Improve Your Grazing Management Skills

Written by Ashley Pierce, Rensselaer

Planning out your grazing season in advance by using a daily grazing chart is an approach that is gaining in popularity among serious grazing managers and conservation professionals. This tool can help you keep track of where you were, where you are and where you are going throughout the grazing season. Why is planning ahead so important? As Troy Bishopp puts it, “I’ve never had a farmer complain about having too much feed!”

With over 40 farmers in attendance, Troy Bishopp lead a discussion on using a grazing chart to plan out your upcoming grazing season. Also known as the “Grass Whisiperer,” Troy has been actively grazing for the past 27 years. He gains a great deal of hands on experience as he manages his family farm in Deansboro, N.Y., contract grazing organic dairy heifers while also working for the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District. The grazing charts that he created were part of a project funded through a North East Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NESARE) grant to help farms manage their farms more holistically.

This type of management can be applied to any species of livestock that you plan to graze. For the class, Black Queen Angus, managed by Morgan Hartman was our sample farm. Using his farm’s information we were able to work through the process of planning a grazing season. Morgan Hartman is a Rensselaer County farmer who raises beef completely on grass. At Morgan’s farm, Black Queen Angus (http://blackqueenangus.com/), he has been very successful using holistic management.

Don’t let the term holistic scare you! It only means that we are taking the entire farm and your goals into consideration. Have you set goals for your farm and family (or community)? These two areas should not be considered separately from one another, but instead should be planned and thought about together. Using the chart, you would be able to plan your rotational grazing so you do not find it as difficult to get away from the farm to go to the fair, a wedding, or a take vacation (yes, I said vacation!). Maybe your grazing goals include the environment around you (such as providing wildlife habitats or being aware and considerate of bird

Continued on page 6
Will Fungicides Improve Alfalfa?

Can we improve alfalfa yield and quality with fungicides? Applying fungicides to alfalfa is not common, but there is now interest in it as we try to be more productive on every acre. When spring weather is wet, I find that the lower half of long alfalfa stems have lots of yellow leaves. It looks like we are losing a lot of good leaves. But are the leaves yellow from disease or from the heavy shading of the thick alfalfa foliage?

Crop magazines are reporting mixed results using fungicides on alfalfa. In a couple of instances yields were improved, but not always. Applying fungicides to alfalfa is tricky to evaluate. First, the pre-harvest interval when applying a fungicide may be 14 days or longer. So, fungicide applications may need to be made before you actually see any disease or know if the weather will be a problem. In New York, I can only find Quadris that is registered for mixed stands of alfalfa and grass. This fungicide will only protect the leaves that are contacted by the spray. New leaf tissue will not be protected or only very little. So, the strategy may be to apply a fungicide after substantial foliage has developed, yet allowing the days that are required for the pre-harvest interval. As the plants grow after an application, it will be the lower leaves that have the fungicide protection. This may be where we need the protection most. My estimation is that fungicides will improve alfalfa quality in some instances during wet weather, and in fewer instances improve yield.

Should you apply fungicides to your alfalfa this year? We have no definite answers, and the outcome will be highly weather dependent. Some strip trials will be done in western New York this year that will add to our experience. If you are the type that likes to try new things, then develop a good plan to compare results of a strip trial. Select a field that is most prone to disease (low lying) and perhaps one that is developed, yet allowing the days that are required for the pre-harvest interval. As the plants grow after an application, it will be the lower leaves that have the fungicide protection. This may be where we need the protection most. My estimation is that fungicides will improve alfalfa quality in some instances during wet weather, and in fewer instances improve yield.

If you are interested in doing some fungicide trials in alfalfa, give me a call. I will help you develop and carry out a plan. On-farm research is exciting and a great way to learn what works on your farm.
Should You Buy or Raise Your Own.

Farmers are trying to squeeze every penny out of their operations and the cost of replacement animals is no exception. Deciding which ones to keep and how many can be complicated, especially if feed, space, or manpower is in short supply.

