu/. This website is supported in part by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Marketmaker allows customers to find you by what you have to offer and location.

Another website that can help you to be found is Harvest to Hand. This website can be found at: http://www.harvesttohand.com/. Your customers can use the website, smartphone or tablet app to find you using the service from this company.

One more to mention is Local Harvest. The website for local harvest is: http://www.localharvest.org/. Not only does Local Harvest list your farm, but will also list you as a CSA and online store. This organization also offers CSA management software as well.

Do you have a favorite website or app that you like as well? Please let me know and will add it to the list. Feel free to send them to me at seh11@cornell.edu.

Getting Your Farm on the Map
On The Lighter Side

A Humorous Look at Everyday Farm Life

“So God Made a Farmer” - 2013 Style

You can imagine my shock when I overheard a recording of the late Paul Harvey paying tribute to the world’s farmers in his 1978 “So God Made a Farmer” story which aired during the 2013 Super Bowl. I loved it so much that I wasn’t surprised when it was voted one of the best ads of the entire seemingly endless broadcast.

Although he brilliantly captured the importance of family farms and their traditions, it was written 35 years ago and a lot in agriculture has changed in that time. I have always been a Paul Harvey fan, but I feel that this tribute to farmers everywhere needs to be updated. So here is my contemporary version.

After God created heaven and earth, it became obvious what was needed was a super hero to oversee the land. So God made a Farmer.

God said, “I need someone willing to rise before the sun, work all day milking, feeding, plowing, planting, harvesting, building, repairing and milking again, then, after a quick supper, drive to town and stay late at a meeting of the town board in order to defend the importance of agriculture to the community.” So God made a Farmer.

“I need someone sharp enough to computerize all the farm’s production and financial records, resourceful enough to learn how to pay his bills online and bold enough to promote his products on Facebook. So God made a Farmer.

God said, “I need a gambler willing to bet his life’s savings against unpredictable weather, questionable technology and finicky animals, in the hope that the crops and animals produced will allow the business to continue year after year. So God made a Farmer.

“I need someone who can make a newborn calf-warmer out of an old fertilizer tank, nurse a 45-year old tractor thru a crisis, and change a spreader tire in a snow storm. I need someone committed to preserving our land and our heritage, yet intelligent enough to develop a crop rotation plan detailed enough to satisfy even the USDA.” So God made a Farmer.

“I need someone who can make a newborn calf-warmer out of an old fertilizer tank, nurse a 45-year old tractor thru a crisis, and change a spreader tire in a snow storm. I need someone who can learn from his mistakes and take pride in doing the job right.” So God made a Farmer.

“It must be someone who can hold a family together through dust storms and drought, through low prices and high grain costs, accepting God’s will even when it means driving that old pickup one more year.” So God made a Farmer.

“IT must be someone who can hold a family together through dust storms and drought, through low prices and high grain costs, accepting God’s will even when it means driving that old pickup one more year.” So God made a Farmer.

Joe Peck, a Saratoga County dairy farmer, storyteller and humorous speaker, is author of “A Tractor in the House & Other Smashing Farm Stories” and “A Cow in the Pool & Udder Humorous Farm Stories” which you may order at [www.joepeckonline.com](http://www.joepeckonline.com) or call (518) 584-4129.
Dairy Princess

Courtney Luskin
Rensselaer County Dairy Princess

With Valentine's Day just passing, the one thing that I love the most would have to be my cows. I have grown up my whole life with cows; I have spent plenty of days down at the farm with furry, four-legged creatures. Cows are big gentle animals that love attention from the farmers that take great care of them. The big bovines spend their days lying in big, well-bedded stalls. They also have a variety of feeds provided to them along with plenty of water. The favorite part of the cow's day is milking time, when they give their milk. That milk will be shipped off the farm to local milk plants and processed into dairy products. Another one of my favorite things is dairy products. I love to have a tall of glass of low fat chocolate milk or a cup of yogurt as a refreshing and nutritious pick me up. So this year I will enjoy Valentine's Day with some of my cows and nutritious dairy products.

Many thanks to the Hoosic Valley, Hoosick Falls and St Mary's Schools for being so gracious and allowing me to spread the word about the goodness of dairy products. This week's recipe is for a tasty pink dessert to share with the one you love.

Valentine Yogurt Yummy

4 1/2 cups cornflakes, crushed
1 cup walnuts, finely chopped
3 Tablespoons butter, melted
6 Tablespoons maple syrup
16 oz. strawberry yogurt
16 oz. vanilla yogurt
2 cups strawberries, sliced

In a 9x13 pan, mix cornflakes, nuts, butter and syrup. Press flat. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

Mix yogurts together and spread on cooled crust. Top with fruit.

Farm and Horticulture
Business Truck Clinics

NYS Trooper Bormann and NYS Trooper Walker, NYS Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, will address truck and trailer registration, licensing, inspection and other issue associated with commercial vehicles, farm trucks, and many types of trailers. They will discuss issues that affect any business traveling on the road for farming, landscaping, horticulture etc. This is a great way to understand the laws and ask questions before you are sitting on the side of the road.

