



Photo source: ag.ndsu.edu

Ag Focus



Climate Smart Farming

By: Joan Sinclair Petzen

Farm operators tend to be more risk tolerant than people in general. Agriculturalists face changes in weather, disease outbreaks, and ups and downs in prices as a part of day-to-day business. Climate Smart Farming is about using tools and making choices that allow your farming enterprise to be more resilient, particularly through weather extremes.

WNY experienced extreme drought conditions across the region in 2016. As you look to the future, what might you have done differently had you known the extreme heat and lack of rainfall were on the horizon for the growing season. For livestock producers, do you have a plan in place to mitigate heat stress among your livestock? What about winters, it has just been a few short seasons since Buffalo was shut down with a mountain of snow in early November. For those who are on the fence about climate change, it has been documented that the average number of heavy rainfall events (greater than two inches in forty-eight hours) in the Northeast each year has risen by 71% since 1958.

Cornell University's Climate Smart Farming Program is compiling resources and tools to help you think about these extremes and how you might implement practices in your farming operation to improve the resiliency of your business. Whether it be using cover crops to reduce the



runoff of rainfall and nutrients or adding cooling technology to your free stall barn or changing the diversity of pasture species to help maintain feedstocks through a drought. Each of these practices takes planning to incorporate into your farming system.

Continued on page 3

Focus Points

<i>Winter Pesticide Storage</i>	4-5
<i>Feeder Calf Pools - 2016 Update</i>	6
<i>Training Resource Corner: Animal Care</i>	8
<i>2017 Corn Congress</i>	9
<i>Rural Tax Education</i>	10-11
<i>Upcoming Webinars</i>	13
<i>BQA Assurance Workshop</i>	13
<i>The Sixth Element</i>	14-15
<i>Regional Meetings</i>	Back Cover



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Mission Statement

The NWNy Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops team will provide lifelong
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- ◆ Provide safe, healthful agricultural products
- ◆ Provide leadership for enhancing relationships between agricultural
sector, neighbors & the general public.



Photo source: inkypaw.com

Continued from page 1

Other tools help us to monitor temperatures and moisture levels and model growing conditions. These tools help predict insect and disease infestations of our crops and afford us the ability to make integrated pest management decisions with greater precision.

Other decisions we make will be more strategic in nature. Will you install tile drainage? What eave height is best for mitigating climate extremes in our barns? What tillage systems will you employ? What crop or livestock enterprises will you choose in the long run? Learning about how our climate is changing in the long run will help farm businesses prepare to be sustainable for future generations.

Take a look at the Climate Smart Farming web site: <http://climatesmartfarming.org/> to learn about resources and tools you might use to predict pest loads and prepare for the extremes. As our information base grows and predictive models are tested and refined, using them will help farm managers make informed decisions to make the best choice possible from both a production and

economic perspective. Climate Smart Farming is about using the tools available to us to keep our businesses resilient and positioned to prosper in the long run.



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Winter Pesticide Storage

By: Pesticide Safety Education Program,
University of Nebraska Extension

What, if anything, should be done with any herbicides, insecticides and fungicides leftover from the summer growing season? And if pesticides freeze, will they still be good next year?

The first rule of thumb is to check the product label for storage recommendations and any warnings against freezing, said Clyde Ogg, pesticide safety education coordinator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Most liquid pesticides may be safely stored between 40F and 100F.

If a liquid pesticide does freeze, it may be less effective. Apply a degraded pesticide next year, Ogg said, and you have just wasted your time.

Pesticides contain active ingredients and inactive ingredients. The active ingredient is what kills the pest. The inactive ingredient is normally the solvent, carrier or emulsifier that make the pesticide more efficient.

University of Missouri Extension, (<http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G1921>), “Temperature Effects on Storage of Agricultural Products” says the freezing point of many pesticides is lower than 32F, due to the hydrocarbon solvents or inert ingredients. However, when a liquid pesticide freezes, the active ingredients can separate from the solvents or emulsifiers. Freezing can cause the emulsifiers to become inactive, crystalize, and coagulate.