A recent study by Jason Karszes, of Cornell’s Pro-Dairy Program, found that the total investment in a replacement animal covered a wide range and could be as high as over $2400 per animal. With potential rearing costs higher than those to buy good replacements, can you afford to keep everything? In some cases, the question of rearing on the farm vs. having them custom raised comes into play. There are often complaints about the price of heifers raised off-farm, especially when you write someone else a check every month. It may seem more cost effective to raise them on farm, but true expenditures are often hidden in daily operations. If you are planning on revising your program, knowing your real replacement expenses throughout the entire process is the first step.

Once you know what your animals are costing, you have to decide if it makes sense to keep raising everything or change your current process, especially if animals may be marginal, either by genetics or health. Research has shown that animals who become sick in the first few weeks of life may never reach full potential. Recovered calves may reach a good weight and size at breeding age; but often the lingering effects show up later on as poor milk production or lack of vigor. Should you spend money raising chronically ill or treated calves?

Consistent breeding, young stock health records and grading your animals can help when deciding who goes. Farmers may keep all their heifers because they have a high cull rate. Transitioning in heifers for cows that have not had time to mature through the farms’ system may not always be a safe bet. If you can buy good replacements in the current market for less than the cost to raise them, then why continue to nurse, feed, house and manage any animal that may be suspect?
On The Lighter Side

A Humorous Look at Everyday Farm Life

At my age it is more fun to look back than to look forward. In the span of fifty years we have gone from a tractor with a hand-tripped bucket loader to a cabbed pay loader with its own back-up camera; from feeding with a self-unloading wagon to a mixer-wagon with its own electronic scale; and from milk cans and buckets to a bulk tank and parlor with automatic take-off units. Sometimes the changes are so gradual that we wake up one day and wonder how it all happened.

The first big step we lived through was the transition from milk cans to bulk tanks. This entailed a shocking leap forward. At the time, just the thought of a milk house big enough for a huge stainless steel tank the size of several cows plus a sink and hot water heater, was more than most farmers could imagine. Then, horror of horrors, the rules said the tank should have a three foot clearance all the way around it. They apparently didn’t realize that on a farm, wherever there is space in a building, something will eventually fill it.

The farm gets a call or email from the milk cooperative about a problem count, what is your FIRST action?

According to Dr. Mike Zurakowski, it should be to throw out your current dip cups, mixing containers and any other open material. Then start with new dip, maintaining cleanliness protocols on the cow side.

On the milking equipment side, obviously, the farm needs to check wash water temperatures and run some extra rounds making sure that all systems (air injection, soap dispensing, hot water temperatures, etc) are working properly. Also check around the pipes and equipment to see if there are any dents, slopes or drips that are new (or old) and unexpected.

Following the procedures and looking for ordinary issues is far more likely to solve and resolve your count problem than assuming some extreme situation occurred. During several recent mastitis and milk quality talks at Capital District Dairy Discussion groups, Mike discussed how attractive some surfaces can become to bacteria when then have a chance to get a little age on them – causing lots of problems for farms.

So take a good look and then follow the smart system. Replace you dip cups EVERY 6 months – really, whether they need it or not. Be careful when mixing or moving dip. Do lots of dishes – it will save other problems in the milkhouse.

Think Obvious and Ordinary Not Zebras

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it up. But we all dutifully built new milk houses with floor drains, lots of space around the tank and a hole in the wall for the milk truck hose. They were right - we needed all that space for required equipment and we were right because we needed all that space to pile stuff.

To pay for it all, most of us had to add more cows. This meant we needed more feed storage. Many of us resorted to a new innovation at the time, the horizontal silo. We found that that dumping the chopped corn and hay crop into a long, narrow trench and packing it down with a heavy tractor was a whole lot faster and easier than blowing it up into a silo, and then, pitching it all out again. That next spring I learned the one principle of trench silo making - the floor must be paved or the mud will swallow you whole.

Another memorable experience was moving those tie-stall trained cows into a free stall-parlor Barn. They loved the fluffy sand-bedded free stalls, but were very wary about entering that strange, noisy and confining milking parlor. I soon wished that cows weren’t cursed with eyes in the sides of their heads, preventing them from looking straight ahead. I shouldn’t have been so surprised. If I weighed nearly a ton and couldn’t see what was directly in front of me, I probably would be cringing, too.

What changes will the next half century bring? We already know that cows can be milked automatically with robots; even feeding and barn cleaning can be automated further. We just need a robot that can read a repair manual when these mechanical marvels break down.

