Preventing an Undercover Video Crisis at Your Farm

By: Joan Sinclair Petzen

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” - Benjamin Franklin

Livestock farmers value their animals and work tirelessly to be certain they are well cared for. That being said, anyone in animal business today thinks about the remote possibility of their business being targeted and the horrific effect an undercover video being released about their animal handling practices might have. To take Franklin’s advice, one must exercise caution in order to minimize the risk to their business of being the target of malicious exposure.

A farm can take a few steps to prevent the risk of an undercover video being published about them. By “doing the right thing,” a lot can be accomplished toward prevention. At the recent Animal Care Dairy Industry Crisis Drill here in New York, Beth Meyer from American Dairy Association and Dairy Council shared their “Anticipate. Prepare. Protect.” Workbook. The booklet details how to do the right thing:

- Set high animal care standards for yourself and your employees
- Ensure your farm exceeds expectations for animal care, cleanliness, and environmental responsibility
- Set codes of conduct for animal handling and care and train every worker to follow them
- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy regarding animal mistreatment or abuse

Focus Points

- Managing for Today and Tomorrow
- How To Make a Vaccination Fail
- On-Farm Biosecurity
- NYFVI Board Welcomes Amos Smith
- To Rehab or Not To Rehab
- Upcoming Webinars
- Western NY Ag Shines at the NYS Agricultural Forum
- 2015 NY Corn & Soybean Growers Association Yield Contest Winners
- Livestock Marketing Discussion: Identifying Your Customer
- Pesticide Applicator Training
- Matt Kludt is NY Corn King for 2015
- Winter Dairy Management - 2016
- Transition Cows: How to get Fresh Cows off to a Great Start
- Regional Meetings

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Mission Statement
The NWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops team will provide lifelong education to the people of the agricultural community to assist them in achieving their goals. Through education programs & opportunities, the NWNY Team seeks to build producers’ capacities to:

- Enhance the profitability of their business
- Practice environmental stewardship
- Enhance employee & family well-being in a safe work environment
- Provide safe, healthful agricultural products
- Provide leadership for enhancing relationships between agricultural sector, neighbors & the general public.
• Be vigilant and be on the lookout for any signs of animal abuse
• Require employees to report any signs of abuse immediately
• Become familiar with undercover video laws in your state

When it comes to public relations, the adage “the best defense is a good offense” describes the approach farms should consider. What is your farm’s public relations plan? If your community and particularly local media are familiar with the positive things you do taking care of livestock, the land, and employees, it is going to be much more difficult for people to believe a “malicious” attack on your farm practices. As part of your proactive approach, think about who you might invite to help defend your farm if activists target you. These partners will be able to respond more quickly in a crisis if they are already on board and prepared to address a crisis situation.

Employees who handle animals are an important part of your business. Before hiring, thoroughly screen candidates. Agriculture Attorney David Cook states “It is legal to ask a potential employee if he/she is a member of or if they support an animal rights organization. Ask during the interview or on the employment application.” You might also ask prospective employees if they are living in transient housing, how long they have been in the area, and what their experience is working in agriculture. Be sure to contact references and do background checks.

Once hired, require employees to sign a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement. “The agreement should include a clause for liquidated damages for taking or distributing photographs or video,” according to Cook. Use a probationary period of one to three months and watch them closely. Include animal care practices and proper care for all animals in your employee agreement and have each employee sign it.

Training is another key. Pair new hires with trusted experienced employees to learn the best practices for animal care employed by your farm. The National FARM Program offers a number of training videos on their website. Use these short videos to kick start a discussion of proper animal handling practices in different situations at your employee meetings. Reviewing proper care on a regular basis and employee safety in different aspects of the business are part of a solid employee training program that can prevent animal abuse and protect employees and your business.

“Anticipate. Prepare. Protect” is part of the “Telling Your Story” training program. Copies are available from by contacting Beth Meyer at ADA/DC: BMeyer@adadc.com. You will find more information about these tips and worksheets to help you prevent an undercover attack on your farm’s animal care practices.
Managing for Today and Tomorrow – Offered in NWNY

By Joan Sinclair Petzen

“Annie’s Project” has been successful nationally and in New York with empowering farm women to become stronger business partners through clearer understanding of how to manage risk. “Managing for Today and Tomorrow” (MTT) will provide audiences the opportunity to become involved in the journey of transitioning their farm legacy to a new generation. MTT will be offered in four Thursday sessions from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Genesee and Ontario County CCE offices beginning February 18th by Cornell Cooperative Extension’s North West New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team.

MTT will be guided by the same core values as Annie’s Project:

- Guided Intelligence - learning from one another.
- Connection - networking with farm women and local practitioners.
- Discovery - using hands-on activities and discussion
- Safe Harbor - environment where all questions are welcome.

