Summer - Seeding

By: Jodi Letham

Summer provides us with an opportunity to successfully establish alfalfa and other perennial forages. It is important to pay attention to timing and your seedbed conditions. Having adequate soil moisture and a seedbed that maximizes seed-to-soil contact will help to ensure a rapid, more uniform emergence.

Summer seeding offers a number of advantages over spring seeding:

- Less weed pressure, therefore this can be an optimum time to seed legume-grass mixtures, which have limited herbicide options.
- Spreads out the planting workload.
- Harvest a small grain crop followed by a full forage production year after seeding.
- Perennial forages can get a jump start on the growing season and can produce at or near established stand production the following year.
- Increase soil health, reduce soil erosion through the winter months.
- More time to prepare an optimal seedbed in the summer.

For optimum crop establishment and to minimize winterkill approximately 6 to 8 weeks are needed for the seedlings to germinate and develop sufficient root reserves to survive. Ideal planting depth for alfalfa in clay or loam soils is ¼ to ½ inch at a rate of 15-18 lbs./acre.

Focus Points

Reporting Work-Related Accidents, Illnesses & Diseases

Upcoming Webinars

On a Farm Near You… Mossy Rock Farm - little things to make life easier

Cover Crop Options in 2017

Clean Sweep NY - “Fall 2017” Collection Event

Malting Barley Budgets, Reduced Tillage, NY, 2017

Dairy Calf Managed Housing/Feeding System “Drive Yourself Tour”

Regional Meetings

Back Cover

Continued on page 3
Mission Statement

The NWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops team will provide lifelong education to the people of the agricultural community to assist them in achieving their goals. Through education programs & opportunities, the NWNY Team seeks to build producers’ capacities to:

- Enhance the profitability of their business
- Practice environmental stewardship
- Enhance employee & family well-being in a safe work environment
- Provide safe, healthful agricultural products
- Provide leadership for enhancing relationships between agricultural sector, neighbors & the general public.

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Niagara • Ontario • Orleans • Seneca
Wayne • Wyoming • Yates

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To simplify information, brand names of products may be used in this publication. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not named.

Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-to-date pesticide recommendations. Changes occur constantly & human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying pesticides.

By law and purpose, Cooperative Extension is dedicated to serving the people on a non-discriminatory basis.
What are my options?
Many of you may be wondering “should I use a conventional (high yielding) variety or switch to a reduced-lignin alfalfa?” Higher-quality alfalfa and grass varieties have the potential to increase milk production substantially and increase the proportion of homegrown feeds in rations. Increasing fiber digestibility is the most important quality improvement. Lignin delivers the necessary support needed to keep plants upright, but it is indigestible and reduces digestibility of other fiber components. A reduction in lignin content should increase NDFd.

In 2016 New York seeded trials comparing HarvXtra with WL355RR, in pure alfalfa stands and in mixtures with grasses. In addition to this another 2016 New York seeding compared HarvXtra directly with Hi-Gest 360, both in mixture with grasses. The results indicated no significant differences between HarvXtra and Hi-Gest 360 in NDFd. The site was drought stressed in the 2016 season, which may have had a negative impact on the HarvXtra. On average, Hi-Gest 360 had similar percentage increases in NDFd as decreases in lignin, compared to the increase in NDFd.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
<th>University trials comparing HarvXtra, Hi-Gest 360 and conventional varieties in 2015 and 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comparison</td>
<td>Total sampling dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HarvXtra vs. Pioneer or WL checks</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi-Gest 360 vs. Pioneer or WL checks</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HarvXtra vs. Hi-Gest 360</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Reduced harvests per season with similar quality
A primary advantage for HarvXtra or Hi-Gest 360 is the potential to delay harvest and end up with higher yields of similar quality, compared to conventional varieties under standard harvest schedules. Please keep in mind that if pure HarvXtra can be harvested 7 days later and provide similar NDFd as conventional varieties on a normal harvest schedule, the 7 day interval will decrease more grass is found in the mix. Nearly 90% of the alfalfa acreage in New York is sown with a perennial grass. Another thing to consider when trying to improve quality and NDFd is replacing a lower-quality grass with meadow fescue.

Summary
The reduced-lignin varieties are most likely going to provide you with significantly higher NDFd forage than most conventional varieties. All in all any alfalfa or grass variety with significantly higher NDFd than conventional varieties will be worth the cost associated.

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The most important thing for employers and employees to know about work-related accidents, illnesses and diseases is that the employee needs to report them to their boss as soon as possible. This is important first and foremost in order to ensure that the worker receives any necessary medical attention. Immediate reporting also helps assure that the employer is made aware of any potential safety hazards on the farm, so that they can mitigate or eliminate them and prevent continued risks to health and safety. However, recent OSHA regulatory changes impact policies that insist on immediate reporting, with consequence for late reporting being discipline or termination. If an employee does not realize he is injured, or that condition is work related, such rules should not be enforced rigidly. Before firing for late reporting, it is best to obtain good legal advice.

