



## CORNELL NWNY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS APRIL – JUNE 2014

*Serving:  
Genesee, Livingston, Monroe,  
Niagara, Ontario, Orleans,  
Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming,  
& Yates Counties*

### 2014 NY All Forage Fed Bull Test Concludes

The beef industry in New York is in a great position to take advantage of high prices with excellent forage quality and available land. Good genetics are a way to assist with producing a high quality product brought to market in as short a time as possible. Upon request from a small group of producers, the NWNY Team developed and conducted the NY All Forage Fed Bull Test at the Cornell University Ruminant Center. This is a unique test with only stored forage and minerals fed. The second year of the 112-day test concluded with weight gains exceeding model predictions by 0.5 lb per day. This discrepancy opens up possibilities for research to ‘ground-truth’ the model. A comment from past consignor was, “The data collection was well worth me sending bulls. I do not have scales on the farm so don’t know how much my cattle are gaining. I can track gain of different breeding lines. That piece alone was worth participation.”



Young bull from the 2014 test

### Dairy Farm Business Summary (DFBS) Cooperators, A Significant Source of Economic Activity in 2013

Applying financial management skills, owners of 42 dairy farm businesses from the region cooperated with regional specialists, PRO-DAIRY staff, and agribusiness consultants to complete DFBS’s for 2013. Cooperators learned about the strengths and weaknesses of their businesses using their summary and analysis results, DFBS data for the Western New York region as a whole, and by using DFBS data for a group of most profitable businesses by size using the two-page Comparison Report. Research studies conclude producers using DFBS with analysis achieve greater levels of profit compared to producers that do not. Greater profitability contributes to enhanced economic viability, increasing the likelihood that businesses have the capacity to invest in replacement and, or expansion assets, and maintain and, or increase employment levels. Estimates using DFBS results suggest that the 42 cooperating businesses invested a total of \$15.7 million in land, buildings and improvements in 2013, and a total of \$12.5 million in machinery and equipment. Estimates suggest that the 42 farms employed a total of 748 worker equivalents, where an equivalent represents 230 hours worked per month for 12 months, and generated a total of \$205.9 million in cash farm receipts from milk, cattle, crops and other receipt items.



### **Nitrogen Fertility Drives Triticale Silage Yield**

A research trial was conducted in Ontario County assessing the fall and spring nitrogen needs of triticale silage during the winter of 2013/spring of 2014. Different combinations of fall and spring fertilizer produced triticale silage yields ranging from 2 to 4 tons of dry matter (DM) per acre. Similarly, two spring 2014 nitrogen rate trials were conducted in Wyoming County on triticale silage fields showing a range of 1.5 to 3 tons DM/acre. These trials, in addition to the 15 trials conducted in 2013 in western NY, will help the farmers growing triticale silage on ~10,000 acres in western NY, raise triticale silage yields ½ to 1 ton DM/acre through better nitrogen fertility management.



Harvesting Triticale Project in 2014

### **Dr. Jerry Bertoldo Receives Achievement Award from NACAA**

The National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) recently recognized Dr. Jerry Bertoldo with their Achievement Award. The Achievement Award is presented to those agricultural agents that have been working in their field for less than 10 years but in that short time have made significant contributions to their profession. Dr. Bertoldo, DVM, has taken the lead with dairy discussion groups, Hispanic dairy worker training and group feeding and housing of dairy calves technology since joining Cornell Cooperative Extension as a Dairy Specialist on the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crop Team in 2004.



Jerry exhibits the enthusiasm, ingenuity and tenacity required of an effective extension educator. His easy going manner and broad knowledge of dairy science make him a sought after resource by industry and the local farm community. The members of the NWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team congratulate Jerry on receiving the NACAA Achievement Award.

---

### *Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

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