Some pesticides may be thawed naturally at room temperature – never with a flame or heat -- after being frozen. Make sure the container has not cracked. After thawing, roll and shake the container to resuspend the contents.

If crystals are still present after thawing, the pesticide should not be used as it will be ineffective. Rather, dispose of properly according to label directions.

Generally, wettable powders and granules aren’t affected by low temperatures. Moisture, though, can cause caking that may reduce effectiveness. Products

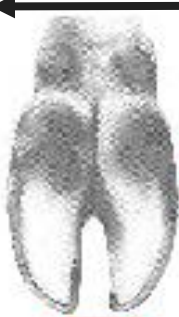


Photo source: Mike Stanyard

formulated in water-soluble packets should not be frozen as they will become brittle and break open.

Follow these general pesticide storage tips:

- ◆ Don’t store near heat, sparks or open flames
- ◆ Avoid contaminating other pesticides, water, feed or fertilizer.
- ◆ Keep containers tightly closed in a cool, locked, well-ventilated place away from children and pets.
- ◆ Store in original containers only.
- ◆ If storage information cannot be found on the label, contact the pesticide manufacturer.



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Sprayer Storage

To keep your sprayer in good condition, follow these sprayer storage suggestions from G1770, Cleaning Pesticide Application Equipment:

<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1770.pdf>

- ◇ Wear personal protective equipment.
- ◇ Before storing the liquid sprayer for winter, ensure it is completely empty and clean. As much as 15 gallons of product can remain in the tank after it's been emptied, due to the volume in the lines and filters.
- ◇ When storing, add one, and up to five, gallons of lightweight oil such as diesel fuel or kerosene before final flushing. This applies a protective coating on the inside of the tank, pump and plumbing.
- ◇ Store in a clean, dry building. If the sprayer must be stored outdoors, remove hoses and store inside where they are protected from ultraviolet light.

- ◇ For sprayer trailers, put blocks under the frame or axle to prevent flat spots on tires during storage.



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Feeder Calf Pools – 2016 Update

By: *Nancy Glazier*

Regions around the state had success this fall moving forward with marketing pooled calves. It makes it more convenient for buyers to purchase these calves in lots that consist of animals of similar frame size and weights, preconditioned and weaned. These calves move to the next production phase healthier and ready to gain. There have also been some hybrids of this model, which helps the sellers and buyers, too.

The Central NY Beef Producers had a very successful tele-auction October 14 at the Cooperative Extension Office in Cooperstown with one buyer present and five bidders on the phone. Twenty-five steers and heifers sold at a pro-rated average bid of \$1.39 per lb, 27 cents higher than the sale Finger Lakes Livestock Exchange had the next day. Prices ranged from \$1.22 to \$1.41/lb.

The goal to hold one successful sale of good calves was accomplished. The commitment of the five farms who were able to stay with the program really made the difference. Additional farms were interested, but they weren't able to participate due to scheduling challenges around vaccination calendars or grading requirements.

The calves were videoed prior to the sale and linked to Mike Baker's website: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/beefcattle/eventsprograms/ny-feeder-calf-pool-marketing-program/>

The buyers were all from NYS with two within an hour of Cooperstown. Ten people were registered to bid. The offering of 'all natural' calves (no antibiotics or implants), preconditioned, graded within uniform weights and descriptions, were promoted through Lancaster Farming, Country Folks ads and articles and emails. Calves were delivered and picked up at the Otsego Fairgrounds Saturday morning, October 29.

The group is talking about a spring 2017 sale of both 2016 fall-born calves and 2016 spring-born calves carried through the winter for additional farms to consign.