Local law enforcements are being invited to the various clinics to address local concerns and issues. Bring your questions and invite your neighbors. There is no fee however calling ahead will be appreciated for planning. Please call Marcie Vohnoutka @ Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County 518-272-4210.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Provides Equal Program and Employment Opportunities. If you need special accommodation for the program, please notify us at 518-272-4210.
HOSTA - Tractor Safety Certification
Kirk Shoen/Berrie Wiesen, Extension Educators
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Rensselaer County

There are many employment opportunities found in businesses within the agricultural/horticultural industry throughout the capital district. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County will be providing HOSTA (Hazardous Occupations Safety Training in Agriculture) to interested local residents who are 14 years of age by April 1st or older. This course is designed for the hobbyist or part-time farmer and agricultural workers from landscapers to herdsman and essentially anyone who owns any kind of tractor or equipment. This will be an intensive course kicked off with an orientation on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7 PM followed by three day sessions from 9 Am to roughly 4 PM on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 3rd through the 5th. The focus of the curriculum will be safe operation and maintenance of large equipment, personal protection, chemical, mechanical and electrical hazards as well as livestock handling. Employers and parents should be aware that youth aged 14 and 15 years who are not working directly for their parents must have a tractor operators certificate to legally operate large equipment according to OSHA. HOSTA will prepare participants and qualify them to earn a tractor operators certificate if students attend all classes, pass a written and operators exam. We stress this class is open and suited for participants both youth and adults. The classes will be held at various Agribusinesses in Rensselaer County. You must call the CCE office to pre-register at 272-4210. Cost of the program will be $35 payable the first day of class. There must be a minimum of 5 registered to hold the class. For information about this and other Cornell Cooperative Extension Programs, contact your respective Cornell Cooperative Extension office. CCE is an EOE and adheres to the ADA. If any participant has special needs to attend class please indicate what they would be when you pre-register.

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For a Higher Dollar Return – Now that is Marketing!

By: Laurel Gallor, Agriculture & Natural Resources Issue Leader
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Warren County

Maple Syrup is certainly delicious on a number of foods. Traditionally, we think of putting it on pancakes, waffles, ice cream, and maybe as a sweetener in coffee or tea. Perhaps though, the best use might be converting the syrup into a sweet confection that gains you, as the producer, a better marketing advantage. This entrepreneur approach has a benefit in multiple fashions.

Not only can you stretch your gallon of syrup into many products, but you are also stretching your return investment. On the average, a gallon of syrup may be selling for about $50-$60, but when you look at turning that syrup into a value-added product we are looking at a return of fifty to one hundred percent of the original product price. For instance, granulated sugar or maple cream retailing at $15 per pound gives a return of about $75-$150 per gallon! Generally, there are about eight pounds of cream, sugar, or candy per gallon of syrup; so then we can convert that to about 8 times the retail price per pound to what our return will be for that same gallon of syrup. However, the biggest return is in producing maple cotton (cotton candy, candy floss, spun sugar), the return can be upwards to $512 per gallon!

As a producer, are you now more interested in taking your plain old syrup to the next level? Several value-added maple workshops have been offered over the years by Cornell Maple Specialist, Steve Childs. The workshops are usually a day-long, hands-on maple confection workshops that have been held throughout the state. The programs focus on how to create the perfect end product, but also the science behind how that product may be improved to get the best return for your dollar. No matter what product that you are striving to make; the quality and flavor of the syrup is the most important.

The research that has been conducted has shown that any off flavor or poor quality syrup will only result in a lower quality maple value-added product. For instance, have you ever had a container of syrup that had crystals or “rock candy” in the bottom of the container? This can result when the syrup is boiled beyond 67 brix. Brix is a measurement, using a hydrometer, to know that the syrup has reached the point needed for finishing. For high quality syrup, it should be between 66-67 brix. The crystals can also form if the syrup is cooled too quickly or is agitated or stirred too much in the end process.

Another noticeable impurity in syrup might be cloudiness. Cloudy syrup is commonly from unfiltered syrup. The cloudiness is actually the minerals in the syrup often called ‘niter’ or ‘sugar sand’.

Syrup that produces a sour, moldy, or fermented flavor is from a number of reasons. Though, most of the time, it is from sap that is left too long in the collection buckets or a storage container before being boiled. Sap should be boiled as soon as possible in order to prevent bacterial from growing. Also, if syrup does not reach a temperature of 180°F when filling a barrel or smaller containers, or not reaching a minimum of 66 brix it can develop a fermented flavor.

Any of these situations mentioned will carry over to the value-added product. Therefore, poor quality syrup results in poor quality value-added products. Or on the positive side, high quality syrup will result in high quality value-added products.

