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

Quarterly Report – 7/1/2018

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**Stocker Short Course.** Three locations held sessions: “Why did it die?” Veterinarians in each lab performed a necropsy on a calf explaining what they look for when completing diagnostic procedure. The first of our hands-on courses was held: SUNY Delphi, Howard G Sacket Technical Center, and Alfred State College Farm.

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From Rich Toebe, site coordinator for the necropsy lab at SUNY Delhi:

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**From:** Richard R Toebe  
**Sent:** Monday, April 16, 2018 8:43 AM  
**To:** Hannum, Theresa M. <hannumtm@delhi.edu>; Murphy, Katherine M. <murphykm@delhi.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Use of Delhi Necropsy Lab

Terry, Katie,

I wanted to thank you all at SUNY Delhi for partnering with us to hold the necropsy demonstration at the Large Animal Teaching Facility. We had 12 farmers and 6 SUNY Delhi students attend and learn. The facility worked great. A special thank you to Terry who made everything at the facility easy on the day of the event.

I really appreciate the willingness of SUNY Delhi and its staff in partnering to put on educational events in the community. I also appreciate and value the opportunities created when students and community farmers are learning together.

Rich Toebe  
Watershed Livestock Educator  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County  
Watershed Agricultural Program
A survey was sent out to fall participants. Feedback strongly favored the following hands-on in order of favorability: Stocker Cattle selection, Management Practices, Pasture Management, Handling systems, and Fencing.

A beef stocker pasture walk is scheduled for July 11 (200 head) and Aug 1 (700 head), topics of discussion:

- Current Forage Quality (Forage test results will be shared)
- Watering and Fencing Systems
- Tour & explanation of Beef Handling System (receiving, sorting and processing cattle)
- Discussion on Managing Pastures for Beef Stocker Growth

**USDA Market News Reports.** In the last quarter price and animal data were collected at 70 weekly auctions and 28 special auctions ([https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/livestock-poultry-and-grain-list-reports](https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/livestock-poultry-and-grain-list-reports)), by Cornell/NYS/USDA Market News reporters. Auction prices on dairy x beef cross calves, documenting a $70 - $150/hd premium to Number 1 Holstein bull calves. Given the current economic situation of the dairy enterprise this is valuable information to direct producers to a source of additional income.

**Research.** To better understand barriers to the NYS stocker industry an inquiry was sent out, and feedback collected from beef cattle faculty at universities located in surrounding states (Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia). These states were chosen as they have similar climatic conditions to NYS. With this information, focus groups will be developed to better inform research.

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