Participants in MTT will focus on transition planning for their farm businesses. Whether you are in the prime of your farming career, just getting started or thinking about later phases of life, transition planning is likely to be important to you. Because family and business are often closely tied together in agriculture, transition planning must address issues of business sustainability and family relationships. MTT addresses succession, business, estate and retirement planning in the context of a farm business. For some, transition planning may involve successors who are not part of the family.

Topics:

- Clarifying values and personal vision
- Succession Planning
  ◊ Communication barriers
  ◊ Resolving conflict
  ◊ Analyzing your situation
  ◊ Valuing sweat equity
- Business Planning
- Estate Planning
  ◊ Asset transfer methods & tools
  ◊ Estate settlement process
  ◊ Size matters in estate taxability
  ◊ Fair treatment of heirs
  ◊ Trusts
  ◊ Power of Attorney
  ◊ Long Term Care Insurance
- Retirement Planning
  ◊ Goals for later life
  ◊ Retirement lifestyle options & timeline
  ◊ Life expectancy
  ◊ Estimating costs of living in retirement
  ◊ Tools for financial security in retirement

Farm women must register to participate in Managing for Today and Tomorrow. The cost is $100.00 per person and includes 15 hours of instruction, an extensive collection of instructional materials and a light lunch at each session. To register for either location, contact Zach Amey at zta3@cornell.edu or 585-786-2251, Ext 123. For questions about what the classes will cover reach out to Joan Petzen, jsp10@cornell.edu, 585-786-2251, Ext. 122 or Marie Anselm, ms882@cornell.edu, 585-394-3977, Ext. 402. Register today and save the dates, February 18, 25, March 3, and 10.

This program is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, and supported in part by the Northeast Extension Risk Management Education Center, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) award number 2012-49200-20031, CoBANK, Farm Credit East, New York FarmNet, NYS Agricultural Mediation Center, NYS Workforce Development Institute, and New York Agri-Women, Inc.
Can You Weather the Storm?

Whole Farm Revenue protection is available for small and large diversified growers and can include livestock. The program is based on a farmers’ Schedule F tax form and is an improved version of AGR/AGR-lite. Visit the USDA RMA website for educational materials at: [www.rma.usda.gov/policies/wfrp.html](http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/wfrp.html). Contact a crop insurance agent to explore this new program. To locate an agent, ask a neighbor for a recommendation or go to: [www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html](http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html).

Crop insurance is available for corn, soybeans, winter wheat and feed-grade barley. In counties where crop insurance is offered for these commodity crops, contract prices may be used for organic insurance purposes. New farmers are eligible for significant program benefits.

Vegetable and fruit crop protection is available through the much improved Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). It can provide up to 65% protection for almost all crops when crop insurance is not available. NAP is available through your county Farm Service Agency (FSA). Contact your FSA office for more information or visit: [www.fsa.usda.gov/ny](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ny). New farmers are eligible for significant program benefits.

NAP enrollment deadlines vary by crop.

Following are enrollment or crop insurance change deadlines for 2016:

- **March 15, 2016** for field crops, other vegetables and improved Whole Farm Revenue Protection;
- **4th Friday of every month** for Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy.

To find an agent go to [www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html](http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html). For more information go to [www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CropInsurance.html](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CropInsurance.html) or call **800-554-4501**.

Contact your county Farm Service Agency or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/ny](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ny) for information about NAP.
Vaccinations are part of virtually every dairy farmer’s herd health plan. Many bacterial and viral diseases can be managed most effectively by their use; however, there have always been some misconceptions about how these tools work and what the limitations might be.

Creating Immunity - Vaccines are man-made products that attempt to mimic the challenge to the immune system that natural exposure to a disease presents to the body. It goes without saying that we do not want to have the same results after vaccinating that we see after contracting the natural cause of the disease. A great deal of effort goes into preparing a vaccine that stimulates the immune system well enough, but does not cause sickness and possibly death.

If you look at death as the worst case scenario following exposure to a pathogen or agent of disease then you have to view the absence of an immune reaction after vaccination as the equivalent unacceptable result. Both situations need a lack of response to the challenge in order to result in a failure mode. Since death is much more dramatic and visible than a lack of antibodies in the blood and tissues, vaccine failure does not show up well on the radar screen by comparison.

Reasons for Failure - When death occurs from infection by a pathogen, either one of two things may have gone wrong: the pathogen was exceptionally virulent or strong or the victim was not capable of fighting off even a moderate challenge. Inexperienced immune systems (baby calves), weakened metabolism (fresh cows, underfed calves, heavy parasite load) and high stress load (sick already, socialization, just fresh) are good reasons for higher than normal sickness and death rates. Similarly, a failure to produce antibodies and protection against the disease agents in the vaccine comes from the same set of circumstances.