Making maple cream, also known as maple butter or maple spread can be conducted by hand; paddle and turn table machine; turn table cream machine; candy machine; and/or a gear pump cream machine. The syrup for making maple cream should be heated to a temperature 22-24°F above the boiling point of water for that particular day. Take caution while the syrup reaches the boiling point as the temperature will rise quickly near the end. Allow the heated syrup to cool completely through to a temperature between 45°-55°F. The cooler the syrup becomes before stirring, the smaller the crystals remain and the smoother the cream will turn out in the end. Hand stirring will take some time, and you may wish to have a couple of friends nearby to assist with the process. For a more detailed explanation, refer to Cornell Maple Bulletin 201. “Making Maple Cream” available at: http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu/pubs/confections/Confection%20Notebook%20section4.pdf

Maple sugar is another product that can be made from the naturally sweet syrup. Maple sugar can be either molded into soft candies or formed in bricks to be shaved for use in recipes, beverages or making maple cotton. The process will start by heating the maple syrup 32° - 34°F above the boiling point for water for that given day. However, depending on the hardness of the candy that you are trying achieve; will depend on the cooling temperature that the syrup will be lowered to before stirring. For a harder candy, the temperature would be lowered to 200°F before stirring begins. For
a medium hard candy, the temperature would be lowered between 190º F and 175º F. For a soft candy the temperature is lowered to 170º F. If the temperature falls below 170º F prior to stirring, any detail of the mold that is used will be lost. For more specifics in making maple sugar candy refer to Cornell Maple Bulletin 208 – “Molded Sugar Candy (Soft Sugar Candy)” available at: http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu/pubs/confections/Confection%20Notebook%20section5.pdf

Granulated maple sugar is probably considered the most adaptable value-added product of maple syrup. The self-life is indefinite; the only variables might be room temperature and humidity. It is also a great replacement for white or brown sugar. Only one quart of syrup is needed to produce about two pounds of granulated maple sugar. For this process, heat syrup to 45º - 65º F above the boiling point of water for that particular day. The syrup can be stirred immediately or cooled to 200º F before stirring. Continue stirring syrup until granulation consistency is achieved. If stirring by hand, it may be a time that you wish to invite a couple of friends to assist you.

As with all of the other confections, the beginning invert sugar percent will be critical factor to know the temperature that the syrup needs to reach. If the maple syrup is closer to 2% invert sugar; a higher finishing temperature is needed. Lower finishing temperatures for syrups with lower invert sugar percent. Maple syrup that is greater than 2% may be more difficult to reach the granulated sugar consistency. For further information regarding granulated sugar see the Cornell Maple Bulletin 207 – “Granulated Maple Sugar” available at: http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu/pubs/confections/Confection%20Notebook%20section6.pdf

All of the maple confections that are described require a very high temperature in order to complete the process. Heed caution during the procedures, wearing protective aprons and gloves that are made for high temperatures while working with foods. Severe burns can be the result of any spills of syrup heated to high temperatures.

Remember, consistently high quality maple syrup will produce high quality maple value-added maple products. Enjoy your maple confection, whatever it might be!


NYBPA Eastern Region Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 30, 2013
11:30am-2:00pm
at The Parting Glass in Saratoga Springs, NY
40-42 Lake Ave

Buffet lunch, cash bar, vendors
Following lunch will be a brief meeting and our Featured speaker:
Jeanette Losee, US Army Ret.
Janette will speak about disaster management/preparedness on farms and in rural areas.

Cost is $25 per person
Limited vendor space is available for $50 (this fee includes the cost of one lunch)
Registration Deadline is Friday, March 15
Please contact Jennifer Coleman to register:
518-796-4833 - 518-632-9101
jennifer@brookefieldfarms.com
65 Gibbs Rd - Granville - New York - 12832
We are also planning to have a meeting in the Westchester county area in April, please let Jennifer know if you are interested in attending and if you know of a good meeting location!

March 19, 2013 is National Ag Day

The Agriculture Council of America will host National Agriculture Day on March 19, 2013. This will mark the 40th anniversary of National Ag Day which is celebrated in classrooms and communities across the country. The theme for Ag Day 2013 is “Generations Nourishing Generations.”

The purpose of National Ag Day is to encourage every American to:
1) Understand how food and fiber products are produced
2) Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products
3) Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy
4) Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

I-9 Audits and Compliance
By: Sandy Buxton, Capital Area Ag & Hort Program
Cornell Cooperative Extension

One of the most common places a business can slip-up and have a problem with the federal Department of Labor is in a required piece of paperwork for every employee – the I-9. Employers can be compelled to provide these documents with short notice for review by authorities.

This form is supposed to document the eligibility of a person to work at a position. It must be completed when an employee starts work and employers must hold it for 3 years after date of hire or 1 year after the date employment ends, whichever is later.

The process of filling out an I-9 is two-fold. The employee must complete the first part filling in their information (Name, address, birth date, Social Security number, date of form completion) and sign the form. If a translator/third party participates in completing the document, the middle section also must be filled out.