Bill Gibson, CCE Otsego/Schoharie spent many hours getting this group organized and educated. He held regular meetings for the group with some of the topics covering vaccination protocols, cattle handling, and BQA trainings. Some of the earliest participants were the ones that participated in the sale. Efforts were also subsidized by a grant procured by Dr. Mike Baker, Cornell Beef Extension specialist that supported advertising costs. If you'd like more information, contact Bill at wrg56@cornell.edu, (607) 547-2536.

The Chautauqua County beef producers have been an organized group for many, many years. This group worked together to develop a vaccination protocol and weaning date for their spring born feeder calves. They were then advertised and ultimately sold through the Empire Cherry Creek Livestock Auction on October 22. While not official, according to Dr. Baker, prices were strong at what appeared to be \$0.10 to \$0.15/lb higher than calves not similarly treated. For more information on this marketing effort, contact Ted Card, lvg1259@netsync.net, 716-664-0356.

Ron Kuck, CCE dairy/livestock educator in Jefferson County spent time grading calves at some farms. These calves were not sold at any special auction, but they had the documentation for potential buyers as to their grade. Both buyers and sellers liked this; it provided additional description of the calves. He is looking to continue this next year with the hopes of pooling calves.

So, what does this all mean? Many producers have taken the 'wait and see' approach to pools. Change can occur slowly, usually done in small steps. These established groups have developed trust and have worked together on other successful projects. Producer interest is what will move this opportunity forward. If you are interested in a pool or a component in our region, let me know.

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Training Resource Corner: Animal Care

By: Libby Eiholzer

Why it's important: As farmers, we are entrusted with the care and wellbeing of our animals. It's an honor and a privilege. And it's also hard work. For those that have grown up caring for animals, proper animal care is something that has been learned over a lifetime and comes to be almost second nature. As farms grow in size and hire employees to take care of animals, it's important to recognize that many farm employees have a lot to learn when it comes to caring for livestock.

Training your employees to provide cows with proper care leads to healthier, more productive animals. It's also becoming a requirement to ensure that farms have a market for their milk, as many cooperatives are encouraging their farms to participate in the National FARM Program (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management). Check with your milk cooperative to ensure that any training you provide fulfills their requirements. OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) also requires employees to be trained on animal handling to ensure they know how to work safely around large animals.

Key Resources:

National Dairy FARM Program:

<http://www.nationaldairyfarm.com/>

Under the "Producer Resources" tab on the home page, you will find the "Resource Library". This includes Version 3.0 of the FARM Animal Care Reference Manual. You'll also find template SOPs for mortality management, non-ambulatory care, and calf care. In addition, there is an English/Spanish poster titled "Top 11 Considerations for Culling Cattle" that helps farmers decide whether or not a cull cow is healthy enough to be shipped for slaughter.

Dairy Care 365: <http://www.dairycares365.com/>

Merck Animal Health has collaborated with the National Dairy FARM Program in order to provide first-rate training materials. Under the "Training" tab you can sign up for a free membership. Once logged



Photo source: RJ Anderson/CCE

in, you can access a number of excellent videos produced by Merck in collaboration with industry experts. Each video is available in English and Spanish and is followed by a quiz. The current modules include Handling Down Cows, Handling Dairy Calves and Heifers, Euthanasia- Making the Difficult Decision, Moving Cows to the Milking Parlor, and Introduction to Dairy Stockmanship.

Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center: <http://umash.umn.edu/stockmanship/>

UMASH defines dairy stockmanship as "a practice which promotes positive animal handling important for both animal and worker safety". Their website provides a number of posters with reminders on how to safely move cows. There are also four videos available: Using Predictable Animal Behavior to Increase Milk Production, How a Cow Uses Her Senses, Working with the Pressure Zone, and Moving Cows More Effectively. Both the posters and videos are in English and Spanish.