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 or call (518) 584-4129.

Farmers Markets
are right around the corner. For a complete listing of all the markets in NYS please visit: http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CommunityFarmersMarkets.asp

Farm Fresh Guides
for NYS can be found at: http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/FFGSearch.asp
Improve Your........... Continued from page 1

carded dates) or just having some additional family time.

Grazing charts that we used in class are large pieces of
paper, printed with dates, spaces to track your yields, paddock
numbers or names, and paddock sizes. As you track
your season or plan ahead, you are able to utilize an easy
to understand visual aid. Getting started with the grazing
chart and planning your season is simple. Start by writing
down everything that happens with your pastures, weather,
and animals. You can write this down on a calendar, in a
diary, or on the chart itself. Include things like amount of
rainfall, your frost dates, and temperatures. Invest in a
simple rain gauge, get soil maps (these can be obtained from
your local Soil and Water Conservation District office or on
Web Soil Survey which can be found at http://websoilsurvey.
nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm), and aerial maps of your
farm (also from your local Soil and Water Conservation
District or online sources such as www.google.com or www.
bing.com).

Using these tools, you can look at what your soil is
capable of producing and use the maps to help define
where your pastures will be. Once you have a better idea
of what you could produce on your farm's soils and in your
situation, compare that to what demand your livestock are

presenting you with. An easy to use worksheet is avail-
able at the following link to help you through this process
(http://www.virtualgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/
Grazing-planning-worksheet-draft_TROY-BISHOPP.pdf).
This worksheet is known as a Prescribed Grazing Manage-
ment Planning Worksheet and on this worksheet you will
find straightforward ways to calculate the forage demand,
the forage supply, help in determining the paddock size and
number needed, and the total number of acres required.
Knowing these values will help you make decisions based
on facts, rather than guesses.

Once you have completed the Prescribed Grazing Man-
agement Worksheet and know how many paddocks you need,
sizes of paddocks, rest periods, and your goals, you can begin
planning your season on your grazing chart. For example,
if you know you and your children go to the local fair every
year, make sure you plan to have your animals in an area
that will be convenient for you during that time. To plan for
a special event, work backwards from it, taking into account
the required rest periods, rotations, etc. Charts are typi-
cally 28” x 32” as this fits well on barn doors, but they can
be printed in different sizes to suit your needs. Spaces are
provided to write in paddock names or numbers, how long
the animals stayed in the paddock (or how long you plan for
them to stay), and any additional notes.

Some of the key questions discussed at the meeting
included:

• What paddocks do you want to winter on?
• Are there any fields that need renovation?
• What is your typical grazing start date?
• Will you clip your pastures?
• When do you supplement when things don’t go as
planned?
• When are you birthing or breeding (and on what
fields)?
• What are the daily dry matter requirements?

These questions will be answered differently from farm
to farm, each needing to find its own answer that will help to
make it the most successful. As Troy said, “I don’t do hopeful
grazing anymore. I don’t hope I will make more money. I
have faith that when I do things right, I will prosper.” Our
sample farm, Black Queen Angus, has some additional acre-
age for the number of animals they planned to graze. This
allows them resiliency in tough seasons and extended graz-
ing at both ends of the year. Maybe your farm does not have
additional acreage, but a plan would help alert you to when
it would be time to purchase additional feed or sell animals.
Having a plan is especially important for those farms that
may not have extra land resources available to them.

Planning ahead does take time and effort, but is vital
to a successful operation. Even if you decide that following
all of these steps is more than you are willing to do, try to
implement parts that you think will fit your operation best.
Maybe you are new to your farm or grazing, in that case
try just recording what happens this year to help you learn
about your farm. Try completing the Prescribed Grazing
Management Worksheet to see how the number of animals
you raise compares to the acres of pasture you work with.
Also, don’t be afraid to adjust your plans to fit the season,
your animals, or your goals.

To help farmers learn about the use of this tool and planning method, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Washington Counties, NESARE, The Upper Susquehanna Coalition, as well as the Central New York and Hudson Mohawk Resource Conservation and Development Councils teamed up to provide an intensive training at the Brunswick Community Center. Rensselaer County Cornell Cooperative Extension will provide grazing charts on request for a small fee. If Ashley can answer any of your questions or provide you with a grazing chart, she can be reached at (518) 272-4210 or arp253@cornell.edu.