Finally, the employer or representative must re-verify documents presented by the employee, describe the document (number, issuer, expiration date, etc) and then sign the form. If the employee presents a document which will expire, it is the employer’s responsibility to document that a new version of the document has been presented before the expiration date. Also, a name change due to marriage or divorce must also be documented and dated.

Frequently I-9 audits will turn up inconsistencies such as where Column B or C documents are listed in Column A’s spot, signatures in the wrong place or forms not being dated. Maintaining a standard method of completing the form is one of the best procedures. Several of the attendees at a recent Labor Issues meeting discussed the best system they discovered was to have a single person be responsible for processing all I-9 paperwork and new employee hires.

Additionally, many people will copy the documents presented for convenience however this is a bad habit. Nowhere on the I-9 does it ask you to copy the documents and hold them in the file. If your business chooses to copy the documents then it must be done consistently for ALL employees. The Department of Homeland Security will tell employers the file should contain copies but it is not stated on the I-9 that copies are required. To maintain consistent files, do not copy just record the documents and purge the files each year of extraneous, out dated material.

**Growing Degree-Day Update**
Albany, NY…. 3103 GDD’s base 50°F for season ending 11/5/12.
For more info on weather forecasts, pest predictions and growing degree days visit www.nrcc.cornell.edu/grass
Electronic News.......Continued from page 1
ers and your monthly information such as Top Quality Info
and Dairy One. These links will allow you to go directly to
the page without flipping through 16 or so pages to find the
information you want. You can click right on an advertiser
to find their website or watch a video without even leaving
the magazine.

If your worried that the whole publication will not be
available, no worry... There will also be a link to download
the whole publication and print it if you so choose.

The complete publication, all its pages, and archived
issues will be located on the The Eastern NY Agricultural
News blog. The link for this blog is: http://blogs.cornell.edu/
enyagriculturalnews/wp-admin/. Here you can even leave
comments about stories, events, or even how you like the
electronic version.

As you read our last printed version, we thank you for
the many years or patronage and support you have given to
the Agricultural News and Cornell Cooperative Extension.
If it were not for our dedicated readers such as yourselves
we would not have survived for 30+ years. We hope that you
will continue to support the news as well as extension. We
urge you to sign up for the FREE version to continue getting
all the news that you are used to getting.

If you have not done so already, please send your name,
address and email to Billie-Jo at bjr24@cornell.edu to con-
tinue receiving the Agricultural News.

Feeding beef cows in winter
Ohio State University Extension-Updated: 02/13/2013

Feeding beef cattle during the winter can be a challeng-
ing experience if being profitable is also one of your goals.
Proper nutrition is a key component for a successful cow/
calf operation. Cows go through many physiological changes
during a year. The winter/early spring feeding period is one
of the most critical times to provide adequate nutrition for
the cow because of her needs at calving time.

Feed usually accounts for the single largest input cost
associated with beef cattle. The winter feeding period gen-
erally becomes the largest portion of this cost. Stored feeds
such as hay normally cost producers 3-5 times as much as
grazing a summer pasture or stockpiled feed in a paddock,
when cost is calculated. It’s therefore critical to keep the
amount of stored feed fed to an acceptable minimum so costs
are kept under control, but you must still feed enough hay
to meet the nutritional needs of the cow. We must maintain
the cow’s dietary needs if strong healthy calves are to be born
in the spring and also get cows rebred in a timely manner to
maintain acceptable calving intervals.

So, we quickly see how over feeding becomes costly, but
don’t ever forget that under nourished cows may be a disas-
ter. Under nourished cows are ones not receiving enough
nutrients from their feed. Notice I did not say, its cows not
being fed enough hay. Cows can be under nourished even
though they are eating all they can eat. Feeding the correct
quantity of hay is important, but feeding the correct quality

Continued on page 12
Feeding Beef Cows... Continued from page 11

of the hay during each production stage is the key.

We often use the figures 2.5 - 3% of a cow's body weight as the amount of dry matter (DM) a beef animal needs per day. So, a 1300 lb. cow would require approximately 33-39 lbs. of DM each day. Don't forget this is a DM calculation. To calculate the amount of hay we must actually feed we must account for the moisture in the hay. Most stored hay will be roughly 90% DM so we divide our 33-39 lbs. by 90% (.90) and get an as fed amount of 37-43 lbs. of hay per day for our 1300 lb. cow.

Here's the catch. Doing these calculations still does not assure us the proper amounts of nutrients are being fed. Remember we said cows can starve eating all they could eat. Quality of hay must be accounted for to ensure the nutrients being fed are adequate. Poor quality hay has high percentages of non-digestible (neutral detergent fiber-NDF) material in it. Because of this a cow can not eat more than about 1.5% of her body weight in NDF. Poor quality forage does not pass through the rumen as quickly as high quality forage, hence the cow is full but still lacks the nutrients she needs to maintain productivity.