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Managing WBC with Bt's - Reality Check

Mike Hunter, Cornell Extension, NNY Team

Corn Nitrogen Efficiency in a Dry Year

Quirine Ketterings, Nutrient Management Specialist, Cornell University

NYS Corn Silage Hybrid Trials: 2016 Results & New look at Forage Quality

Joe Lawrence, Forage Specialist, Cornell University / PRO-DAIRY Program

Management of Corn Rootworm: Continuing Failures, Trait preservation, and New Technologies

Elson Shields, Entomologist, Cornell University

How to Save \$100 an Acre on Corn Production

Greg Roth, Agronomist, Penn State University

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Corn Congress brochures will be coming in the next 4-6 weeks. Watch your mailbox!!!

Rural Tax Education at <www.ruraltax.org>

By: John J. Hanchar

As the end of the year draws near and over the next few months, farm business owners turn their attention to an important farm financial management task -- completion of 2016 Income Tax Returns. The website <www.ruraltax.org> can be a valuable source of information as individuals complete returns themselves, or as they work with a tax preparer to prepare returns.

The purpose of the Rural Tax Education website is to provide farmers and ranchers, other agricultural producers and Extension educators with farm related income and self-employment tax information. The home page notes that “Tax issues are important for agricultural operations, because income and self-employment taxes are a major cost and also because more and more USDA programs are being linked to a producer’s federal income tax return.”

The National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee oversees the website, which has a new look since I visited it last.

Three of several useful items that stand out when you visit the home page of the Rural Tax Education website at <www.ruraltax.org> follow.

- Tax Topics
- Related Links
- Link to [Tax Guide for Owners and Operators of Small and Medium Size Farms](#)

Tax Topics

This section contains fact sheets and articles covering important income tax and self-employment tax topics as they apply to farm business owners. When I visited the site on November 9, the following highlighted item was used to prepare this article.

“A Brief Introduction to Agricultural Federal Tax Issues” – This three page fact sheet provides overviews of the most important topics for farmers and ranchers with links to more detailed fact sheets.



Related Links

RuralTax.org has a “Related Links” section that contains the valuable IRS publication [Farmers’ Tax Guide \(IRS PUB 225\)](#). Links to websites and articles also appear in this section, including a link to the IRS website <<http://irs.gov/>>.

Within the IRS website is a section titled “Agriculture Tax Center,” <<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/agriculture-tax-center>>.

Notable items from the “Agriculture Tax Center” section include

- Tax Tips – Agriculture

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- Tax Law and Regulations – Agriculture
- Forms and Publications to Assist Farmers

Tax Guide for Owners and Operators of Small and Medium Size Farms

The thirteen chapters in this guide cover several areas including an overview of taxes, income and deductions, tools to manage tax liability, and buying and selling a farm among others.

An article in a recent issue of Ag Focus reviewed the topic of farm business summary and analysis. If you are interested in improving your farm business' ability to practice sound financial management, then please contact me to learn more about some of the tools available, their value and to discuss plans for completing a farm business summary and analysis for 2016. Owners of all types of farm businesses are encouraged to contact me. The NWNY team has the capacity to develop valuable farm business summary and analysis as well as the capacity and desire to work with a variety of farm businesses -- dairy (small, medium, and large; conventional; organic; grazing; and others), field crop, livestock, and others.

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2001 INTERNATIONAL 2574; 305 HP CAT C10 Diesel; Allison HD4860P 5-Spd. Auto. Trans.; All Steel Wheels; 248" WB; Tandem Axle; Steel Body; 20,000# F/A; 46,000# R/A; Good Running Truck; Double Frame; FMC/VACON Roller/Vacuum System Model V312 SHA; S/N 12992295; Run By Cummins 3.9L 4-Cyl. Engine w/6,888 Hours; 3-Stage Blower Fan; 12 Cu. Yd. Capacity Tank; 2 Booms; Hydraulic Drive Vacuum Pump; Articulating Hose Reel; 1,000 Gal. Fresh Water Capacity; 60 GPM Pump w/2,600 PSI; 800 PSI Hand Gun; Stk. #5037 - \$47,900