Prompt reporting is also important because in order for the employee to receive benefits through Workers’ Compensation, he or she must report the injury/illness/disease to the employer within 30 days. (Workers’ Compensation is a form of insurance that most NYS employers are required to have in order to provide benefits to employees with a work-related injury, illness or disease.) Many insurers will challenge or delay benefits in the event of delayed reporting.

In New York, the employee also needs to see a doctor authorized by the Workers’ Compensation Board, and provide the doctor with the required information about their employer or their employer’s insurance company, so that the insurance company can be billed directly.

For further information on the procedures for reporting work related injuries follow the directions on the Worker’s Compensation Board Webpage found here: http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/Employers/claimsprocess1.jsp

In addition to Workers’ Compensation, injury reporting triggers obligations under OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) regulations, which must be followed by farms with 11 or more non-family employees. These include filling out OSHA’s Form 301, “Injury and Illness Incident Report”, as well as the Form 300, “Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses”. Requirements for more serious injuries include reporting any worker fatality within 8 hours and any amputation, loss of an eye, or hospitalization of a worker within 24 hours.

The best course of action is to provide regular safety training to employees, demonstrate a focus on safety through your own actions, and maintain a clear and open dialogue with employees so that they are open about any work-related accidents.

References:

- Workers Compensation Board http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/Employers/Employers.jsp
- “Services and Protections for Farmworkers” booklet, published by the Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs, which is a division of the New York State Department of Labor. https://labor.ny.gov/formsdocs/dipa/p737.pdf
- OSHA Recordkeeping: https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/
On a Farm Near You...

Mossy Rock Farm - little things to make life easier.

By: Nancy Glazier

Christine and Bill Livingston run a multiple species farm in Naples. They have beef cattle, sheep, dairy goats, turkeys, chickens and ducks. The farm started small and has grown to about 20 cows with calves, a handful of yearlings. They have Scottish Highland cattle and Christine has done a lot of work to improve the herd. Cows and heifers are artificially inseminated with either Highland or Angus semen. If she plans to keep replacement heifers she will breed with Highland semen, if terminal animals are sought for freezer trade they are bred to Angus, as the cross provides faster growth and finishing, all on pasture. An AI technician will come when the cows and heifers are in heat. She has contemplated synchronization but that requires additional handling. There is no handling facility when the cows are on rented ground they acquired in the past few years so Christine has them trained to a halter. She gets them familiar with being around her at a young age. She brushes and handles them often and will frequently hang the halter on a horn to familiarize them with it.

The sheep flock, which she calls an ‘accident’, is up to about 30 ewes from the handful she purchased from a neighbor. She is looking to scale back a bit. She plans on testing the ewes for diseases, namely ovine progressive pneumonia (OPP). This is a virus that has a very long incubation period and I will save details on the disease for a future article.

Up until recently, Bill had a fulltime off-farm job so Christine was the operator. Besides the farm, she home-schooled their three children (two are in college) and made a few house calls as a small animal veterinarian. Tasks on the farm need to be readily done by one person, as many small farms are one person operations. This also allows time for family activities. The home farm is fenced with paddock subdivisions and waterlines in place. Since the rented farm has no access to electricity the fence charger runs off a car battery. There were no improvements to the rented farm with no nearby electricity. Fence was constructed using poly rope and screw-in insulators. Trees were primarily used as posts since the pastures are surrounded by trees. They can be screwed out a turn or two to prevent the trees from growing around them. Along the road temporary metal posts were used so the roadside and fenceline can be grazed.

Upcoming Webinars:

“Driving Dry Matter Intake on Dairy Farms”
August 14, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Presented by:
Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois
Another labor-saving device is the nose pump, pictured. The water source comes from a wet spot adjacent to the pasture that was dug out by a contractor to collect water. No electricity is needed, the action of the cattle’s noses pulls the water. The reservoir needs to be full. The cows will push the pump back, drink, then release and the reservoir refills. Christine said there was no training involved with the cows and the calves quickly pick up the routine from them. The pump is attached to a wooden frame and could be moved around the pasture, but it is anchored in place with rocks. This reduces labor, but also means there is only one source for water which makes it difficult to subdivide the pastures.

The two farms are not adjacent but are connected by a utility right of way. The first few trips back and forth were down the road, but they then used the right of way as an alleyway. The cattle brought themselves home the end of the grazing season last year!
Cover Crop Options in 2017

By: Mike Stanyard

Wheat harvest should be just about wrapped up. That leaves about 125,000 acres out there in NY to plant some cover crops. Throw in the other acres of small grains (barley, rye, and oats) and the acres continue to add up. There is also an opportunity to grow some more forage acres. Due to the very wet drawn out spring, many acres of corn for silage did not get planted. Crops like sorghum, forage oats and triticale can help fill in some of those forage losses. The past couple of years have shown us that the first half of August has been the optimal planting window for success of most cover crops.