Laboratory forage analyses I've had done sometimes reveal that hay does not contain the nutrients I thought it might. Sometimes this happens because of unexpected changes in weather conditions that delay making hay, but other times it's because of management decisions. I've heard some producers boast of how many round bales they rolled up in one day or how well their round bales keep their shape and not sag after baling. However, what they really may be saying is that they have a lot of poor quality hay, which was made after it was very mature (with a high NDF value), and it won't be able to meet the nutritional needs of their livestock during the winter feeding period.

Many factors must be taken into consideration when feeding cows. Frame size, body condition, age of the cows, time of the year, stage of gestation, types of feed, feed quality, fluctuations in air temperature, mud, rainfall and the list could go on. Animals require energy for maintenance, growth, work, and milk or meat production. Feeds are evaluated in terms of the amount of energy and crude protein the animal can obtain from them.

Providing the correct quantity and quality of feed, at the proper time, is what producers must do to maximize production, maintain cows in proper body condition and keep costs under control. Remember we said feeding beef cattle during winter can be a challenging experience. While we certainly want to feed enough nutrients, likewise we do not want to feed too many expensive nutrients if the hay is above average quality or very high in quality.

Knowledge of your hay's quality, the amount consumed and nutrient needs for all classes of livestock in your operation is essential to make the best use of forages available. Nutritional needs for cattle of various ages, weights and production stages are published in numerous places and easy to obtain. Accurate nutritional data of your hay lots will only be known if you have laboratory analyses done.

Laboratory forage testing results are often returned within one week. It's not too late to take samples and have an analysis done to calculate if you're livestock can get enough nutrients from the hay you are feeding.

Whatever method one uses to determine quantities of feed fed, producers should regularly monitor body condition of all livestock. This will help verify if nutrients being fed are calculated properly, distribution among all animals is adequate and boss cows are not keeping timid cows from eating enough forage, causing them to loose weight. A body condition scoring chart that shows pictures and lists body condition descriptions may be found at http://ohioline.osu.edu/l292/index.html

Source: Mark Landefeld, Agricultural Educator, Monroe County, Buckeye Hills EERA
Governor Cuomo Announces Initiatives to Help New York Dairy Farmers Increase Profitability and Reduce Energy Costs


Initiative doubles the incentives for renewable bio-energy projects to reduce electricity costs $450,000 for grants that help dairy farmers in business planning and growth

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced two programs that will help dairy farmers in New York expand their businesses, increase profitability and reduce their energy costs. These initiatives were the result of recommendations advanced at Governor Cuomo’s Yogurt Summit, which convened last summer to hear ideas from industry leaders, farmers and other stakeholders to ensure that the yogurt industry continues to grow and create jobs in New York.

“Last summer, we heard from stakeholders on how the State can help the dairy industry and yogurt producers grow and create jobs in New York,” Governor Cuomo said. “As a result of our ongoing dialogue, the State is providing assistance to the industry through these two programs, which will help dairy farmers lower their energy costs and provide opportunities to help expand their production and efficiency. We want to make sure that the dairy and yogurt business stays and flourishes in New York.”

Anaerobic Digester Biogas-to-Electricity Program (ADG)
The Governor announced that the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will double the maximum incentive amount from $1 million to up to $2 million per installation for farmers to install equipment on their farms that turns organic waste produced by cows into electricity.

At the Yogurt Summit, the State committed to working with the dairy and yogurt industries to lower energy costs by increasing and incentivizing the construction and use of anaerobic digesters which turn waste produced on the farm into energy that can be used by the farmers. This allows farmers to more easily manage the large amount of waste produced by cows and to also save money on energy costs by turning that waste into a renewable source of energy.

Specifically, the Anaerobic Digester Biogas-to-Electricity (ADG) program provides incentives for electricity production systems installed at farms and other businesses that treat organic waste. Biogas-to-power technology has several steps, which include pumping dairy manure and other organic wastes into digestion tanks where bacteria break down the waste, creating a methane-based biogas. The gas is burned in engines to produce electricity. By producing electricity onsite, the digesters help offset a farm’s electricity purchases from their utility and reduce their energy costs.

The increased amount in incentive awards to up to $2 million for anaerobic digesters was approved by the Public Service Commission at its monthly meeting earlier this
Minimize Your Exposure
When Hiring
By: Sandy Buxton, Capital Area Ag & Hort Program
Cornell Cooperative Extension

One of the toughest jobs many businesses have is finding qualified employees who are available and valuable for their business. For ag businesses it is even more challenging by the very nature of the industry, seasonality, long hours, and the physicality of the work. But now there is another challenge ag employers must overcome, the undercover sting, and it is crucial to pay attention to it.

Video appears on a night time investigative news show horrifying the viewership and decimating the reputation of the business being profiled. It used to be only the enormous corporate companies were targeted for this type of clandestine work but now we know otherwise.

