



2025 Winter Crop Meeting

Janice Degni, CCE Field Crop Specialist

At the **Winter Crop Meeting**, agricultural experts shared their latest research and insights with local farmers. Dr. Tom Overton from Cornell's Department of Animal Science discussed the potential of high oleic soybeans in dairy diets, emphasizing their ability to reduce feed costs and increase milk fat production when roasted.

Taylor Harris from Helena Agri-Enterprises provided an overview of weed control and fertility programs for 2025, addressing herbicide-resistant weeds and offering practical solutions for long-term control. Anna Dipaola, a PhD candidate from Cornell's Department of Entomology, presented findings on predicting seed corn maggot

damage, highlighting the influence of soil amendments, cover crops, and insecticides. This research is in response to NYS legislation known as “*the Birds and the Bees*”.

Dr. Vipin Kumar, extension weed scientist in Cornell's Section of Integrative Plant Science, discussed weed control strategies, including non-chemical tools and the history and efficacy of various herbicide programs. Joe Lawrence, a dairy forage systems specialist from PRO-DAIRY, concluded the meeting with insights on growing season factors and their influence on corn silage performance, focusing on how harvest timing affects yield, nutritional value, and silage quality.

DSSC Manure Handling and Safety Workshop

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At Potter's Dairy Support Services Annual Safety and CAFO training, attendees learned about the latest updates and best practices in manure management. Representatives from the NYSDEC Solid Waste division provided crucial updates for registered manure applicators, discussing annual reporting requirements and contractor certification statements.

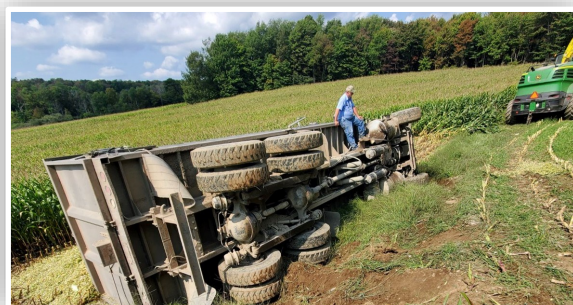
The focus then shifted to manure gases and OSHA compliance for confined spaces. Experts covered essential topics such as types of manure gases, gas meter use, and OSHA requirements. They shared SOP templates, protocols, and record-keeping practices, along with lessons learned from past experiences to improve safety.

An engaging session followed, where two operators shared personal experiences with truck rollovers, emphasizing the importance of learning from past mistakes. CNMP (Comprehensive Nutrient Management) planner Patty Larkin and Nutrient Management Specialist Kirsten Workman presented on buffers, setbacks, and manure applications, provid-

ing practical advice for field applications.

The day concluded with the NYSDEC Manure Applicator Training, where real-world scenarios were introduced to help troubleshoot manure applications and prevent situations that cause environmental contamination. The training aimed to ensure compliance with CAFO permits and New York environmental laws, offering valuable insights and practical solutions for attendees.

This workshop provided participants with essential knowledge and practical solutions to enhance manure management practices, improve safety, and ensure regulatory compliance. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of both the technical and practical aspects of manure handling and safety.



The Corn Planter Clinic

Janice Degni, CCE Field Crop Specialist

The Corn Planter Clinic featured Shawn Bossard, reviewed planter maintenance, set up, reviewing manufacturer specs associate wear and practices for optimizing results of planter performance including-seed meter calibration, fertilizer placement, down pressure and more. When a planter is adequate-

ly tuned up it delivers a uniform plant population emerging from the desired depth for the conditions. Uniform crop emergence supports a strong start to plant growth and development.

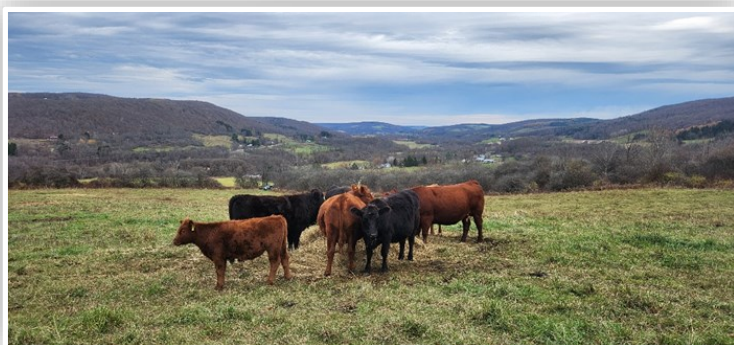


Bale Grazing “Core Farms” Graze Their First Winter

Betsy Hicks, Area Regional Dairy Specialist

Three SCNY region farms are participating in a USDA-NRCS CIG Grant by the University of Kentucky Research Foundation: “Bale Grazing: A Practical, Low-Cost, and Environmentally-Sound Management Strategy to Winter Beef Cattle”, a project that partners researchers and farmers from Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia with New York. As a “core farm”, each farmer chose a tract of land to utilize for the project that included two different bale densities and a control area to be monitored over the course of the project. The project will span three winters, with soil sampling and forage analysis done throughout. Two of the farms participating in the project are dairy farms, and the third is a beef farm. Other farms in NY are also participating, as the project is led in NY by CCE Schuyler’s Brett Chedzoy, a long-time bale grazing guru. A pasture walk at Brett’s farm in January highlighted the art of bale grazing and discussed the nuances in real-time. Over 60 people attended this pasture walk. The three core farms in the SCNY region