Other reasons that vaccinations fail completely or partially are related to handling, route of administration, dosing frequency and needle length. It has been estimated that 15% of dairy cattle do not show adequate protection after the administration of most vaccines. These are compelling reasons to make sure those directions are followed and that your veterinarian is consulted when breaks in disease control occur.

Not all strains of certain bacteria and particularly viruses are covered by vaccines. Even multi-valent viral vaccines will fail to protect against a recently introduced “hot” virus that comes into the herd or was created by a naturally occurring mutation.

What Not To Do - Here is a checklist of things that should not happen when vaccinating livestock:
Quick Tips for Proper Handling of Vaccines

Here are some basic vaccine-handling precautions to ensure effectiveness of the vaccine:

1. Read the label.
2. Purchase fresh vaccines and store them in a refrigerator. Never use an outdated drug or vaccine.
3. Modified-live vaccine begins to lose effectiveness after about an hour, so don't mix too much vaccine at one time. Because direct sunlight also degrades the products, keep vaccines and syringes in a cooler when working cattle.
4. Don't use the same syringe to inject modified-live and killed products. A trace of killed product can harm modified-live product effectiveness.

**Remember** – Neither vaccines, nor antibiotics for that matter, can be expected to neutralize the significant impact of disease agents if the animal’s nutrition level is poor, stresses are high, parasite loads are evident and environmental conditions are challenging. A competent immune system is a must for both vaccination success and recovery from infectious disease.
With a new strain (H7N8) of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) identified in Indiana, it is a reminder that ALL livestock producers – large and small – need to step up on-farm biosecurity. I recently attended the NY Pork Producers Annual Meeting (1/17) and was updated: there is a relatively new disease infecting pigs in the Upper Midwest called Seneca Valley Virus (SVV). SVV presents itself (very similarly to Foot and Mouth Disease and Swine Vesicular Disease) as lesions on the snout and coronary band/hoof. Mortality may be increased in newborn piglets less than 7 days old that may or may not have diarrhea. There are also approximately 40 diseases lurking outside the US.

With animal health closely related to profitability, biosecurity should be a priority on any size farm. It is often overlooked on small farms and is sometimes thought to be only a large farm concern. A system of practices should include a comprehensive approach to cover many aspects for potential disease problems.

1. Beware when buying new animals. Animals purchased or brought back to the farm should be quarantined for a period of 21-30 days, depending on species and disease risk. Quarantined animals need to be far enough away from the home group that they can’t touch noses, share water or feed, or contact manure. In all in, all out settings (swine and poultry), make sure the area is cleaned and disinfected and dry before new animals are moved in. Ask for health records for newly purchased livestock.

2. Wear clean clothes and clean boots when leaving the farm. Your animals may be healthy, but you may take manure to another farm or store and someone else may take it home with them. Their animals may be susceptible. If visitors are at your operation, disposable boots or boot wash should be utilized. Make sure manure and mud are removed prior to disinfecting since many products are neutralized by organic matter.

3. Watch out for wildlife and pests. Wild birds can transmit diseases to poultry and can be carriers of diseases to other livestock species by contaminating feed. I had a farm couple tell me they now have Mycoplasmosis on the farm in their poultry flock and will always have it, transmitted from sparrows. Flies can also carry infectious diseases so do your best to keep populations at a minimum. Keep rodent populations under control. Keep a gravel strip around the perimeter of barns and buildings to deter them; they won’t want to risk being caught by predators. Use an integrated approach to control pests.

4. Don’t forget trucks, trailers, and other equipment. Keep cleanliness in mind even when driving to a slaughter facility. You don’t want to bring home manure on your tires or undercarriage from another farm. This is especially important with the swine infection PEDv (porcine epidemic diarrhea virus). Be cautious when sharing any farm equipment – both feed and manure - with the neighbor; keep it clean and disinfected.

5. Keep your herd or flock healthy. Maintain a health plan by working with your veterinarian to keep your animals vaccinated and healthy. Proper feed and water are critical.

This is a short list of suggestions. An ounce of prevention is worth much more than a pound of cure! I have some Farm Biosecurity signs from NYS Department of Ag & Markets. If you are interested in one, give me a call or drop me an email, my contact information is inside the front cover.
Amos Smith, nominated by the New York State Corn & Soybean Growers Association, was elected as an NYFVI board member at its December meeting.