24 ft. Alum. Dump
2000 MACK RD600; 400 HP Mack E7; 8LL Trans.; 24" Length Alum. Body; 2-Way Tailgate w/Coal/Grain Chute & Tarp; 22.5 Tires; Alum./Steel Wheels; 283" WB; Tri-Axle; 20,000# F/A; 46,000# R/A; Good Running Dump Truck w/20,000# Air Lift Axle; Good Rubber; 499,008 Miles; Stk. #5108 - \$39,500



46K Rears
2000 PETERBILT 379; 435 HP Cummins N14; Engine Brake; 13-Spd.; Tandem Axle; 14" Alum. Body w/Tarp; 22.5 Tires; 210" WB; 12,000# F/A; 46,000# R/A; Good Running Dump Truck with Hitch w/Trailer Hooks & Full Locking Rears; 825,245 Miles; Stk. #5262 - \$25,900



20K/46K Rears **Cummins N14**
2001 INTERNATIONAL 2574; 435 HP Cummins N14 Collet Diesel; 10-Spd.; Engine Brake; 25" Length x 96" Width; 22.5 Tires; Alum./Steel Wheels; 278" WB; Tandem Axle; 20,000# F/A; 46,000# Full Locking R/A; Double Frame Flatbed Truck; Will Separate Flatbed From Chassis; 25" Frame Behind Cab; 206" CT; 199,970 Miles; Stk. #5094 - \$29,500



Rebuilt Engine w/Warranty
2005 FREIGHTLINER ARGOSY; 515 HP Detroit 14L; Diesel; Rebuilt With Warranty/110-Spd.; 25" Length x 96" Body; 22.5 Tires; All Steel Wheels; 244" WB; Tandem Axle; 12,000# F/A; 40,000# R/A; 36" Flat Top Sleeper; Cleab Cabover Flatbed; 579,071 Miles; Stk. #5129 - \$34,900



20K/46K Rears **21.5' Frame w/Crane**
2002 KENWORTH T800; 480 HP Cummins N14 Diesel; 18-Spd.; Engine Brake; 4.33 Ratio; 24.5 Tires; Alum. Wheels; 298" WB; Tandem Axle; 20,000# F/A; 46,000# R/A; 57" Length; Good Running, Low Mile Truck w/National 857C Crane w/Crane Smart LM1; Double Frame; (4) Outriggers; 32" Flattop Sleeper; 5th Wheel; Full Locking Rears; Rubber 75%; 233,604 Miles; Stk. #5236 - \$37,500



18K/46K Rears **15 ft. Box**
2007 FREIGHTLINER FLD120; 515 HP Detroit 14L; 18-Spd.; Tandem Axle; Engine Brake; 15" Length Steel Box; 24.5 Tires; Alum./Steel Wheels; 202" WB; 18,000# F/A; 46,000# F/A; Clean, Low Mile Dump Truck w/Full Locking Rears; Tarp; Dual Exhaust & Air Cleaners; Hitch w/Hooksups For Pup Trailer; Stk. #5239 - \$46,900



425 HP **20K/46K Rears**
2010 PETERBILT 367; 425 HP Cummins ISM; Engine Brake; 10-Spd.; 22.5 Tires; Alum. Wheels; 213" WB; 20,000# F/A; 46,000# R/A; OCM 22-Ton Crane; Hyd. Outriggers; 26" Frame Behind Cab w/20,000# Steerable Lift Axle; Hendrickson Spring Susp.; 101,119 Hours; 151,000 Miles; Stk. #5260 - \$59,900



Tri-Drive **Full Locks** **69,000# Rears**
2011 KENWORTH W900B; 600 HP Cummins ISX; 18-Spd.; Tri-Drive; Engine Brake; 22.5 Tires; Alum. Wheels; 260" WB; 14,600# F/A; 69,000# R/A; Big HP Tri-Drive Tractor w/Full Locking Rears & Air Slide 5th Wheel; Engine Rebuild at 176,170 Miles; Service Records Available; 327,006 Miles; Stk. #5238 - \$59,900



