

CORNELL NWNY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014

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

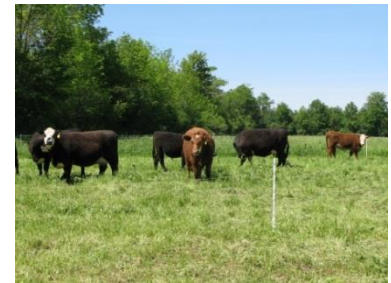
Dairy Skills Training - Calf Care Management

Raising healthy and well grown replacements is an important part of the management of any dairy farm. Progressive farms know that adopting management advances in this area are important to staying competitive. Training and retraining key calf care employees must be convenient and practical. The team partnered with the Wyoming County Dairy Institute, the Cornell Pro-Dairy program and private experts to offer 10 hours of lecture and 6 hours of hands-on activities on calf care. Nutrition, physical examination, stress avoidance, colostrum management, common diseases, environmental assessment and sanitation were some of the topic areas. Evening classroom sessions joined two regional team locations with four others around the state via WebEx. Locally, an on-farm workshop followed with interactive demonstrations by the farm manager, veterinarians and a calf consultant. Twenty-two participants completed the course regionally. One grower commented, *"I learned things I never even thought of. I learned techniques I can carry on a daily basis"*. All were given vouchers towards a future calf conference.



Beef Workshops Certify Producers during BQA Month

The NY State Beef Quality Assurance Committee designated October as BQA month. BQA is a tool to promote consumer confidence in beef production by teaching producers good cattle husbandry and proper vaccination handling and recordkeeping. The national voluntary program was developed based on scientific research. For certification, New York requires a classroom portion or self-study and test, along with a chute side portion. The host farms' veterinarian assisted and demonstrated to participants how to give an injection to a beef animal. Recertification is needed every three years and is accomplished by attending an hour-long educational event covering a health topic. The NWNY Team hosted three workshops in the region to certify and recertify local producers. Through these trainings in Seneca, Wayne and Orleans Counties 48 producers were BQA certified or recertified.



Calf & Heifer Congress Continues to Serve the Dairy Industry

The fourth annual state symposium on dairy replacements was held at the RIT Conference Center near Rochester organized and hosted once again by team specialists and staff. Over 180 attendees joined all or part of the day and one half "Calf & Heifer Congress 2014 – Birth to Breeding" with its blend of university and industry speakers from the US and Canada. Dairy owners, calf care employees, students, extension personnel and agriservice reps were represented in the audience. A wide spectrum of health, growth, environmental and new technology topics of interest to any sized dairy were presented. Numerous positive exit evaluations received from both sponsors and attendees will be used to develop the agenda, invited speakers and producer panels for the 2015 event.



Updated Technology Provides an Advantage: *LED Lighting and Long Day Photoperiod*

Between August 2012 and January 2014, the NWNY Team collaborated with a dairy farm from the region and various industry members to complete a study evaluating the energy savings and effective light provided by Light Emitting Diode (LED) and T8 (a tubular fluorescent fixture) lighting systems in dairy barns. Also assessed were the impacts of the two lighting systems on manipulating photoperiod and milk production. In conclusion:



- Neither the LED, Long Day Photoperiod (LDPP) treatment, nor the T8, LDPP treatment had an effect on milk production when compared to the T8, non LDPP control group. However, differences in energy use among lighting technologies were measured. Overall, we learned that it takes precision to make LDPP work on a commercial dairy farm.
- An economic analysis showed that utilizing LDPP with LED or T8 fixtures cannot be expected to increase profit when compared to a T8, non LDPP, unless there is an increase in milk production.
- The economic analysis also showed that updating lighting technology can have a positive economic impact on a farm. LED and T8 fixtures can be expected to increase profit when compared to the 100Watt High Pressure Sodium High Bay fixtures, which were replaced on the dairy farm in the study.

This information was shared with dairy producers through an article published in the January issue of Ag Focus, which will allow them to make educated choices when purchasing lighting.

Facebook Reaches the Masses in 2014

The NWNY Dairy, Livestock, Field Crops Teams had over 26,000 contacts in 2014 through their Facebook page, doubling the contacts reached in 2013. Besides sharing agricultural articles, links to Crop Alerts, and local agricultural events throughout the year the team also shared many interesting articles, weather updates, and relevant local, regional, and national news stories to better serve our region. In 2015 we plan to add GoPro videos from out in the field to bring some of our farming tasks to a wider audience.



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.