Upcoming Pasture Workshops and Related Events:

(Please note events listed are primarily held in New York State, unless indicated otherwise)

Pasture Management Workshop: Starting or Improving your Grazing System – Saturday, March 9th – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm – Delhi Fire Hall, 140 Delview Terrace Ext., Delhi (Delaware County) – This training will cover the basic concepts of pasture forage production, understanding how to manage the pasture to meet your animal’s nutritional needs, and the key elements to having a successful grazing system such as fencing and other infrastructure and sizing paddocks. At the end of the workshop you will also have a soils map of your farm to take home with you that includes estimates of your pasture annual forage production potential, two large aerial maps of your farm, a resource booklet, and a pasture measuring stick. The workshop is $10/person for Delaware CCE members or watershed participants and $20/person for all others – price includes lunch, handouts, the aerial photos and grazing stick. Please register by March 7th to guarantee you receive your aerial maps – walk-ins are welcome but lunch will not be guaranteed - call (607) 865-7090 for more information or visit www.ccedelaware.org.

Soil Health Workshop – Tuesday, March 12th – 9:00 am to 3:30 pm – Good Shephard Catholic Church, 867 Gray’s Woods Boulevard, Port Matilda, PA – Featuring Dr. Allen Williams from Soil Health Consultants on when to graze or to keep animals off of pastures and extending the grazing season. Also speaking will be Leroy Bupp of the PA No-Till Alliance with a soil health demonstration, Dr. John Tooker with Penn State Extension on avoiding insecticide use to improve soil health, and others. Registration is $20/person and includes morning snacks and a hot lunch – contact Centre County Conservation District at (814) 355-6817 ext. 1454 or email brmarks@centrecountypa.gov for more information or to register.

5th Annual Connect Soils to Profits Workshop: No-Till, Cover Crops, Soil Health, Grazing and Healthy Streams – Wednesday, March 13th – 9:00 am to 3:15 pm – Wysox Fire Hall, 111 Lake Road, Towanda, PA – Featuring Dr. Allen Williams of Soil Health Consultants on building a profitable grass-fed operation and lessons on restoring soil health. Also speaking will be local farmers on their experiences with soil health and Dr. John Tooker of Penn State Extension on fostering soil health while combating insect pests and slugs. Registration is $20/person and includes lunch – to register visit www.bccdpa.com or call (570) 485-3105.

Connecting Soils and Profits: No-Till, Cover Crops, Soil Health and Grazing – Thursday, March 14th – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm – Pine Barn Inn, 1 Pine Barn Place, Danville, PA – The program for this workshop is similar to the event on March 12th listed above. There will be a producer panel discussion on ruts, mud, and cover crops, as well as Dr. John Wallace from Penn State on herbicide resistant weeds in a soil health.
system. Registration is $25/person before March 8th, and $30/person after – includes a hot lunch. Contact Columbia County Conservation District at (570) 317-9456 or email tracey.oman@columbiaccd.org for more information or to register.

A New Approach to Managing Face Flies on Pastured Cattle (free webinar) – Tuesday, March 19th – 11:00 am to noon - Join us to hear about the latest strategy to control Face Flies on pastured cattle. The method that will be discussed is both effective and safe for the cattle, the operator and the environment! Our presenter, Fred Forsburg, is a farmer / managed grazier and sometime researcher who lives on his small family farm in western New York State. Fred is in his 13th year grazing small frame Angus stockers on managed intensive pastures. He has been awarded four previous research grants through both public and private agricultural research organizations. He has also contributed to On Pasture magazine (read his article More Ways To Keep Flies Off Your Livestock). To register, visit https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED57D683804F3A

Advance Notice:

Grasstravaganza 2019: Health and Resiliency from Soil to Table - July 25th to 27th – SUNY Cobleskill, Cobleskill (Schoharie County) - SUNY Cobleskill, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the New York Grazing Coalition, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Cornell University Cooperative Extension, is hosting the 2019 Grasstravaganza. The conference will cover the importance of grazing livestock with a Soil to Table perspective and includes both regional and national speakers to include, Dr. Elaine Ingham, microbiologist and soil biology researcher and founder of Soil Foodweb Inc. as well as workshops, hands-on learning at the college farm, and local farm tours. Other speakers include Victor Shelton of NRCS in Indiana and regular contributor to OnPasture, Dr. Kathy Soder of USDA-ARS in State College, PA, and Mike Lapi of the SUNY Cobleskill Meats Lab. Look for registration dates and more information to come early in 2019 and visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/grasstravaganza2019

