



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

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

April - June 2023

Herdsperson Training II

There are proper techniques for administering vaccinations or treatments to cattle on a dairy, as well as performing tasks to monitor herd health. The herdsperson is typically responsible for carrying out these duties. Dairy farmers or farmworkers should receive training in these areas to successfully maintain a healthy herd, and to adhere to best management practices and regulatory requirements. On May 11th and 12th, twenty-two Northwest NY dairy farmers and farmworkers from 8 farms and 6 counties attended Herdsperson Training II at host farms in Niagara or Genesee County. The goal of this workshop was to teach proper techniques for common tasks related to herd health monitoring and treatment; however, participants were encouraged to discuss and implement specific farm protocols, diagnoses, and treatments according to each farm's veterinarian and management team. This program was offered in English and Spanish at each of the locations. Participants were able to identify and gain hands-on practice with appropriate injection and intravenous sites and routes of administration using a model bovine head and neck, made available by the NY Beef Council via a grant through the National Beef Quality Assurance program.

Participants were also shown and practiced correct use of an esophageal feeder in calves and drenching techniques in cows. Most participants were familiar with the effective use and administration of boluses in both cows and calves but were able to practice if desired. Participants also were able to perform proper blood-draw from the tailhead using vacutainers, a technique needed when monitoring cows for metabolic disorders. One person's comment reflected the feelings of others in the workshop: "I learned to consider having two [separate] tube feeders for sick vs healthy

calves, placement for different types of injections, and tail blood collection technique." Other participants added that they learned more effective and safer head restraint techniques when treating a cow. All participants left with a certificate of completion and feeling more confident in performing common herd health monitoring practices and methods for administering treatments.



New Training Equipment for Beef Quality Assurance

The New York BQA program has two levels of certification. For Level 1 certification beef producers attend a classroom training or complete an online module. Level 2 certification requires beef producers to demonstrate a subcutaneous injection at a chute side training in addition to providing a veterinary client-patient relationship form. In recent years NYBQA trainers have found it more difficult to secure a farm to host the chute side training portion needed for level 2 certification. Reasons include the biosecurity risks and potential injuries to participants and cattle while demonstrating injections.

Through a grant from the National Beef Quality Assurance program and the New York Beef Council, NYBQA program recently purchased a bovine injection simulator and a veterinary medicine supply kit. The training tools will provide opportunities for cattle producers to receive advanced training through a hands-on chute side training without adding risks to host farms. It is used to teach proper cattle injection techniques (including IV administration

plus jugular, intramuscular and subcutaneous injections), ear tagging, and growth implant basics. This will work to expand their knowledge of BQA principles through increased producer participation and expanded opportunities for in-person BQA training resulting in an increase in BQA certifications and recertifications of beef producers in NY.



The simulator will be transported around the state for use by BQA trainers for use with beef and dairy producers. A veterinarian may assist in properly demonstrating injections and other veter-

inary practices when available.

Over-the-Counter Antibiotics Now Require a Veterinary Prescription

The Food and Drug Administration's final guidance for the animal industry and antibiotic use went into effect on June 11, 2023. New labeling for these products is required to state: "Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian." All medically important over-the-counter antimicrobials (antibiotics) are no longer available for animal use without a veterinarian's prescription. Farmers will need to have a working relationship with a veterinarian and establish a veterinary client patient relationship. This guidance was designed to slow the emergence of resistance with human-important antibiotics and to limit uses to those that are considered necessary for animal health.

Many livestock farmers were unaware of these changes. To inform and educate them an article was written on the topic and shared statewide electronically with livestock educators for use in their newsletters and published in the New York Beef Producers Association newsletter. The webinar, Preparing Your Livestock Farm for the Loss of Over-the-Counter (OTC) Antimicrobials, was organized and hosted by the team with Dr. Melanie Hemenway, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets veterinarian, as the presenter. The registration link was shared statewide and 103 people

registered. The recording was posted to the team's YouTube channel and currently has 46 views. Links were shared with registrants to help them locate a veterinarian in their area.