will be looking forward to hosting their own pasture walk to highlight the project as it moves forward.



Beef x Dairy Project Moo-ving Along

Betsy Hicks, Area Regional Dairy Specialist

The NESARE Farmer Grant awarded to a Cayuga County farmer is off to a great start. Three populations of feeder cattle have been enrolled in the project – a group of beef-type feeder cattle, a group of beef x dairy steers, and a group of beef x dairy heifers. Initial weights were taken upon enrollment, along with health measurements, height and frame scores and facility measurements.

The second weighing has also occurred, with RADG (rate of average daily gain) calculated between groups. As cattle gain weight, they are moved to a finishing pen; when appropriately finished, they are sent for harvest. The study aims to compare RADG, health and efficiency of gain

across these three populations.

Dr Adam Murray with Cornell’s PRO-LIVESTOCK team contributed blood sample analysis of the cattle to help determine proper time until finish to add to the data collected. The farm hosted a shop meeting with CCE Cayuga where Betsy was able to talk about the project and allow other farmers to ask questions about beef x dairy.

The project team, including Margaret Quaassdorff of CCE NWNy Team, is looking forward to compiling data as cattle make their way through finish.





Home-Grown Grains: Income Stream or Drain?

Janice Degni, CCE Field Crop Specialist

The presentation **"Home-Grown Grains: Income Stream or Drain?"** outlined considerations and best practices for adding a grain enterprise. Determining whether there is an economic advantage is task one. Long-term grain prices, production costs, and land availability are important factors to consider. Cost control, understanding opportunity costs, and the impact on forage quality and dairy investment can influence the benefits positively or negatively. Growing grains may be suitable for some farms and not for others.

For dairies, adequate quantities and quality of forages underpin profitability. Ensuring high-quality forage production remains the top priority, including the timing of first cutting. Higher forage diets are associated with higher Income Over Feed Cost (IOFC). Necessary field operations for a grain enterprise should not compromise the forage program.

It is imperative to calculate individual farm expenses for grain production. Enterprise budgets can assist with this task. Estimating high overhead costs associated with harvest and post-harvest handling equipment is crucial. Hiring custom operators will help control expenses.

Storage and feeding considerations include adequate and accessible storage space, labor efficiency, and minimizing shrink.

The impact of feed quality and management on milk production is significant, as even a small amount of spoiled feed can reduce dry matter intake (DMI) and milk production. High oleic soybeans in the diet merit consideration as a nutritionally beneficial grain, and an analysis comparing production costs versus outright purchase should be done.

Consistency in feed management is key to success, with variability leading to reduced milk production. The presentation outlined considerations for success, including land availability and cost, understanding the true cost of production, ensuring cow care, labor, forage quality, investments in facilities, efficient storage options, and the ability to produce consistent feedstuff.

This presentation provided tools and food for thought for a customized farm evaluation of the pros and cons of a home-grown grain enterprise.



Sprayer Clinic for Certified Crop Protectant Applicators

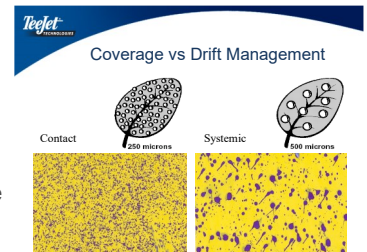
Janice Degni, CCE Field Crop Specialist

Certified applicators gathered at VanPelt farms for a show-and-tell sprayer clinic. John Kelly, Regional Sales Manager from TeeJet Technologies, discussed the importance of nozzle selection. He explained how choosing the right nozzle could significantly impact the effectiveness of crop protectant applications. John delved into the various types of nozzles, their spray patterns, and drift control, providing valuable insights to optimize performance.

Taylor Harris, Manager of Helena Agri-Enterprises in Genoa, NY, presented the "secret sauce" of crop protectants—adjuvants. He described how adjuvants enhance the performance of crop protectants and categorized them into wetters and stickers, water conditioners, and penetrants. Taylor explained how to select proper adjuvant to fit plant and environmental conditions.

The clinic then moved on to the latest advances in sprayer technology. John and Pat Lynch (VanPelt Farms) showcased cutting-edge tools such as electromagnetic flow meters and drones, demonstrating how these innovations could improve precision and efficiency in crop protection.