46,000# Rears **475 HP**
2005 INTERNATIONAL 5900; 475 HP Cummins ISX Diesel; 18-Spd.; Engine Brake; 24.5 Tires; Alum./Steel Wheels; 366" WB; Tandem Axle; 40,000# F/A; 46,000# R/A; Double Frame; Twin Steer Cab & Chassis (Deck To Be Removed); 317,179 Miles; Stk. #5109c - \$52,500



20K/46K Rears **CAT 475 HP**
2006 PETERBILT 357; 475 HP CAT C15 Diesel; 18-Spd.; Engine Brake; 24.5 Tires; Alum./Steel Wheels; 231" WB; Tandem Axle; 14,350# F/A; 46,000# R/A; Very Clean, Double Frame Truck; Good Rubber; 17.8" Frame Behind Cab; 535,919 Miles; Stk. #4803 - \$56,900



20K/46K Rears **188" CT** **487,290 Miles**
2006 KENWORTH T800; CAT 475 HP; 18-Spd.; Tri-Axle; Engine Brake; 262" WB; 20,000# F/A; 46,000# R/A; Double Frame Tri-Axle Tractor w/Air Lift 3rd Axle; Full Locking Rears; 20" Frame Behind Cab; 188" CT; 487,290 Miles; Stk. #5248 - \$56,000



46,000# Rears **475 HP**
2006 PETERBILT 378; 475 HP CAT C-15 Diesel; 18-Spd. RTL018188 Trans.; Engine Brake; 22.5 Tires; Alum. Wheels; 172" WB; Tandem Axle; 12,000# F/A; 46,000# Full Locking Rears; Very Clean, Low Mile Tractor w/Air Slide 5th Wheel; 380,024 Miles; Stk. #4553 - \$55,900

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Beef Quality Assurance Workshop

Saturday, December 10

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

7238 Ann Street, Ovid

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Afternoon session will be at a nearby farm

\$5/per person, manuals available for \$10

(Lunch provided)

RSVP by: December 7

To register contact:

Nancy Glazier at: 585-315-7746 or

nig3@cornell.edu

All participants will become Level 1 certified!

Youth over 14 may become certified.

Upcoming Webinars:

Record Keeping & Drug Residue Prevention: An Industry Opportunity

December 8, 12:00 p.m.

Presented by:

Norman Stewart, DVM, MS, Merck Animal Health

<http://nationaldairyfarm.com/merck-training-materials>

Exploring How This Year's Forages Will Feed

December 12

Presented by:

Jon Goeser, Rock River Labs

<http://hoards.com/flex-309-Webinars.html>

Technology Tuesday Series:

FARM Program Version 3.0

December 13, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Presented by:

Dave Wolfgang, DVM, Penn State Extension

<http://extension.psu.edu/animals/dairy/courses/technology-tuesday-series>

Building Strong Herd Health Programs

December 15, 12:00 p.m.

Presented by:

Scott Nordstrom, DVM, Merck Animal Health

<http://nationaldairyfarm.com/merck-training-material>

NOTE:

Check the PRO-DAIRY website for updates on the Weekly Dairy Update webinar series

<http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/production-management/dairy-webinars>





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Honeoye Falls, NY

The Sixth Element

By Timothy X. Terry

Regional Dairy Strategic Planning Specialist

Proteins, lipids (fats), carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals can you guess the missing element (nutrient)? If you said, “water”, you’d be right.

