

2019 NYCO WINTER MEETINGS



2019 Dates:

January 8, February 12, March 12
10:00 am

Jordan Hall, 630 West North Street Cornell
AgriTech
(formerly the Ag Experiment Station)
Geneva, NY

Hundreds of farmers, agribusiness representatives and educators attend the annual winter meetings of New York Certified Organic.

For more information Contact Fay Benson, 607-391-2699, afb3@cornell.edu.

Geneva, N.Y. New York Certified Organic (NYCO) begins its 26th year as an organic field crop and dairy discussion group. The meetings bring together grain and dairy farmers to hear guest speakers on topics of organic crops and dairy production.

January 8, 2019 Speakers & Presentations

Presentation by:

Tomasz B. Falkowski, Ph.D of the Cornell University Horticulture Department

He and his colleagues have developed a project that would empower farmers to do farm research on their farms, modeled after the Practical Farmers of Iowa. NYCO farmers will be able to make contact with the project personnel to assess research projects they would like to do on their farms.

Farmer Panel:

Mike and Karen Hooper of Memphis, N.Y., and Ben and Kate Whittemore of Candor, N.Y.

Will share their experience with bedded pack barns, which have been of interest to smaller dairies and beef operations as a way to provide their animals with the highest comfort and produce carbon-rich manure matter that provides nutrients for a healthier soil.

The Hoopers' composting bedded pack barn has two Lely robots to milk their 110 cows. The Whittemores built their composting bedded pack in 2010 for 85 cows. As they expanded in cow numbers they found it beneficial to remove the bedded pack and install free stalls.

Fay Benson, Cornell Small Dairy Specialist:

Will review bedded pack design concerns and resources he has collected over the years. 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.

There is no cost or need to register to attend the NYCO meetings; participants are asked to bring a dish to pass at the potluck lunch. Round table discussions after lunch provide farmers the opportunity to ask questions and hear from the combined experience of the group. These sessions help advance organic production in New York and have been helpful to new and transitioning farmers as well as long-time organic producers.

Producers, educators and agribusiness representatives are encouraged to mark calendars for the January 8, February 12, and March 12, 2019 NYCO meetings. Information on past NYCO meetings is online at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/organicdairyinitiative/>.