To wrap up the clinic, there was a practical walk-through on getting the sprayer ready for the season. The participants were guided through essential maintenance steps and preparation techniques, ensuring their equipment was in top shape for the upcoming season.



Cornell Cooperative Extension links the research and extension efforts at **Cornell University**, and **Cornell AgriTech**, the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, **providing the knowledge** to maximize New York State's agricultural and natural resources. The **South Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Program** is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in 6 Counties.

Meetings & Workshops Fall/Winter 2024-2025

Sep 22- Oct 30	Small Farms Beef Management Class (online) Six weeks of live meetings on topics including nutrition, health, reproduction & feed needs; Online content via Teachable platform	Betsy/Abbey Jantzi	19p
Oct 3	Lawton Dairy Farm Tour with Newark Valley FFA Dairy farm tour with focus on calves, milking facility and lactating cows, and growing heifers, followed by ice cream sundaes enjoyed by all	Betsy	20p
Oct. 31	Dairy Feeder School—Host Farm: Twin Birch Dairy One day on-farm training for dairy farm feeders. Stations with hands-on activities Topics: Economics & importance of feeding and feed management, Dry matter and feeder math, Feed consistency and TMR audits, Troubleshooting mixer wagons, Bunker silo management Bilingual training. Niles, NY	Betsy/ Regional Dairy Educators	(English– 6p, Spanish-12p)
Nov 12	Dairy Feeder School—Host Farm: Walnut Ridge One day on-farm training for dairy farm feeders. Stations with hands-on activities Topics: Economics & importance of feeding and feed management, Dry matter and feeder math, Feed consistency and TMR audits, Troubleshooting mixer wagons, Bunker silo management Bilingual training. Lansing, NY	Betsy/ Regional Dairy Educators	(English– 12p, Spanish-15p)
Jan 8	NYBPA Region 6 Beef Meeting w/ Dr. Adam Murray, Cornell PRO-LIVESTOCK. Topic: “What is finished? Managing cattle to optimize carcass value” Masonic Lodge, Cortland	Betsy/Chelsea	(12p)
Jan 8	Weed Management Considerations w/ Herbicide Resistant Weeds Shop Meeting @ Raymond Donald & Sons, Moravia Topics: New and Emerging Pests, Control Options for Resistance Mgt, Troublesome Weeds we should have on our radar, and steps for Combine Clean out	Ron/Janice	(26p)
Jan 10	NYBPA Region 6 Beef Meeting w/ Dr. Adam Murray, Cornell PRO-LIVESTOCK. Topic: “What is finished? Managing cattle to optimize carcass value” Neighborhood Depot, Owego	Betsy/Kelley	(15p)
Jan 11	The First Ever Bale Grazing Winter Pasture Walk See bale grazing in action. This workshop is part of a National USDA-NRCS CIG Grant by the University of Kentucky Research Foundation entitled: Bale Grazing: A Practical, Low-Cost, and Environmentally- Sound Management Strategy to Winter Beef Cattle. In collaboration with The NE Region National Grazing Lands Coalition and Angus Glen Farm Watkins Glen	Betsy	(60p)
Jan 21 Tuesdays 1/21-3/4	Webinar Series: To Keep or Not to Keep: Dairy Welfare and Profitability Considerations 12-1pm Whether or not to keep a dairy animal is a multi-faceted decision. Each week of this series experts address the different considerations in making that decision.	Betsy/Regional Dairy Educators	(50p+each week)