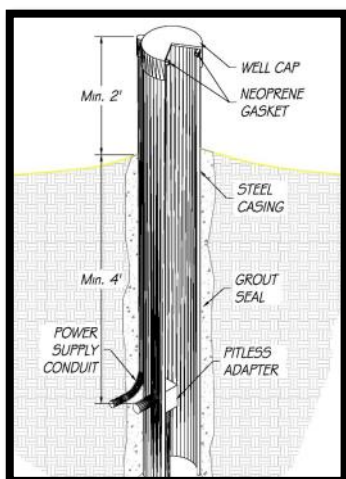


Figure 1- Sanitary Wellhead

Water makes up roughly 70% of every living thing – plants and animals. Lactating cows require 4-5 lbs. of water for every 1 lb. of milk produced. For a high producing dairy cow this equates to 400 – 500 lbs. of water or approximately 50-60 gallons per day. Some of this is supplied through the wet forages in the diet, but upwards of 90% comes from the drinking water. Obviously, we need to be providing our livestock with a quality source and lots of it.

Source Protection

Quality water starts with a properly protected source. Vermin, insects, surface runoff, etc. must be excluded. For a drilled well this means a 6” or 8” diameter steel casing down and into the bedrock. This casing should extend at least 2’ above the surrounding ground, and the ground graded so that surface water will drain away from it (see Fig. 1). A grout seal should have been established around the casing at the time of construction. This keeps any surface runoff or leached contaminants from entering the well.

The cap should fit snugly, be bolted or clamped on, and have a neoprene gasket between the casing and the cap (Fig. 1). This cap should never be welded – serviceability is important. It should also be water-tight. Therefore a piece of diamond plate with a concrete block or large rock on top doesn’t really cut it.

Spring developments need to be constructed in a

similar manner -- covers that shed rain water and prevent unauthorized entry, grading that diverts surface runoff, and properly screened vents that exclude vermin and insects.

If either of these sources is located in a livestock or cropped area then a minimum 100’ buffer should be fenced off and maintained around the source point. Maintained means that this area is trimmed up once or twice per year. Trimming builds a tighter sod (better filtering of surface water), controls weeds, and eliminates woody growth. Failure to do so usually means someday you’ll have to pull a well pump in weeds 4’-6’ high through the branches of a Honey locust or thorn apple, or worse – multiflora rose!

Ponds, unfortunately, are much more difficult to protect. Yes, you can fence out the livestock, but you have little control of vermin, deer, and wild fowl. However, the surrounding areas should still be trimmed up each year because the roots of trees and shrubs can actually compromise the structural integrity of the pond embankments. Likewise, burrowing critters should be dealt with quickly and with extreme prejudice, but I digress...

The supply lines from the sources should be buried a minimum of 4’ below finished grade with a layer of screened sand around it. At this depth it is not likely to freeze or be disrupted by a piece of tillage equipment. The sand keeps large, sharp rocks from cutting the plastic piping during backfilling or over time from freezing and thawing of the ground above. Moreover, the sand also serves as a warning device during future excavations – when the sand shows up in the trench you know you are close to the pipes and then exposing the pipes by hand is much easier. Alternatively, they could be threaded (sleeved) through light weight PVC pipes. Should the supply piping fail, or a larger diameter pipe be required in the future, a new one is easily inserted by connecting to and removing the existing pipe. Smooth interior walled pipe should be used for the sleeve. Even though it is functional and relatively inexpensive, the corrugations in a standard drain tile make it very difficult to slide a new piece of pipe through it.

In the Barn

When planning watering systems, whether it is in the barn or out in the pasture, it is usually easiest to plan, or size it, from the furthest point and then work backwards toward the point of origin. So first let's think about the waterer or waterers. Ideally, you'd like to have 3"-3½" of waterer access per cow in that particular pen or paddock. That's 3"-3½" that the cow can actually get to. Don't count the part that sits against a concrete barrier or a fence line. You also want at least two waterers per group. That way a boss cow can't prevent a new heifer from getting a drink.

In the barn, place waterers 60' to 80' apart, in a raised cross alley, if you can, and on a raised curb so that the rim is 24"- 32" high. You can achieve a similar result in the pasture by strapping the water tub to a pallet. This will minimize the wet spot and allow you to easily move a partially filled tub to a new paddock using a set of pallet forks.