Other Interesting Events:

Since many of our readers do more on their farms than graze livestock, we have added this new section. We will list events not directly related to grazing, such as topics on other crops, soil health, conservation, and farm business management, but that may be of interest to graziers in this section. This will not be all-inclusive, as there would be too many to list, so please be understanding if you don’t see something here that you expected.
Determining Rental Rates on the Farm

This program is designed to assist producers in determining fair rental rates on their farms from collected data in surrounding farms/counties. In addition to land rental rates, determining fair land sale values on farms will be touched upon. This workshop will be presented by Nicole Tommell, Farm Business Management Specialist with the Central New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team.

Otsego County CCE – Monday, March 4, 2019 6-8pm
Madison County CCE -- Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6-8 pm

Please visit the CNYDLFC for registration and more information.

https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php

**************************************************

Livestock Techniques Hands-on Workshop ~ 3 locations to choose from

Come join Ashley McFarland, Area Livestock Specialist with the Central New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team, for a hands-on workshop focusing on management practices for livestock. She will be teaching participants the proper ways to administer vaccinations, ear tagging, ear notching, castration and proper restraint and safety while working with animals.

When/Where: Tuesday, March 12
Tuesday, March 26
Tuesday, March 19
CCE Herkimer County Extension Office or CCE Madison County
Extension Office or CCE Chenango County Extension Office
5657 State Route 5, Herkimer 13350 100 Eaton St,
Morrisville 13408 99 N Broad St, Norwich 13815

Time: 6-8 pm (all locations)
Cost: $10 per person

For more information or to register and pay by credit card:

March 12, CCE Herkimer County Extension Office: https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=838
March 19, CCE Madison County Extension Office: https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=839
March 26, CCE Chenango County Extension Office: https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=840

************************************************************************************

High-Speed Discs, Reduced Tillage, Weed Ecology on March 12 NYCO Agenda

The New York Certified Organic (NYCO) meeting on Tuesday, March 12, at Cornell AgriTech in Geneva, N.Y., will feature a farmer panel on the use of high-speed discs and other tools for reduced tillage and Cornell Professor Emeritus Dr. Charles Mohler discussing soil nutrient management for weed control.

The farmer panel includes Eric Sheffer, who uses equipment that allows him to prepare a seedbed and plant pasture seedings in one pass; Rodney Graham and Thor Oechsner who use German-made tillage equipment in their field cropping systems; and Peter Marten, who uses a number of tools for reducing tillage on his farm. Cornell University Crop and Soil Sciences Professor Emeritus Dr. Charles Mohler will present information from his experience as a weed ecologist and take audience questions on how to manage difficult weed problems. Question-and-answer sessions are popular with the farmers who attend NYCO meetings.

The meeting is free to attend and begins at 10 am at Jordan Hall, 630 West West North Street, Geneva, NY, at Cornell AgriTech. There is no need to register to attend the free NYCO meetings; participants are asked to bring a dish for a potluck lunch.

This is the final winter meeting for 2019 as NYCO celebrates 26 years as an organic field crop and dairy discussion group with guest speakers. Roundtable discussions after lunch provide the opportunity to ask questions and hear from the combined experience of the group. New and transitioning farmers as well as long-time organic producers are welcome. For more information, contact Fay Benson, 607-391-2669,
afb3@cornell.edu. Benson is an educator with the Cornell University South Central NY Regional Team, project manager for the NY Organic Dairy Program, and coordinator of the NY Soil Health Trailer.

Want to submit an event? Interested in subscribing? Simply send an email to karen.hoffman2@ny.usda.gov with your event information, or with the subject line of "subscribe" to be added to the distribution list! If submitting an event listing, please submit it 3 days before the end of the month prior to the date scheduled, as this newsletter will only be generated at the beginning of the month. Not interested? If we’ve sent this to you, and you’re not interested in receiving it again, also send an email to the above address with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Brought to you by the NY Grazing Coalition. The NYGC is a grass-roots coalition of producers, agricultural industry, and conservation groups with an interest in the sound conservation of private grazing lands, with funding from USDA-NRCS in New York. The goal of this newsletter is to increase awareness of grazing events around New York and in neighboring states, as well as to provide information that is useful on the farm. For more information on the National Grazing Lands Coalition, check out the NatGLC website at www.grazinglands.org. Information on the NYGC can be obtained from Coordinator Karen Hoffman at the email address above.