Participants were anxious to hear what the Grass Whisperer had to share on planned grazing.

Troy Bishop demonstrates how to use his grazing chart to plan out the entire grazing season.
“Pinch Point” in a Business

Stephen Hadcock, Extension Educator

The USDA defines a beginning farmer as one who has been operating a farm for 10 years or less. Yet, many farms grow and develop during that 10 year period. Often times, the business will look quite differently 10 years later. During this period there generally comes a point in the life of a farm that decisions on what direction the farm should take will arise – the “pinch point.” Here are some thoughts of a process to consider a new direction for the farm business.

The foundation of making future business plans is a good set of records. With several years of financial records, a trend analysis of profitability and other financial factors can be done. What do these numbers tell us about current and potential profit of the business?

Not only financial records, but production records are needed as well. Knowing how much was grown and sold helps to identify areas of improvement and possible growth for the business. With making some changes in production, harvesting or marketing – can the amount available for sale be increased? Are there any barriers impacting the quality of the product you grow and sell?

Inventory information is helpful too. Evaluation of the machinery inventory may help identify equipment that may need upgrading or replacement. Not only talking about tractors and field equipment, but coolers or other equipment needed to harvest, store and process produced goods. Building inventory should be reviewed and examined as well. Have you “outgrown” a building and need to consider alternatives? What is the condition of the buildings and is the condition of the building creating a barrier for your business?

It is good to pause and look at trends in consumer preferences, marketing channels and competition. What are the preferences of consumers buying products that you produce? Where are consumers going to buy food now? What has happened to market channels in your area? Have markets become more segmented or have consolidated? Who is your competition? What are they doing to compete with you?

When you started out farming, hopefully had set some goals for the business. Have you achieved those goals and time to set new ones? What quality of life goals do you have? Has your family situation changed and need to revise those goals? Are there any signs of stress or conflict in the business?

The human resource needs of the business should be evaluated as well. Are you currently hiring employees? If not, is this the time to consider hiring part time or full time employees? If employees were hired, what impact will that have on the business or enhance your quality of life? If you are going to start to hire employees, make sure you are aware of employment regulations. A good publication for agricultural employment is http://dyson.cornell.edu/outreach/extensionpdf/2002/Cornell_AEM_eb0210.pdf.

The task of evaluating the current position of the business is not a simple one. Dr. Lisa Holden of Penn State University offers a description of a farm advisory team and offers suggestions for forming one. Advisory teams are groups of specialists identified by you to enhance the farm business using consultation, S.W.O.T. analysis, goal setting, action planning, and monitoring to accomplish major long-term business objectives. The overall goal of the team is to improve the profitability of your farm business and your quality of life.

Most teams consist of three to eight people. A non-farm adviser serves as the team coordinator and is responsible for facilitating the team meetings with you. Advisory teams give careful consideration to your specific values, objectives, and opportunities, to improve your business success and help you in making better-informed decisions.

Having the advisory team endorse a proposed action builds the owner’s confidence. The owner is not acting alone, but has a council of experts to assist in the decision-making process before adopting a new approach.

Once information has been reviewed, it is time to start to look at alternatives to enhance the farm business. Once again, the advisory team can play a role in evaluating al-
ternatives and developing an implementation plan for new projects. If a business plan was developed several years ago, this is a good time to update it with new plans for the business.

In summary, while the process for examining the “pinch point” in your business may seem daunting it is fairly straightforward. The components mentioned in this article are general in nature and need to be customized for your business. It is also a process that time should be devoted to in order to evaluate various parts of the business and generate solid alternatives to move the business forward. To assist you with this process, Cooperative Extension has a variety of Educators ready to assist you with evaluating your business and to help identify alternatives for your business. On page 3 is a list of Cooperative Extension Educators for our area.

Ration Article

Consistency at the Feed Bunk

Submitted by Ashley Pierce, Rensselaer
Written by Rick Grant, Miner Institute

What are the consequences of not having uniform feed delivery along the entire length of the feed bunk? The situation of inconsistent feed availability is common. When we observe this situation where feed accessibility is limited, questions that spring to mind include: how long have portions of the bunk been empty? Does it affect some cows more than others? How does it affect feed intake and milk yield?