Smith, a fourth-generation family farmer in Livingston County, holds a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University in Animal Science and Business. He is one of 6 owner-operators at Lawnel Farms 2, LLC, all of whom are family members, where they farm about 3,000 acres and milk 1,600 cows.

“We are pleased to have Amos onboard,” said Jim Bittner, Bittner-Singer Orchards and Chairman, NYFVI. “Our grant application recently closed, and we have 46 proposals, representing $4.3 million in research and education requests. Seven of those projects are in field crops, where Amos’ input will be particularly valuable.”

The ten-person all-volunteer board includes farmers from across the state representing all the major agriculture production sectors. NYFVI’s mission is to help New York farmers become more profitable and improve the long-term viability and sustainability of the state’s farms, the food system, and the communities which they serve.

Amos is the immediate past treasurer of the Livingston CCE Board of Directors, serving as a director for six years.

Antibiotic Stewardship- Reducing the Residue on the Dairy

Session 1: The Food Armor Program
Wednesday February 17th, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Session 2: What’s Happening with Antibiotic Use on the Regulatory Side?
Wednesday, February 24th, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Choose one of the following locations to attend:
- CCE Ontario County, Canandaigua, NY
- CCE Orleans County, Albion, NY
- CCE Wyoming County, Warsaw, NY

Session 1:
Food Armor®, developed by veterinarians in Wisconsin, addresses food safety and long-term proper drug use on farms. Topics include:
- Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship
- Drug list
- Protocols
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Records
- Veterinary oversight

The objective of the Food Armor® program is to identify potential hazards and to identify critical control points to limit them.

Many residue issues result from poor communication and understanding by farm workers using legally approved drugs improperly. The dairy industry will face increasing pressure to reduce or eliminate antibiotic uses. Let's be proactive.

Plan to join us for a great program with Jon Garber, DVM and Theresa Ollivett, DVM.

More information on the Food Armor program can be found at: http://www.foodarmor.org/

Session 2:
- Antibiotic Resistance—How It Happens
- The New Veterinary Feed Directive
- Antibiotic Residue Scenarios in New York
- Bob Veal—the Lingering Residue Problem
- NYSCHAP Food Safety and Drug Residue Avoidance module—risk assessment

Jerry Bertoldo, DVM, NWNY Dairy Team
Dwight Bruno, DVM, NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Melanie Hemenway, DVM, NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets, NYSCHAP Coordinator

Registration Deadline: February 10th
$75.00 enrolled
$90.00 non-enrolled

To register or for more information:
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wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/dairy-institute
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To Rehab or Not To Rehab

By: Timothy X. Terry
Regional Dairy Strategic Planning Specialist

With many new facilities being constructed, and production animals being moved out of the old facilities, the question that remains is: What do we do with the old buildings? Do we raze it or remodel it? Has the structure outlived its useful life or with a little tweaking can it be part of another facet of the enterprise or even an entirely different enterprise? In order to answer these questions you will need to honestly evaluate the current status of the structure. Sentimentality aside, Humstone\(^1\) (1988) presents a 10-point preliminary checklist to begin evaluation of the feasibility of remodeling and/or restoring an existing barn:

1. **Evaluate the framing:** Check all posts, beams, sills, rafters, and joists to be sure they are solid and free of rot. Minor sags are probably OK – if you’d been holding up something for 150+ years you’d probably be a little saggy, too. However, cracked beams, punky posts, or twisted joists and rafters could be signs of deeper troubles (#moneypit). You may need to scrape off a century’s worth of whitewash in order to make a proper assessment.

2. **Evaluate the foundation:** Check for cracks, settling, and shifting. Look for loose or missing mortar. A minor crack running along the mortar joint may not be cause for concern, but a generally vertical crack running through the block as well as the mortar could indicate settling or shifting. Spalling (blistering, sloughing) of concrete or plaster coats usually indicates hydraulic pressure from the other side. This may simply mean surface / subsurface water needs to be drained away. Unfortunately, this could also mean that significant damage has already been done to the structural integrity of the wall, and, therefore, the wall, or section of the wall, will need to be rebuilt. (See #1)

3. **Evaluate the roof:** Check the roof covering and flashing, especially in the valleys and along any shed roofs, cupolas, etc. On the inside, look for water stains and rot on sheathing and beams.

4. **Evaluate the exterior walls:** Eyeball the length of the barn at eave level to check walls for straightness. If the foundation has shifted, walls may have sagged and pulled out – floor joists and rafters may only be sitting on a fingernail width of bearing surface. Depending on the condition of the foundation (see #2) you may be able to simply clean out any chaff or animal dander and pull the building back together with a heavy cable and turnbuckle.