Jan 23	2025 Winter Crop Meeting. DEC pesticide recertification and Certified Crop Advisor Credits earned. Topics: Opportunities for High Oleic Soybeans in Dairy Diets, Planning Weed Control and Fertility Updates, Seed Corn Maggot, Integrated Strategies for Weed Control, <i>and</i> Growing Season Factors and Corn Silage Performance Dryden VFW (55p)	Janice
Jan 23	Cornell Cow Convos Podcast – Episode 19: Body Weights for Improved Management and Efficiency w/ Dr Tom Tylutki, hosted on Soundcloud (147p)	Betsy/Margaret Q
Jan 24	2025 Winter Crop Meeting. DEC pesticide recertification and Certified Crop Advisor Credits earned. Topics: Opportunities for High Oleic Soybeans in Dairy Diets, Planning Weed Control and Fertility Updates, Seed Corn Maggot, Integrated Strategies for Weed Control, <i>and</i> Growing Season Factors and Corn Silage Performance Auburn (55p)	Janice
Feb 4	Advanced Soil Health Specialist Training Invited Presentation: Organize and facilitate no-till producer panel Cortland, NY (22p)	American Farmland Trust
Feb 7	State of Agriculture in Chemung County Janice Invited Presentation : US Census of Agriculture 2022. A Look at the data for Chemung County Elmira, NY Jud Reid also presented (12p)	Michelle/Janice
Feb 8	Homesteading Workshop Janice Invited Presentation: Introduction to Soils The Park Church, Elmira (22p)	CCE Chemung
Feb 11	Crop Protection Meeting Horseheads 2025 2.5 DEC credits, CCA credits Topics: • Weed Control Strategies for Corn and Alfalfa ID • Epidemiology, and Management of Economically Important Diseases of Field Crops (Corn, Soybean and Wheat) • What We Have Learned from Value of Manure Studies • Seedcorn Maggot Research Update Horseheads, NY	Janice
Feb 12	Cayuga County Shop Meeting—Beef x Dairy Farm Tour Betsy Hicks—Beef x Dairy NESARE Farmer Project Dr Adam Murray—Optimizing Carcass Value Minturn Farms, Auburn, NY (30p)	Ron/Betsy
Feb 12	2025 CNY Winter Crop Meeting Invited Presentation: Bio-Control Nematodes for control of Corn Rootworm Livingston Farm Supplies; Lisle, NY (22p)	Seed Consultants/Janice
Feb 18	Soil Health Meeting in collaboration with the Tioga County SWCD Campville Fire Station #3, Owego topics: Weed management in field crops, FSA & NRCS Loan and program updates, CCE-IPM resources and Improving soil health with best management practices. (24p)	Danielle S/Janice
Feb 25- Apr 1	Small Farms Grazing Management Class (online) Six weeks of live online meetings on topics including opportunities for a grazing business, nutrition, rejuvenating pastures, pasture design, and grazing beyond the season. Online content via Teachable platform (24p)	Betsy/Rich Taber

Feb 26	Dairy Day: Consider Herd and Forage Needs Topics: How Many Dairy Replacements do You <i>Really</i> Need? Betsy Hicks and Ron Kuck Improving Land Use: Matching Forage, Acres, Stock, Joe Lawrence—PRO-Dairy and Managing Home Grown Grains: The Razor Thin Economics of Growing Energy and Protein. Janice Degni Port Byron	Ron/Betsy	(12p)
Mar 7	Spring Safety Meeting w/ Dairy Support Services Co. (DSSC) Topics: NYSDEC Solid Waste - Registered Manure Applicator updates, Manure gas basics + OSHA Compliance for confined spaces, Anatomy of a Truck Rollover, Buffers, Setbacks and manure applications, and NYSDEC Manure Applicator Training (CAFO credits available) CNY Farm Supply, Cortland	Janice/PRODAIRY	(150p)
Mar 13	Cornell Cow Convos Podcast - Episode 21: A Conversation with Commissioner Ball Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Richard Ball, discussing hot topics in the dairy industry including immigration, local processing capacity, and HPAI, as well as funding opportunities for NYS farmers. Hosted on Soundcloud.	Betsy/Lindsay	(54p)
Mar 18	Cortland County Ag Summit Workshops: 1.Stress, Success & Succession, 2. Marketing your Ag Business, 3. Insurance for You and Your Business and 4. Business Development Resources. CNY Living History Museum, Cortland	CASPN	
Mar 19	Colostrum & Calf-hood Technologies w/ Dr. Melissa Cantor, Penn State. New research into extended colostrum feeding both as a preventative therapy and an intervention strategy for sick calves, as well as new uses of calf-hood technologies such as activity monitors, auto-feeders and the role that AI can play. Dairy One, Ithaca, NY	Betsy	(13p)
Mar 20	Transition Calf Workshop Nutrition, Health, Housing and Inventory Management, classroom & on-farm demonstrations Elm Tree Inn, McLean & Millbrook Dairy, Freeville.	Betsy/Regional Dairy Educators	(English 3, Spanish 5p)
Mar 20	Cortland County Agriculture Celebration Banquet Cortland County IDA/BDC & CASPN <i>Bringing together agriculture, community and business to celebrate our agricultural heritage and accomplishments</i> Hathaway House, Solon		(85)
Mar 20	Sprayer Clinic DEC Credits Available Topics: Nozzle Selection— What is the best nozzle for your application?, Adjuvants - The secret sauce in the pot!, Sprayer Technology - Latest Advances, and Getting the Sprayer Ready for the Season In collaboration with VanPelt Farms, Dryden, TeeJet Technologies & Helena Agri-Enterprises	Janice	(16p)
Mar 27	Transition Calf Workshop Nutrition, Health, Housing and Inventory Management, classroom & on-farm demonstrations Patterson Farms, Inc., Auburn, NY	Betsy/Regional Dairy Educators	(English 7p, Spanish 7p)
Mar 28	Planter Clinic Planter Maintenance and set-up recs for optimizing plant stands and populations. Musgrave Research Farm., Aurora, NY	Janice	(6p)