Another form of inconsistency at the feed bunk is when the quality of the feed delivered varies from one end of the bunk to the other. A recent study published in the Journal of Dairy Science (2013, 96:247-256) assessed the impact of variable diet quality at the feed bunk on feeding behavior of dairy heifers. In this study, the grain percentage was varied from 0% to either 24% or 39% of dietary dry matter (considered low, medium, and high quality). Heifers were offered various combination of the low, medium, or high quality diet in feed bins and their responses were observed for 15 minutes following delivery of fresh feed. The researchers found that the heifers sampled the quality of the feed by changing their location (i.e. their feed bins) at the feed bunk continually during the observation period. In other words, they “grazed the feed bunk.” Heifers that were exposed to lower quality feed than previously experienced had a higher frequency of switches between feeding bins and a shorter time spent at each bin. The cattle continued to move along the feed bunk, sampling different bins, until they found a diet that they considered high quality (to their way of thinking that meant higher grain). Consider what this behavior would mean on a commercial farm where there is substantial variation in the quality and consistency of the feed being delivered along the length of the feed bunk. There would be considerably more cow movement and interactions at the bunk during that critical time period following feed delivery when feeding behavior is most intense.

In fact, this study found that non-uniform feed quality did increase competition at the bunk which simply reflected the heifer’s desire to access higher quality feed. Improving consistency in feed bunk management and feed delivered should reduce competition, minimize time that cattle spend moving up and down the length of the feed bunk, and assure that all cattle within a pen have similar opportunities to access the correct diet (i.e. the one so carefully formulated). We can also take this research one step further. What is the added potential impact of individual cows not using the entire length of a feed bunk equally? Cows seem to have preferences for certain other cows—in essence, they form friendships and these cows can be consistently found together at the feed bunk and elsewhere in the pen. At Nebraska, we conducted some on-farm observations that indicated that cows seem to have preferred locations along a feed bunk—we never addressed the question in a systematic way, but this question needs an answer: Do cows use the entire length of the feed bunk equally regardless of feed quality? We also observed that when significant portions of the feed bunk became essentially empty then resting behavior suffered as well. The bottom line is that diet quality at the feed bunk may vary over time of the day and along the length of the bunk depending on the farm’s management level. This variation has important effects on cattle feeding behavior and how successfully they will be able to optimize consumption of a well formulated diet. — Rick Grant -grant@whminer.com
Heat Tolerant Broccoli 
Variety Development and Plant Population Effects on Yield and Quality

Dr. Thomas Björkman, Cornell - Geneva

The Eastern Broccoli Project is developing new broccoli varieties that will tolerate eastern summer heat without deforming, and thereby making it a reasonable risk to produce this crop. This public-private partnership is identifying suitable germplasm at seed companies, and having seed companies incorporate superior eastern adaptations that have been developed by public breeding programs at Cornell University, USDA's Vegetable Laboratory, and Oregon State University. The main issue is that eastern growers need varieties that make uniform buds on evenly domed heads even when summer nights remain warm. Such varieties should make it possible to extend the fall harvest season into August, and make spring production a reasonable proposition.

New heat tolerant varieties in the pipeline - In our trials of materials already in the seed companies’ pipeline, or not in current production, we identified several that perform as well as, or better than, the most popular lines in the East. Among these are DuraPak 16 and DuraPak 18 from Syngenta, and BC1691 (Figure 1) and Lieutenant from Seminis. Finding this incremental advance even in the first year is unexpectedly good progress.

For 2012, both seed companies and public breeders provided newly made crosses that are intended to fit eastern conditions better. We tested 39 lines at five locations across the East, and found that these first new crosses included many that exceeded the performance of the best eastern varieties. This result gives an indication that the project will result in substantial improvements in variety choice for eastern growers.