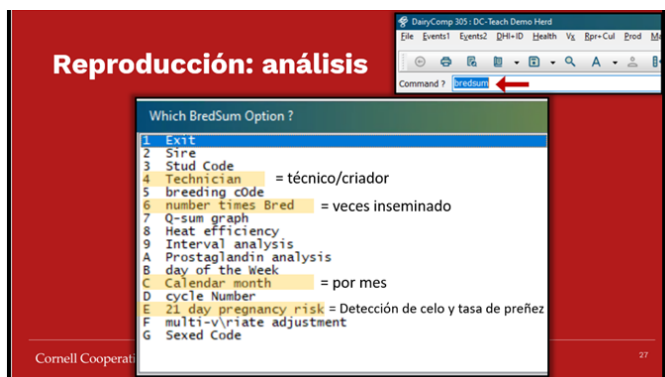


Improving Dairy Farm Records Management for Spanish Speakers

Consolidation of the dairy industry means more cows per farm, making robust record management systems imperative. Record management systems are used on dairy farms for everything from feed inventory to individual animal medical records. Dairy Comp 305, known as DC305, is the record management system with the largest market share on dairies in New York State. However, it is also a DOS-based system, making it very customizable but also complex and comes with a steep learning curve for new-users. As dairies consolidate and local agricultural labor pools decline, we concurrently see an increase in dairy farm employees whose first language is Spanish. When Spanish-speaking employees are tasked with entering important medical records, such as meat and milk withhold times post-treatment, it is essential that they understand how DC305 works. Unfortunately, Valley Ag Software, the parent company of DC305, does not have any training materials available in Spanish. Improving knowledge of DC305 will in turn result in more consistent data entry, more timely and appropriate management decisions, and decreased risk of bulk-tank antibiotic residues.

To start addressing this need, which was brought to our team directly by some of our region's dairy farm employees, the NWNYS team developed a "Dairy Comp 305 for Spanish Speakers" virtual workshop. On April 19th 12 employees from 7 dairy farms across NWNYS representing over 10,500 cows as well as one

management consultant joined the workshop. The workshop taught the basic language behind DC305, the importance of consistent data entry, and how data is used to make management decisions. Attendees commented that they would like to continue these trainings in the future to delve into more specific areas of DC305.



A slide from the workshop describing how to analyze reproduction using DC305.

Fertilizer and Herbicides: Getting the Most for Your Money

For the short- and long-term viability of U.S. farms, the costs of agricultural production are becoming increasingly significant. Due to the fact that fertilizer prices account for approximately 15% of total cash expenditures in the U.S., farmers are concerned about fertilizer prices in 2022-2023. All main crop production nutrients have experienced price increases compared to September 2020: ammonia has increased by more than 210%, liquid nitrogen by more than 159%, urea by 155%, MAP by 125%, DAP by more than 100%, and potash by more than 134%. While this information helps to explain the causes of one of the producers' greatest concerns, it does not alleviate their inability to control rising input costs. Many farmers believe that rising input costs are negating the benefits of higher commodity prices, which were expected to help them break even or be slightly profitable according to ("Too Many to Count: Factors Driving Fertilizer Prices Higher and Higher," American Farm Bureau Federation).

Producers continue to look for strategies to ensure they can pay for all of their essential crop inputs even as the cost of those inputs increases during periods of higher volatility. On

March 31st we held a program titled "Fertilizers and Herbicides: Getting the Most for Your Money". Around 80 participants from across the NWN region attended this event and learned about the terminology frequently referenced around fertilizer purchases, how to calculate fertilizer blends based on ratios and units, and how to understand formulations and the chemistry behind their fertility and herbicide recommendations. A lot of our producers rely on crop consultants and industry salesmen to prescribe their crop inputs. With newer technologies and auto-simulations, a lot of people don't know what it takes to arrive at the correct formulation/blend they're requesting when they call in an order. As our producers sat through this educational training you could see the "light bulbs" going off in their heads when they put it all together and could understand how to arrive at a correct formulation. Many provided feedback indicating how appreciative they were for this program. A lot of them went home and utilized these resources to look over/adjust their management decisions at the start of the 2023 planting season. Our producers would like to see this program return the following year with breakout sessions.

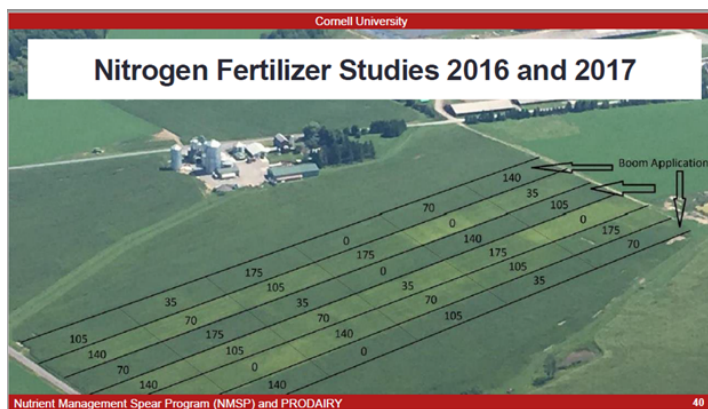


Figure 1: Dr. Quirine Ketterings and Kirsten Workman discussed a project focused on N rate trials in 2016 and 2017 to determine the benefits of sidedressing of manure in terms of yield and nitrogen fertilizer equivalent.