At the ends of the row of freestalls, position the waterer on the side away from the stalls. Within the row of stalls, place it on one side or the other but with a solid barrier behind it so the stalls remain dry.

Alternatively, widen the cross alley from 16' to 26' and place the waterer in the middle. This keeps it away from the stalls and allows another cow to pass behind the one that is drinking. Just beyond the end of the parlor return alley is another good spot especially if it is filled with water off the precooler or chiller. This water is somewhat tempered from the heat exchange with the milk, and the cows seem to drink more of this than the untempered water in the freestall.

Placing a barrier above the waterer keeps animals from standing in it. However, place this barrier 20"-24" above the rim and suspend it from above – you don't want to limit the access for drinking.

Never place a waterer in the feed alley (not possible in a tie stall). You end up with soggy feed no one eats and it only attracts flies. Similarly, in a bedded pack barn place the waterers on the back side of the feed alley with a barrier on the pack side to prevent them from drinking while standing on the pack. This will keep the pack area around the waterer from becoming a swill hole. Next month – Part 2: How to get the water from Point A (the source) to Point B (the waterer).

How can you make better herd management decisions?



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DECEMBER 2016

Save the Date...

- 7 **Managing Your Small Poultry Flock**, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., CCE-Ontario Co., 480 N. Main St., Canandaigua. **RSVP by: Dec. 2.** To register contact: Nancy Anderson at 585-394-3977 x427 or nea8@cornell.edu
- 7-8 **Calf & Heifer Congress**, Doubletree Inn, 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse.
- 8 **Profitable Meat Marketing**, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Yates Co. Government Building Auditorium, Penn Yan. **RSVP by: Dec. 5.** For more information contact Nancy Glazier at 585-315-7746 or nig3@cornell.edu.
- 10 **Beef Quality Assurance Workshop**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 7238 Ann Street, Ovid. **RSVP by: Dec. 7.** For more information or to register contact: Nancy Glazier at 585-315-7746 or nig3@cornell.edu
- 15 **Profitable Meat Marketing**, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Ag & Business Center, 36 Center St., Warsaw. **RSVP by: Dec. 12.** For more information contact Zach Amey at 585-786-2251 or zta3@cornell.edu. See page 13 for more details

JANUARY 2017

- 10 **NYCO Meeting: Alternative Crops & Weed Control**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Jordan Hall, Geneva Exp. Station, 614 W. N. Street, Geneva. No RSVPs or cost to attend. Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass for potluck lunch. For more information contact: Fay Benson at 607-745-3807 or afb3@cornell.edu
- 11 **WNY Corn Congress**, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Quality Inn & Suites (formerly Clarion), 8250 Park Road, Batavia
- 12 **Finger Lakes Corn Congress**, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm, Holiday Inn, 2468 NYS Route 414, Waterloo
- 26 **NY Corn & Soybean Growers Assn. Annual Meeting**, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Holiday Inn, Liverpool. For more information contact: Colleen Klein at 585-689-2321

FEBRUARY 2017

- 8 **WNY Soybean/Small Grains Congress**, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Quality Inn & Suites (formerly Clarion), 8250 Park Road, Batavia
- 9 **Finger Lakes Soybean/Small Grains Congress**, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Holiday Inn, 2468 NYS Route 414, Waterloo
- 14 **NYCO Meeting: Mid Scale Poultry Production**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Jordan Hall, Geneva Exp. Station, 614 W. N. Street, Geneva. No RSVPs or cost to attend. Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass for potluck lunch. For more information contact: Fay Benson at 607-745-3807 or afb3@cornell.edu
- 28 **Forage Congress**, Genesee River Restaurant & Reception Center, 134 N. Main St., Mount Morris. More info coming.

UPCOMING Genesee County 4-H Program:

2017 National Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Program
Saturdays, January - March 2017
8:00 a.m. - Noon

To register or for more information contact:
Genesee Co. 4-H Office at 585-343-3040 x 101 or genesee4h@cornell.edu

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