5. **Evaluate the building interior:** Note the location and existence of any drains and/or gutters. Check the condition of existing floors above and below. Will it require resurfacing, and if so how much and of what type? Will it need to meet “Grade A” requirements (i.e. artisanal cheese storage). Note the amount of free-span space. Will any of the supporting structure have to be moved or changed? Will it easily accommodate all of the equipment needed for the enterprise to be housed here?

6. **Evaluate the building location:** Is the barn conveniently located with good access to and from other buildings and the farmyard? Can delivery and live-haul trucks easily access the facility? Is there room to add on if you want to expand your operation in the future? Is the current structure in the way of expanding other facilities or farm lanes? Is the current location creating an environmental nightmare? (It may be less expensive to build elsewhere than to try to properly remedy an environmental issue.)
7. **Evaluate the building size:** Is the barn big enough for its intended purpose? Is there adequate ceiling clearance and space between interior posts? Is there room to install the equipment you need? (see #5)

8. **Evaluate doorways:** Will doors need to be enlarged or moved? This may require significant restructuring, especially if you’re considering installing overhead doors.

9. **Evaluate the building’s ambient environment:** Is the barn airtight and insulated? Does it need to be? Can appropriate heating and ventilation systems be installed? What is the current condition of any insulation? If it is full of vermin feces and urine or soaking wet from rain or condensation it will have to be replaced.

10. **Evaluate the utilities:** What is the condition of the plumbing and wiring? Will it need to be updated? Is there sufficient water and is the electrical entrance large enough to handle the expected peak draws? Are you still running on some of the old knob-and-tube wiring? Has the integrity of the wiring insulation been maintained? Is the old galvanized plumbing full of rust and hard water deposits? Will the new water lines have to be insulated to keep them from freezing? Can efficient feeding, watering, and manure handling systems be installed if necessary? There is nothing to be gained in exchanging one labor intensive facility for another. That being said, I’d like to add another criteria…

11. **Biosecurity:** What has been the typical pathogen load in this facility? Can the facility be adequately cleaned and sanitized to reduce or eliminate the contamination? For example, if this has been a mature cow barn with a history of respiratory infections and environmental mastitis can you get this clean enough to house highly susceptible neonates (new born calves)?

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**Upcoming Webinars:**

**Heifer Nutrition & Economics - What the New Edition of the Cornell Net Carbohydrate & Protein System Tells Us**
February 4, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Presented by:
Dr. Mike Van Amburgh, Cornell University
http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/production-management/dairy-webinars

**Getting the Most Bang for your Vaccination Dollar**
February 8, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Presented by:
Amelia Woolums, DVM, Mississippi State University
http://www.hoards.com/webinars

**Technology Tuesday Series:**
**Ag Digesters 101**
February 9, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Presented by:
John Tyson, Penn State Extension
http://extension.psu.edu/animals/dairy/events/ag-digesters-101

**Field Crops Webinar Series:**
**Malting Barley (and Hops) Production**
February 23, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Presented by:
Ashley McFarland & Dr. Rob Sirrine, Michigan State University Extension
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/field_crops_webinar_series
Western New York Agriculture Shines at the New York State Agricultural Forum

By: Libby Eiholzer

Western New York Agriculture was in the spotlight at the New York State Agricultural Society’s 184th Annual Meeting & Agricultural Forum held in Syracuse on January 7, 2016. Many farms in our region received awards, and among those receiving the highest of honors was Table Rock Farm, Inc. of Wyoming County.

Table Rock received one of two Business of the Year Awards. This award was developed to promote the state’s food system and recognize the quality, leadership and innovation demonstrated by NY agribusinesses. The farm’s vision includes building a strong management team on the dairy. The fact that nine of their employees have worked there for 20-plus years shows that they are indeed meeting that goal! Table Rock also received a Century Farm Award. This award honors NY farms operated continuously on the same land and by the same family for 100 years or more. The farm was established in 1915 by C. Scott De Golyer.

Two farms in Western NY received the Bicentennial Farm Award. The first, Seldon Stokoe & Sons Inc., was established by Thomas Stokoe in 1812. This Monroe County business is made up of three divisions: a cash grain farm, a dairy heifer boarding facility and an agri-tainment business that includes a pumpkin patch and a Christmas tree farm. The second farm receiving this recognition was Lamont Farms of Orleans County, a fruit farm that was established by Josias Lamont in 1815.

One of two Next Generation Farmer Awards was given to Max and Trystan Sandvoss of First Light Farm and Creamery in Genesee County. The brothers started the farm in 2010, where they produce artisanal cheeses with milk from both their goat herd and Grassland Dairy, a neighboring Jersey cow farm. It was announced at the Forum that their cheese will soon be available for sale at Wegmans stores statewide.

