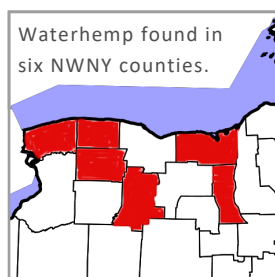




A partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in these ten counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming & Yates.

Herbicide Resistant Weeds Continue to Spread Across NWNY

In 2018, there were multiple reports of weeds not controlled by traditional glyphosate herbicide spray programs. Marestalk and tall waterhemp have been identified as the culprits and we have been tracking their spread across the region. Marestalk has spread across all ten counties in our region and waterhemp has now been found in six counties (see map.) Unfortunately, this fall we have identified a possible third glyphosate resistant plant, Palmer amaranth, on a single farm. Tall waterhemp and Palmer amaranth are both in the pigweed family.



These resistant pigweeds have moved into NY through multiple channels including used farm equipment, hay, and cottonseed brought in from other states. We are sure these species are resistant to two herbicide modes of action. Other populations in the Midwest are resistant to up to five. Since we are not sure where our populations originated, seed was collected from each unique population. Plants are being grown in the greenhouse by Dr. Bryan Brown, NYS IPM program, and will be sprayed with multiple herbicide chemistries to determine their range of resistances. This will help us recommend appropriate herbicide programs to effectively manage these weeds in corn and soybeans.

To help our growers in 2019, weed scientist Dr. Mark Loux of The Ohio State University, was our guest speaker at the annual **Soybean and Small Grains Congresses**, hosted by the NWNY team in February. His topic was "Managing Marestalk and those Nasty Pigweeds." Over 400 growers and Ag industry representatives learned what growers in the Midwest are using to manage weeds and prevent the spread of resistant weed seed on their farms. Since NY is in the early stages of resistance, Dr. Loux stressed the importance of weed seed management, as each plant can have up to a million seeds per plant and reduce soybean yields up to 44%.



Glyphosate resistant pigweed, photo: Mike Stanyard

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2GLgWXS>.

Making Connections with Livestock Farms

A beef producer reached out to the team with interest in scheduling a workshop, **Raising Healthy Livestock**, in Lockport, Niagara County, with the intentions of holding regular meetings. Speakers were lined up – a veterinarian covered vaccination protocols, a nutritionist talked about feeding quality feeds, and a NWNY team specialist presented on safe livestock handling and systems and quality assurance programs. A local feed mill and store sponsored the workshop. Flyers were posted at pertinent business locations to reach these beginners. Twenty-seven people attended the half day event.

There was plenty of enthusiasm to meet again. Topics were suggested for future events and it was decided to meet quarterly with the next get together being a pasture walk in June at a farm to discuss pasture management.

These group settings are an excellent opportunity for beginners to learn from industry professionals and meet their peers.



Red Angus, photo: Nancy Glazier

Economics of Growing Hemp in New York State: 2019 Budgets

Farm business owners in the NWNYS region frequently express interest in alternative new crops for their potential to enhance the economic viability of their farm businesses. Recent examples include double cropping winter cereals for forage following corn silage, grain sorghum, and malting barley. Due to legislation at the state level and funding decisions by New York State's (NYS) executive branch, the state's agricultural sector can add hemp to the list.

To help determine hemp's place in farm business owners' cropping systems, NWNYS Program team specialists examined the economics of growing hemp in NYS. Team members developed 2019 costs and returns estimates for hemp end use scenarios using enterprise budgeting concepts.

Team specialists disseminated 2019 budget information using several methods.

- Approximately 80 farm business owners, vendors, and other ag industry stakeholders attended a presentation describing the 2019 budgets, Empire State Producer Expo, Syracuse, NY.
- Approximately 80 CCE staff participated in a system wide webinar where the economics of growing hemp, including the 2019 budget resources, was one of several topics presented.
- Team specialists posted content to the team's website and to the Cornell Hemp website.
- An article reporting on the budget work appeared in the March 2019 issue of [Ag Focus](#).

Meeting attendees, webinar participants, readers of the team's newsletter, website visitors, and others learned the following:

- Projected 2019 total costs are \$546, \$486, and \$491 per acre for hemp for fiber only, grain only, and dual purpose fiber and grain, respectively.
- Projected 2019 returns above total costs are \$248, \$624, and \$867 per acre for fiber only, grain only, and dual purpose fiber and grain, respectively.
- Farm business owners are encouraged to evaluate numerous risks and uncertainties that characterize the newly developing markets for the various end uses.

Research suggests that farm business owners that apply information regarding the economics associated with proposed changes to the farm business achieve greater levels of profit when compared to the group that does not use such information. Producers looking to evaluate hemp's possible fit in cropping systems will achieve better results from decision-making efforts when they apply a better understanding of expected economic effects and variability.

Training Dairy Managers for Today's Industry

The NWNYS Team hosted a two-part ***Dairy Managers Training*** in March. Thirteen dairy farmers and consultants from six counties attended, representing nearly 6,600 cows. During the fourth straight year of low milk prices, the workshop focused on making decisions that are good for people, good for cows, and good for the farm's bank account.

On the first day, a frank conversation on communicating with people encouraged participants to consider how their own listening skills affect their interactions with others. Next, the class headed to a farm for a hands-on workshop focused on communicating with cows, led by nationally renowned animal handling expert Curt Pate.

The second session centered on managing farm facilities for profit, and led participants through an exercise on utilizing partial budgets to make economically sound decisions. The class then visited a dairy where the manager shared real-life examples of economic decision-making.

Participants gave the class high marks, commenting that, *"The course provides good information- both new, and as a refresher, to things a farm can do to improve profitability," "Communication with people- sets tone for entire operation, applicable to every facet/business in the ag industry,"* and *"New approaches to every day issues on the farm."*

Together participating farms sell nearly \$30 million of milk each year and employ 120 people in Northwest New York. A modest increase in productivity of one pound of milk per cow per day gained by implementing concepts learned in the training would result in more than \$400 thousand in added revenue annually for these farms. Additionally, three agri-service representatives, who participated, will use the information with many herds across the region and beyond to help them achieve efficiencies through more effective communication, cow handling and decision-making.



Curt Pate, expert in stockmanship, demonstrates safe and effective handling of dairy cows at a farm in Wyoming County.
Photo by Libby Eiholzer.