Several New York State farms have been displayed in some manner requiring substantial effort from the farm to refute the claims. But as always damage is done as the general public doesn’t understand agricultural practices and find it easy to believe what they see “on TV”.

Before you think it is animal agriculture that is solely under fire, remember that any ag business can be targeted to portray pesticide handling, food safety issues and other inflammatory activities. Do you have a policy for cameras, cell phones, recording devices and the like being used at or in your business?

Television, the Internet, blogs and just Social Media, it takes very little effort to start a story, rumor or campaign of mis-information which can devastate a farm business. At a recent meeting NY Farm Bureau attorney Liz Dribusch discussed some of the actions employers can take to minimize their risks. Just remember that the employer’s investigation takes very little effort to start a story, rumor or campaign.

Several actions employers can take to minimize their risks. Just remember that the employer’s investigation falls within the general list of permitted and not-permitted questions from DOL.

- Often applicants will provide false names as well as false references from false jobs. Ask to see a driver’s license and not just a college ID which is easier to fake.
- Secure a waiver to perform reference and employment check. She said 30% of employers find discrepancies in education histories so it is important to check ALL information and follow up on other positions a reference may mention. Pay attention to phone numbers and document names.
- Ask about clubs and memberships – though it can only be related to groups that relate to the job/position. For example, for a truck driver position, you can not ask about political affiliation but you can ask about union membership.
- If hiring for a livestock operation position, the employer may want to ask about cruelty to livestock and other animal issues.
- In the case of an agri-tainment business, the employer may want to know if the potential employee is a sex offender.

It is difficult to realize how many things can impact the hiring process, but it is important the business have a “process” so that decisions can be made on non-discriminatory information. In NYS employers with 4 or more employees must abide by the full list of categories and as always it is important to discuss procedures with your attorney before proceeding.

When hiring, employers must craft interview questions to actually provide the information they need. This can not be done as an off-the-cuff activity, it must be consistent and defendable in case of any problems.

A third party could also be used to research and provide some information about social media information. Just remember that NYS Labor law prohibits discrimination based on off duty, off premise activities unless they provide a material conflict of interest (a PETA member working in a slaughterhouse; or a member of chemical-free America working at a pesticide manufacturing plant).

NYS is an “at will” employment state, but it is important that both employers and employees have some realistic expectations documented and agreed to early in the relationship. Due to the electronic fixation of many of the under 30 crowd, some employers are requiring they leave their cell phones and other digital gear in their vehicle while at work. Texting and calls were distracting and interfering with the actual function of accomplishing work. Of course, this also

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**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday March 13th - Annual Farm Meeting**
Please Call For Further Information

**Wednesday March 20th - 6:30-8:00 PM**
- Chick Seminar with Mackenzie Fitzpatrick, Kent Nutrition Group/Blue Seal

**Saturday March 23rd - 11:00 AM-2:00 PM**
Rabies and Distemper Vaccination Clinic - call for an appointment time!

**Wednesday, March 28 – 6:30 – 8:00 PM**
Pig Seminar
Mackenzie Fitzpatrick, Kent Nutrition Group/Blue Seal
Greg Stratton, Stratton’s Custom Meats & Smokehouse, LLC
Dale Dues, Akey Nutrition

**Wednesday April 3rd - 6:30 - 8:00 PM**
Garden Seminar
Peter Bowden, Capital Regions most well known gardener and author.

Thanks to all of those who enjoyed the Whitman’s Feed Store and Arlington Equine’s Winter Education Series over the past nine weeks.

See You Next Year!

PO Box 123-1873 VT. Rte 67 • North Bennington, VT 05257
(502) 442-2851 or 800-521-2705 • www.whitmansfeed.com
means the employer can not use the employee's cell phone as a significant means of communication.

While it may seem that the risk of this type of activity is low for your business, it is worthwhile to at least brainstorm about the possibilities. Developing a policy or discussing issues with your regular employees may help to make everyone think about the risks. Having a plan and performing some preventative work may help to save lots of time in the future.

Initiatives to Help... Continued from page 13

month and is funded through the Renewable Portfolio Standard. To date, the ADG program has supported the development of 18 projects now in operation, and an additional 17 projects in the design stage have applied for incentives. The increased cap will make more proposed anaerobic digester projects viable and spur demand for this important resource.

Garry Brown, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, which authorized the incentive increase, said, “Given current economic conditions and the expiration of federal grant programs, it makes sense to allow NYSERDA to adjust State program incentives, within its defined budget, to maintain momentum in the deployment of renewable energy projects.”

Francis J. Murray, Jr., president and chief executive officer of NYSERDA, said, “We thank the Public Service Commission (PSC) for its decision approving our request to increase the investment cap for anaerobic digester projects. NYSERDA is committed to providing farmers and other businesses with the means to reduce their energy consumption and costs. Governor Cuomo has been very clear in both his commitment to invest in clean energy technologies and to assist dairy farms in remaining economically viable. The decision by the PSC advances both these goals.”

Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP)

Governor Cuomo also announced $450,000 for a Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP) that will provide grants and coordinate funding and technical programs to help farmers interested in expanding their operations or increasing their efficiency.

Modern milk production requires expertise from a number of disciplines, ranging from agronomics, environmental science, animal husbandry, crop science, human resource management, and financial and strategic planning. Through the program, farmers will be able to tap into the expertise of the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) network and other agricultural programs to facilitate and grow their business and in turn increase production on their farms.

DAP will build upon Governor Cuomo’s “one stop shop” approach, by providing a central point of access to technical programs for those dairies looking to expand or improve productivity. CCE Regional Dairy Specialists will identify opportunities for assistance for the farm via programs, such as the AEM program, FarmNet and Pro-Dairy, and help to coordinate the delivery of these on-farm technical support programs.

DAP will also provide grants of up to $5,000 per dairy farm for: • Financial analysis, • Strategic planning for growth, • Executing business plans to expand, or • Other operational needs of the farm, such as adoption of Best Management Practices, new techniques/technologies for growth or engineering and design for expansion.

State Agriculture Commissioner Darrel J. Aubertine said, “Governor Cuomo knows the importance of dairy farmers to the fabric of the Empire State’s economy. This important funding will help our dairy farmers grow, increase their production and reduce the costs of their operations.”

Dean Norton, President of New York Farm Bureau, said, “Governor Cuomo continues to work with dairy farmers to grow responsibly. New York farms have long partnered with the state to be national leaders when it comes to environmental stewardship, and the added incentives to build new anaerobic digesters as well as DAP funding to help with sensible planning will further that important effort. New York Farm Bureau appreciates the Governor’s support to allow family dairy farms to supply the prosperous yogurt boom to the benefit of New York’s economy and natural resources.”

Contact Information:
Governor’s Press Office
NYC Press Office: 212.681.4640
Albany Press Office: 518.474.8418
press.office@exec.ny.gov
Work Agreements and H2-A Employees

By: Sandy Buxton, Capital Area Ag & Hort Program
Cornell Cooperative Extension

Each employee who arrives and works on an H2-A visa has an ETA-790 form which can serve as a work agreement documenting the overall contract of work skills, hours, employer and employee info in the employee’s first language according to the Department of Labor. However, this form does NOT meet the requirements for the pay notice information which now must be renewed every year documenting pay rate, pay dates and must be signed too.

The solution from NYS DOL is to attach an additional form to the ETA-790 in both the employee’s language and the employer’s. This needs to be signed and copies shared between both parties to meet the regulation. In addition beyond a form for each individual employee, there must be a general form posted in all applicable languages for review by all employees.

A reminder that use of Department of Labor template forms from the DOL website http://labor.ny.gov/formsdocs/wp/ellsformsandpublications.shtm offer “automatic” compliance. They have posted a variety of forms in a number of languages to facilitate providing information.

2013 Pest Management Guidelines

Available upon request

Guidelines for Commercial Turfgrass
Guidelines for the Integrated Management of Greenhouse Floral Crops
Guidelines for Commercial Production and Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs
Guidelines for Production and Maintenance of Herbaceous Perennials
Guide for Berry Crops
Guide for Grapes
Vegetables
Tree Fruit
Field Crops
Contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office for availability.
Looking for Cornell Pest Management Guidelines on-line?
Visit http://ipmguidelines.org/
Feed Beef Mommas-To-Be More Hay, Less Grain
http://farmprogress.com/story-feed-beef-mommas-more-hay-less-grain-9-94372

Feeding more hay and less starch to late-gestation beef cows increases calf marbling scores, according to an Ohio State study.

In February's Beef Cattle Comment, Cornell University Extension Beef Specialist Mike Baker, Beef Extension Specialist, shared some good news for cow-calf producers concerned over the high-cost of grain concentrates. Ohio State University researchers studied the impact of three ration sources to cows in their last trimester before spring calving.

Three cow groups were 1) full fed hay, or 2) 4.4 pounds of hay plus 8.5 pounds of dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS) and 2.2 pounds of protein/mineral supplement or 3) 4.8 pounds of hay, 10 pounds of dry shelled corn plus 2.2 pounds of supplement.

Steer calves from the cows were weaned at about six months of age, backgrounded on stockpiled fescue for 28 days, then placed on a common high-energy diet. They were harvested when backfat registered at 0.5 inches via ultrasound.

Feed Beef Mommas-To-Be More Hay, Less Grain

Birth weights of calves born to cows on the all-hay diet were smaller than the others. Weaning weights of calves from corn supplemented cows was greater than calves from hay-fed cows, while those from DDGS fed cows were intermediate.

Milk production was measured using the weigh-suckle-weigh procedure and found not to be different between treatments. Therefore differences in weaning weights were not due to milk production as might be expected.