Noblehurst Farms, Inc. of Livingston County received one of two Farm Safety Awards, which recognize farms who have implemented unique and successful farm safety programs. The farm’s safety committee coordinates safety-related activities on the farm, which include regular safety trainings, annual flu shot clinics, safety inserts in employees’ pay inserts and safety vests and t-shirts for all employees. One of the most impressive things about their safety program is their open door policy, which encourages employees to bring forward any safety concerns and promises to address them effectively.

Congratulations to all of our Western New York Farms on their great achievements!

To nominate a farm for an award to be presented at next year’s Ag Forum, visit http://www.nysagsociety.org/ and fill out the application by September 1, 2016.
The annual corn and soybean yield contests are sponsored by the New York Corn & Soybean Grower Association. Congratulations to our 2015 NY Corn Champion, Kludt Brothers Farm and our NY Soybean Champion, Kevin Witkop. Both winners are from Orleans County. This is the second year in a row that Kludt Brothers is the NY Corn Champ and gets to keep the Champion Cup. Both win all expense paid trips to the 2016 Commodity Classic in New Orleans, LA in February. Listed here are the top three state winners and West and Finger Lakes regional winners. All the regional corn and soybean winners can be viewed on the NY Corn & Soybean Growers Association webpage at, http://www.nycornsoy.org/.

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**Soybean Contest**

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Livestock Marketing Discussion: Identifying Your Customer

February 18
7-8:30 p.m.

CCE - Ontario County
480 N. Main Street, Canandaigua

$5 per person. To register, contact Nancy Anderson, 585.394.3977

Marie Anselm, Agriculture Economic Development Specialist, CCE Ontario will address Strategic Customer Identification. Discussion will be led by Marie and Nancy Glazier, NWNY Team. This will be an opportunity to develop a livestock marketing discussion group.

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ORLEANS COUNTY CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION & NYS DEC ARE PROUD TO OFFER A PRE-EXAM TRAINING AND TEST TO BECOME A CERTIFIED PESTICIDE APPLICATOR

Agriculture Specialists Mike Stanyard from the NWNY Team and Debbie Breth of the Lake Ontario Fruit Program will review core concepts and commodity specific items in preparation for the Pesticide Applicator exam.
This is not a 30-hour course. No DEC recertification credits.

TRAINING CLASSES

WHEN: March 15 & 17, 2016
8:00am - 12:00pm
Registration begins at 7:45am

WHERE: Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative Ext.
12690 Route 31, Albion,
NY 14411

COST: $50 for both days

QUESTIONS: Contact
Kim Hazel at 585-798-4265
ext. 26 or by email at
krh5@cornell.edu

THE CERTIFICATION EXAM

will be administered on March 24th at 11am by the DEC to Qualified Applicants. Fee for the exam is $100, bring a check payable to NYSDEC the day of the exam. It is permissible to bring lunch with you, however, please be sure not to get food or fingerprints on the test forms.

YOU MUST REGISTER WITH DEC TO TAKE THE EXAM

To register for the exam or if you have questions regarding the Certification Process, please contact Mike Searles at the Avon DEC office @ 585-226-5424.

All participants must have experience working on their own farm, or through employment on another farm. Participants must register directly with DEC to take the Exam and if you have any questions on exam eligibility they must be answered by DEC representatives.

This training is only for those with experience and does not qualify for the 30-hour pre-test training.

TO ENSURE MANUALS ARE ORDERED IN TIME ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY FEBRUARY 29

Name:______________________________________________

Farm Name:________________________________________

Address:__________________________________________

City:________________________________State:_________Zip:_________

Phone:____________________________________________

Email:____________________________________________

Registering # of people____________________@ $50 ea. = _________________________

# of Core Manuals_________________________@ $44 ea. = _________________________

# of Category 21 manuals (Field & Forage)____________________@ $40 ea. = ____________

# of Category 22 manuals (Fruit)_________________________@ $40 ea. = _______________

# of Category 23 manuals (Vegetable)____________________@ $40 ea. = _______________

All participants will need to have the most recent Core Manual (3rd Edition) and Category Manuals

Please make checks payable to: CCE, and mail to 12690 Rt. 31, Albion, NY 14411

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion an a part of Cornell University’s heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO,
Protected Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities.

Page 18
Matt Kludt is NY Corn King for 2015

By Tom Rivers
Orleanshub.com

The National Corn Growers Association released the state and national winners in its annual corn yield contest and a Kendall farmer led the state and finished third in the country.

Matt Kludt of the Kludt Brothers Farm led New York with a yield of 322.97 bushels per acre in the no till/strip till non-irrigated class. He used a DeKalb seed.

