Using underutilized grasslands to improve the economic viability of the Southern Tier while providing viable careers for beginning farmers

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Livestock Market Reporters. Livestock Market reporters continue to report livestock prices at Empire Cherry Creek, Empire Bath, Empire Gouverneur, Empire Cambridge, Maple Hurst and Finger Lakes Livestock Exchange. Reports can be found at https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/livestock-poultry-and-grain-list-reports. Advertising and promotion continues to increase the awareness of this report. It’s a slow process but I am beginning to hear from producers that they use these reports, especially the Feeder Calf reports. While there were several items that needed to be ironed out, one independent auction barn is now very pleased with the service. We continue to struggle to get the Empire Auction barns to publish our reports in Country Folks, though they very much like the service.

A Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator who was trained and certified as a Livestock Reporter has been called into duty to cover for a reporter that is out on maternity leave. She has allowed us to continue to offer this valuable service in western NY.

Project Manager. Audia Denton continues to be an asset to the program. She has become the go-to person for specifics of the Short Course. This has greatly assisted me in coordination and implantation.

Stocker Short Course. The Stocker Short Course officially began September 30. Home base was at the Allegany Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Belmont. It was also broadcast to 6 counties: Chautauqua, Delaware, Tompkins, Cayuga, St. Lawrence and Lewis. Participation has ranged from 35 – 40. The participants are new farmers, beef farmers wishing to expand, dairy producers evaluating transitioning to or diversifying with beef and retired dairy farmers. Along with on-site presenters, the webinar platform has allowed the incorporation of nationally renowned experts. The final of 4 sessions will be December 16. Beginning again in March will be another series of short courses, this time using a more hands-on approach. The syllabus and
additional information can be found at:

Graduate student. Advertising for a MS candidate has yielded several potential students. Our goal is to have a student begin Spring Semester 2018. I have spoken to two candidates. Each would bring skills, interest and expertise that will help us to investigate barriers to expanding the NYS stocker industry.

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