In order to be profitable with this very competitive crop, growers need to take full advantage of the high productivity of our soils. Our results suggest that growers can raise their yield goal and plant population to make the economics more attractive. Current eastern yields are often about 400 to 450 boxes per acre, using single rows with in-row spacing of about 12 inches. We tested the yield potential by using an excellent Honeoye soil, providing abundant water and fertilizer, and raising the plant population. Raising only fertility tends to cause thicker, faster-growing stems that are prone to become hollow. That defect can cause the crop to be rejected. A higher population keeps the stems thinner.

40,000 plants per acre yielded 600-800 boxes - We found that the optimal population for yield, quality, and number of cuts was 40,000 plants. In-row spacing of 8 inches worked well. Going down to 6 inches caused too many plants with no marketable head. A between-row spacing of 15 inches
worked well in a 3-row bed. At this population yields were 600 to 800 boxes per acre. Generally, that yield difference with essentially the same growing cost would increase profit by several thousand dollars per acre.

Varieties like this one lack heat tolerances because the stems get long.

A new variety, BC1691 from Seminis exceeds performance of common broccoli grown in the Eastern United States.

52,000 plants/ac (left) and 26,000 plants/ac (right) 22 days after planting. When provided good soil and abundant fertility and moisture, the optimal population for yield, quality, and number of cuts was 40,000 plants with 8 inch in-row spacing and 15 inch row spacing, which yielded 600 to 800 boxes per acre. Going down to 6 inches caused too many plants with no marketable head.
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May 4th, 2013 4-H Regional Poultry School from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at CCE Albany County, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186. Please call the Albany County 4-H Office at 518-765-3500 to register. *A pizza lunch will be available for purchase* Door Prizes and Giveaways!!!!!

Topics will include: Incubators & Chick Hatching; Housing for Poultry; Laws & Ordinances for Towns; Composting for the Garden; Tips for Fitting & Showmanship; Poultry Care & Feeding; Chicken Care in Community Settings and more!

May 8th, 2013, Kosher, Halal, and Ethnic Livestock Regulations and Marketing Workshop from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the CCE-Sullivan Cty Gerald J. Skoda Extension Education Center 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty, NY 12754. This workshop will be capped at 30 enrollees so call now to register. Cost for the program is $30 per person. Payment for the class will be required to hold your spot. For more information: Cassie Schweighofer, Extension Educator, Phone: 845.292.6180, ext. 104 or E-mail: cms346@cornell.edu.

The workshop will cover:
• Importance of Kosher, Halal, and Ethnic foods in the Market Place
• Regulations and Certifications
• How to Enter the Market
• Customer Wants and Needs
• How to Produce Kosher / Halal / Ethnic Quality Animals

Presenters: Dr. Joe Regenstein, Professor in the Department of Food Science, at Cornell University and program contact for the Cornell Kosher and Halal Food Initiative. CKHFI is a special program within the Department of Food Science that provides research, teaching, and extension programming in the area of religious and ethnic foods, particularly kosher and halal.

Bob Franklin - Owner of Bethel Creamery and Bethel Livestock Farm. Bob produces certified organic / certified kosher milk and bottles on his own farm. Bob also owns and operates a kosher poultry processing facility with his son.

Consumers of kosher and halal foods are a large and growing market. A significant percentage of consumers of kosher and halal products in America are neither Jewish nor Muslim. They buy because they believe these products are safer, better, and healthier. Come join Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County for this exciting workshop and discover how your farm or business might fit into the kosher, halal, or ethnic foods market.

Saturday, May 18, 2013 BEEF PRODUCERS FIELD DAY WORKSHOP, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm at Westendlock Farm, 515 West End Road, Crayville, NY. Registration for meeting is $15/person. BQA Manual is $10/book. Please make check payable to: CCE Albany County. Send registration and payment to: CCE Albany County, Attn: Gale Kohler 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186. Only one manual per farm is needed. For more information on this meeting, contact Tom Gallagher at 518-765-3500 or tig3@cornell.edu.
Topics for the meeting: Beef Quality Assurance Certification, Body Condition Scoring of Cattle, How to Choose the Right Bull, Cattle Health. These will be covered by Dr. Mike Baker, Cornell University, Tom Gallagher, CCE CAAHP Livestock Specialist, Bonnie Bargstedt from Merial and Phil Trowbridge, Trowbridge Farms.