Kludt will receive national recognition in publications such as the NCYC Corn Yield Guide, as well as cash trips or other awards from participating sponsoring seed, chemical and crop protection companies. In New Orleans, during the 2016 Commodity Classic, winners will be honored during the NCGA Awards Banquet and the NCYC State Winners Breakfast.

Kludt is a past winner for the state. He finished third overall in the country. Only Jill Justice of Beckley, WV, at 368.78 bushels and Jay Justice, also of Beckley, WV (360.32 bushels) had more in the no till/strip till non-irrigated class.

The National Corn Growers said improved seed varieties, advanced production techniques and innovative growing practices helped corn growers achieve ever-higher yields in the 2015 contest.

David Hula of Charles City, VA. set a new national record with a yield just over 532 bushels per acre. He competed in the no till/strip till irrigated class. Additionally, a record five national entries surpassed the 400-plus bushel per acre mark.

“The contest does more than just provide farmers an opportunity for friendly competition; it generates information that shapes future production practices across the industry,” said Brent Hostetler, chairman of NCGA’s Production and Stewardship Action Team. “The techniques contest winners first develop grow into broad advances that help farmers across the country excel in a variety of situations. Our contest emphasizes how innovation, from growers and technology providers alike, enables us to meet the growing demand for food, feed, fuel and fiber.”

Source: orleanshub.com, December 2015

Grazing Management (BF 231)

Thursdays
March 17 - April 21
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

This course is designed for livestock producers who have already initiated grazing practices on their farm, and who have at least a basic knowledge of the grazing behavior of their animals and of their pasture ecosystems. Producers who do not yet have livestock are welcome to participate, but may find it more challenging to absorb and keep up with the course content.

For more information and register go to:
http://www.nebeginningfarmers.org/online-courses/annual-calendar-of-courses/
New York Organic Certified has announced three presentations and a farmer panel on managing soil health with crop rotations and forage production to be offered February 9 with speakers on site at the New York State Agricultural Experimental Station in Geneva, NY. Cornell Cooperative Extension offices will broadcast the program via web connection in Canton, Morrisville, Warsaw and Westport.

The February 9 meeting is the second of three New York Certified Organic winter meetings. Rick Pederson of Pederson Farms, Seneca Castle, NY, will present on Putting Soil Health Knowledge into Practice. Pederson manages 600 certified organic acres and an additional 900 acres under conventional production. He grows a diversified crop mix for wholesaling to buyers throughout the Northeast. He will talk about the crop rotations he has developed to provide income and at the same time build resilience in his soil.

Tom Kilcer of Advanced Ag Systems, Kinderhook, NY, will present his research on Alternative Forage Rotations to Protect the Soil on Marginal Land. Kilcer will share his data on double cropping with winter grains and summer annuals to keep the soil covered and allow fieldwork to be done when soils are more likely dry. He will also cover solutions to storing nitrogen for such a system in organic production.

In the Reducing Pasture Compaction with Daikon Radish session, NY Organic Dairy Initiative Project Manager and Cornell University South Central NY Regional Team Small Dairy Support Educator Fay Benson will share the results of planting brassicas in compacted areas of pastures after a very wet grazing season.

A farmer panel on How to Decide Whether to Sell Forages to Dairy Farmers or Plow Them In for Green Manure includes Thor Oechsner of Oechsner Farms, a 600-acre certified organic enterprise growing diversified grains in Newfield, NY. Oechsner is also a partner in Farmer Ground, a small cooperatively owned grain milling business in Trumansburg, NY.

The New York Crop Insurance Education Team, and Cornell Cooperative Extension provide support for these meetings. There will be a brief description of how crop insurance can benefit organic farmers at the February 9 and March 8 NYCO meetings.

The NYCO meetings begin at 10 AM in Jordan Hall at 630 West North Street at the New York State Agricultural Experimental Station in Geneva, NY. There is no cost or need to register to attend the program in Geneva that features presentations by and discussions with farmers from across New York State, crop and dairy consultants, Cornell University researchers, and CCE educators. Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass at the potluck lunch.