Feedlot measures of initial weight, dry matter intake, average daily gain or feed efficiency weren't different due to how the cows were fed in last trimester. And, hot carcass weight, ribeye area, and yield grade were not affected by maternal nutrition.

However, the carcasses from calves out of cows fed the low starch (hay and DDGS) diets had higher marbling scores and fewer USDA Select carcasses than cows receiving corn supplemented diets. So it appears, surmised Baker and the study authors, that maternal nutrition during gestation may affect fat deposition.

Bottom line: Maternal late gestation dietary energy source seems to alter fetal growth, affecting birth weight and having long-term effects on metabolism and body composition. Feeding a low-starch diet in late gestation appears to be associated with greater intramuscular fat deposition. And that can be good for the beef producer's bottom line.
March 22, 2013
Pesticide Recertification Day
The Century House
997 New Loudon Road
(Route 9), Latham, NY 12110

Learn the latest on pesticide use, safety, and pest management for the upcoming season. This program features up to 6 DEC recertification credits. Morning sessions offer core credits and afternoon sessions offer category specific credits for 3a, 1a, 7a and private categories as well. Registration required. For more information contact Chuck Schmitt at cds34@cornell.edu

PESTICIDE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency responder information on pesticide spills and accidents
CHEMTREC: 800-424-9300

For pesticide information
National Pesticide Information Center:
800-858-7378

To Report Oil and Hazardous Material Spills in New York State
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Response: 800-457-7362 (in NYS) 518-457-7362 (outside NYS)

Poison Control Centers
Poison Control Centers nationwide: 800-222-1222

If you are unable to reach a Poison Control Center or obtain the information your doctor needs, the office of the NYS Pesticide Coordinator at Cornell University, 607-255-1866, may be able to assist you in obtaining such information.
## January 2013

### Name  Type  Test  Bd  Cowyears  Milk  Fat  Protein  3x

**Vermont**

- **Mach Farm, Inc.**
  - DHI-APCS  H  161.7  21340  782  3.7  656  3.1

- **Book Brothers**
  - DHI-APCS  H  115.5  21585  784  3.6  648  3.0

- **Glen and Martha Hayward**
  - DHI-APCS  H  86.8  20471  798  3.9  617  3.0

**New York**

- **Columbia**
  - Ooms Adrian & Sons
    - DHI-AP  H  466.9  28389  1024  3.6  870  3.1
  - Lohan Farm
    - DHI-APCS  H  568.0  27566  1069  3.9  844  3.1

- **Crimson**
  - Ooms, Antonie & Michael HD
    - DHI-AP  H  116.5  23356  883  3.8  725  3.1
  - Dutch Hollow Farm
    - DHIRAPCS  J  626.8  21246  987  4.6  724  3.4

- **Dutchess**
  - The Davenport Family HD
    - DHI-AP  H  146.9  23814  867  3.6  723  3.0
  - Davenport, Jim Herd 3
    - DHI  H  20.7  25959  925  3.6  768  3.0

- **Greene**
  - Story, Matthew C. Jr.
    - DHI-AP  H  45.1  21552  785  3.6  641  3.0
  - Hamilton, William
    - DHI-AP  H  318.1  28349  1129  4.0  871  3.1

- **Orange**
  - Abbott III, Robert
    - DHI-AP  H  57.9  21333  936  4.4  703  3.3
  - Armstrong
    - DHI-AP  H  107.9  21424  757  3.5  637  3.0

**Saratoga**

- Peck, William
  - DHI-AP  H  624.7  28599  1089  3.8  899  3.1

**Schenectady**

- Santy, John & Dan
  - DHI-AP  H  123.7  22962  860  3.6  758  3.1

**Schuyler**

- Abbott III, Robert
  - DHI-AP  H  107.9  21424  757  3.5  637  3.0

**Erie**

- Fairview Farms
  - DHI-AP  H  53.9  20577  820  4.0  629  3.1

**Finger Lakes**

- Davenport, Jim Herd 3
  - DHI  H  20.7  25959  925  3.6  768  3.0

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Classified ads must be in your local Cooperative Extension Agriculture Office by the first of the month to appear in the following months publication. Each enrollee is entitled to one free ad a year, one inch in size with no repeat insertions per year, in the classified section.

**Hay For Sale** - 5x4 50 wrapped bales of alfalfa hay. Call Dave at 518-937-3326.

**Registered Holstein Service Bulls:** From Top AI Sires and High Producing Dams. Call William Peck at 695-3375.

**Hay For Sale** - 3x3x8 bales large, square 1000 lb bales. Good quality, stored in barn at harvest. Priced by cutting, delivery available by charge, based in Washington County. Call 518-796-3988.

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**Breeding Bulls:** Available from our best cows. David Wood 882-6684.

**Hay For Sale** - 4x4 Round bales $35.00. Second cut square bales. $4.00. Call 812-6814

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