Wednesday, May 22, 2013 Berry Sprayer Optimization and Calibration Workshops from 2-4 p.m. at Mead’s Orchard, 15 Scism Rd, Tivoli NY 12583 2 DEC Pesticide Re-certification credits will be available. Please call Jim O’Connell: 845-943-9814 to let us know you are coming! When leaving a message include your name and phone number. This helps us plan – and also allows us to cancel the class in the event of foul weather.

Proper sprayer calibration and optimization will be a major part of an effective Spotted Wing Drosophila management program. Join us for one of these workshops to learn more about sprayers – large and small – and how you can improve spray distribution, monitor output and improve efficacy. SWD monitoring will also be discussed.

These workshops are directed at the commercial grower. Improving the efficacy, coverage and management of your pesticides will be of imperative this year. Learn how to calibrate air blast, boom and small hand-held or back-pack sprayers. We will demonstrate the utility of water sensitive paper and discuss alternate row spraying and nozzle selection.

An emphasis on SWD management will be part of the workshop. There will be time for questions and discussion.

Tuesday, May 28, 2013 Berry Sprayer Optimization and Calibration Workshops from 2-4 p.m. at Winney’s Farm, 113 Winney Road, Schuylerville, NY 12871. 2 DEC Pesticide Re-certification credits will be available. Please call Laura McDermott: 518-791-5038 to let us know you are coming! When leaving a message include your name and phone number. This helps us plan – and also allows us to cancel the class in the event of foul weather.

Proper sprayer calibration and optimization will be a major part of an effective Spotted Wing Drosophila management program. Join us for one of these workshops to learn more about sprayers – large and small – and how you can improve spray distribution, monitor output and improve efficacy. SWD monitoring will also be discussed.

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An emphasis on SWD management will be part of the workshop. There will be time for questions and discussion.

Thursday, May 30, 2013 Berry Sprayer Optimization and Calibration Workshops from 10-12 noon at Valley View Farm, 228 State Route 9N, Ticonderoga, NY 12883. 2 DEC Pesticide Re-certification credits will be available. Please call Laura McDermott: 518-791-5038 to let us know you are coming! When leaving a message include your name and phone number. This helps us plan – and also allows us to cancel the class in the event of foul weather.

For more information contact:

Eric J. DeSimone, CLU
(518) 877-0525
258 Ushers Road, Suite 200
Clifton Park, NY 12065

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Continued on page 14
SUNNYHILL FARM
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KICKER BALE AGONS

E-Z TRAIL:
- 9’x18’ w/gear w/11Lx15 Tires $3,900 OR w/265x75r-16 used Truck Tires $3,700
ALL E-Z TRAIL WAGONS are on E-Z TRAIL 890W WIDE TRACK GEARS w/tongue spring.

STOLTZFUS:
- 9’x18’ w/gear $3,600 - 9’x 20’ w/gear $3,750
- All Wagons have 8 ton Wide Track Gears w/265x75r-16, 10 ply Truck Tires on 8” wide rims, Spring Kits & 32” Extendable Tongues (Martin), Red or Green & Pick Your Own Running Gear: Stoltzfus, Farmco or Martin (most desired).

Call Jim Rogner 518-885-5106 for more information.

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Around the Community
Continued from page 13

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June 3 - 6, 2013 Cornell University’s 2013 Dairy Nutrition Shortcourse at Miner Institute, Chazy, New York. Registration opens: Monday, April 15, please visit http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/dm/dncourse/index.html. The Dairy Nutrition and Management shortcourse is designed to expose nutritionists, allied industry professionals, and veterinarians to the latest research and its application within dairy nutrition and management. This shortcourse is taught in odd-numbered years at Miner Institute by Cornell faculty, Miner Institute staff, and guest speakers from other Universities.

June 13-15, 2013 The 3rd Annual Wool Pool, at Washington County Fairgrounds, just off Route 29, Greenwich, NY. The Southern Adirondack Fiber Producers Cooperative will again be accepting clean white wool, white offsorts, and natural colored fleeces for resale to a large international wool buyer. More details will follow. Large farms, please plan to bring your wool on Thursday. Farms of all sizes are asked to send a representative to help with the sorting and baling – this event is put on by a member-owned cooperative; and your help is needed!
### FEBRUARY 2013

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