Those interested in attending the February 9 NYCO program via website at an Extension office should contact that office directly as follows:

Canton: CCE of St. Lawrence Co.,
2043B State Highway 68,
Kitty O’Neil, 315.379.9192 x253,

Morrisville: CCE of Madison Co., 100 Eaton Street,
Katherine Brosnan, 315.684.3001

Warsaw: CCE of Wyoming Co., 401 N. Main Street,
Zach Amey, 585.786.2251 x123

For more information on New York Certified Organic, contact Fay Benson at 607.745.3807, afb3@cornell.edu.
Winter Dairy Management - 2016

Transition Cows: How to get Fresh Cows off to a Great Start

March 2

CCE - Genesee Co., 420 East Main Street, Batavia
10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Hot lunch & proceedings included

Nutrition: Far-off, Close-up and Fresh
Dr. Tom Overton

Emerging Concepts in Feeding Fresh Cows
Dr. Sabine Mann

Animal Behavior and Environmental Considerations: Cow needs at calving vs what she gets
Lindsay Collins-Ferlito

Cow-side Care and Decision Making Topics: protocols, cow-side tests, monitoring
Dr. Robert A. Lynch

Reservations contact: Cathy Wallace: 585-343-3040 x138 or cfw6@cornell.edu
$35.00 not enrolled in NWNY Team
$30.00 enrolled in NWNY Team & $25.00 for each additional person from same farm/business

LOVES
hiking, hound dogs, sunsets on the farm and

tax preparation.

For Farm Credit East tax expert Carolyn Huff, April 15 is one of her favorite times of year. In fact, all of our tax experts not only enjoy helping our clients prepare their yearly returns for filing, but working with them to make year-round decisions to ensure they pay no more than they should.

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DAIRY OF DISTINCTION
New York Application
DairyofDistinction.com

Purpose of Program
Attractive dairy farms give the consumer greater confidence in the
wholesomeness of milk and stimulate milk sales which encourages public
support of the dairy industry. The award gives recognition to the dairy
farmer for maintaining a well-kept farmstead.

Eligibility
All Northeast dairy farms producing milk for sale are invited to submit an
application for the award. Applicant farms must receive a score of 90 or
higher to receive an 18"x24" Dairy of Distinction sign. The sign is to be
displayed in front of the farm. Winners need not reapply but will be re-
judged each year.

Application
Name_________________________ Farm Name_________________________
Mailing address_________________ Town______________ Zip________
Phone number___________________ Email___________________________
Milk Cooperative or Handler________________
Location (driving directions for judging team)_________________________

County where farm is located_____________________________________
I hereby apply to the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Committee to have my dairy scored in accordance with the rules
of the program for the purpose of obtaining a Dairy of Distinction sign to be displayed on my premises (no producer will
be charged for scoring or sign expense).

Signature of owner/operator_________________________ Date________

Please check if farm is rented or leased

Application must be postmarked by April 15 to:
Nancy Putman
80 Chipman Corners Road
Lisbon, NY 13658
CALEDONIA DIESEL, LLC

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- Long Reach Excavators 60-65ft reach
- Dozers- Small to Large
- Off-Road Articulating Dumps 25-30 ton
- Motor Graders
- Wheel Loaders 2yd to 5yd+ bucket, Backhoes
- Rollers- single, tandem, padfoot

CALL JIM CARSON – RENTAL MANAGER 585-538-4395 or jcarson@caledoniadiesel.com

Check out WWW.CALEDONIADIESEL.COM for available equipment and rates

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FEBRUARY 2016

3  WNY Soybean/Small Grains Congress, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Clarion Hotel, 8250 Park Road, Batavia
4  Finger Lakes Soybean/Small Grains Congress, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Holiday Inn, 2468 NYS Route 414, Waterloo
9  NY Certified Organic Meeting: Four Soil Health Presentations, see page 20 for more details
17  The Food Armor Program, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., various sites. See page 10 for more details
18  Managing for Today & Tomorrow, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., see page 4 for locations and more details
18  Livestock Marketing Discussion: Identifying Your Customer, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., CCE - Ontario Co., 480 N. Main St., Canandaigua. Cost: $5.00 per person. Contact: Nancy Anderson at 585-394-3977
24  What’s Happening with Antibiotic Use on the Regulatory Side?, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., various sites. See page 10 for more details
24  Young Dairy Managers Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m., The Flipside, Strykersville
25  NE Precision Agriculture: Decision Making for a Profitable Future, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY
25  Managing for Today & Tomorrow, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., see page 4 for locations and more details

MARCH 2016

2  Winter Dairy Management, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., CCE-Genesee County, 420 East Main Street, Batavia. Registration: Contact: Cathy Wallace, 585-343-3040 x138 or cfw6@cornell.edu, See page 21 for more details
3  Managing for Today & Tomorrow, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., see page 4 for locations and more details
10  Continuing the Discussion on Feeder Calf Marketing Pools, 6:00 p.m., Anastasia’s, 6640 Pike Street, Portageville. Contact: Nancy Glazier at 585-315-7746
10  Managing for Today & Tomorrow, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., see page 4 for locations and more details

NOTE: Northeast Beginning Farmers Project Winter 2016 Online Courses are now listed.

Visit http://www.nebeginningfarmers.org/online-courses/ for the complete list.