There has been a huge emphasis on soil health and cover crops are an important piece of this puzzle. There are a lot of options when it comes to choosing a cover crop species (See table). You have to ask yourself, “What do I want to accomplish?” Is it soil conservation, increase organic content, a trap crop for nitrogen, comply with conservation payments or weed control? Some other things to consider are costs (See table). Do you want a species that winterkills or overwinters? Is compaction an issue? Do I need some extra forage? We know that there is a benefit to keeping something growing and covering our fields at all times. It looks like there is also a benefit to planting multiple species together. Mixing tap root and fibrous root species together helps create soil microorganism biodiversity.

We know radishes do a great job of loosening up the soil when there is a compaction issue. However, there is some concern that we may not get the nitrogen back that we put into them. Radishes degrade very quickly in the early spring. Is all the nitrogen gone by the time the corn is ready for it? It might be more beneficial to plant an overwintering species like a winter grain or ryegrass with the radish to pick up that N and keep it around longer so the corn can utilize it when it needs it most.
We have seen cover crops planted with many different drills, air flowed, broadcast and aerially applied. All can be successful, however proper calibration can be tedious and frustrating. Most planters do not have settings for some of these non-traditional plants. Take the time to work it out! You do not want to waste your time by putting on too little and you do not want to waste money by putting on way too much. The cover crop seed suppliers may have worked some of the settings and rates for different seeds and planters out already and have resources available.

**Preventative Planting Acres**

If a cover crop is being planted following a failed corn or soybean crop, check herbicide labels if a pre-emerge product was applied. Some of the small seeded cover species may not be able to be planted due to plant back restrictions. Penn State has a great herbicide reference table for cover crops, [http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/soil-management/cover-crops/herbicide-persistence/](http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/soil-management/cover-crops/herbicide-persistence/).


### Extra Forage

There are a couple of options for the early August planting date. A common choice is spring/forage oats. They are usually in the boot stage by mid-October. I have seen from 1.5 to 2 tons dry matter per acre. You can add annual ryegrass to the mix and field peas or clover if higher protein is desired. Planting winter triticale has become popular after corn silage harvest. It is harvested in May just after flag stage emergence (GS 9). We have seen 2-4 tons of dry matter per acre in NY. See the Winter Triticale Forage factsheet at [http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/publications/factsheets/factsheet56.pdf](http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/publications/factsheets/factsheet56.pdf) for specifics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Type</th>
<th>Drilled</th>
<th>Broadcast</th>
<th>Price/lb.</th>
<th>Winterkill?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Rye Grass</td>
<td>10-20 lbs.</td>
<td>20-30 lbs.</td>
<td>$1.04 / lb.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum - Sudangrass</td>
<td>30-40 lbs.</td>
<td>30-40 lbs.</td>
<td>$.64 / lb.</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson Clover</td>
<td>12 lbs.</td>
<td>20 lbs.</td>
<td>$1.58 / lb.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Clover</td>
<td>5-9 lbs.</td>
<td>7-12 lbs.</td>
<td>$4.50 / lb.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Clover</td>
<td>7 lbs.</td>
<td>10 lbs.</td>
<td>$2.36 / lb.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Peas/Austrian Winter Peas</td>
<td>120/50 lbs.</td>
<td>140/60 lbs.</td>
<td>$.60 / .70 / lb.</td>
<td>Y/N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Vetch</td>
<td>15-20 lbs.</td>
<td>25-30 lbs.</td>
<td>$2.68 / lb.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage Radishes</td>
<td>8-10 lbs.</td>
<td>12 lbs.</td>
<td>$1.75 / lb.</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage Turnips, Purple Top</td>
<td>4-7 lbs.</td>
<td>10-12 lbs.</td>
<td>$.90 / lb.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats (Spring or Forage)</td>
<td>80-110 lbs.</td>
<td>110-140 lbs.</td>
<td>$.40 / lb.</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triticale</td>
<td>80 lbs.</td>
<td>110 lbs.</td>
<td>SOON</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>70 lbs.</td>
<td>100 lbs.</td>
<td>SOON</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Cereal Rye</td>
<td>60 lbs.</td>
<td>85 lbs.</td>
<td>SOON</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following NYSDEC Region 8 counties will take place during the week of October 2nd: Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca Steuben, Wayne & Yates counties.

The collection dates/locations are:

- **Tuesday, October 3**: Watkins Glen
- **Wednesday, October 4**: Hornell
- **Thursday, October 5**: Lakeville
- **Friday, October 6**: Waterloo

**Pre-registration is required.** Registration packets can be requested by telephone or e-mail at the following:

**Telephone:** 877-793-3769  
**E-Mail:** info@cleansweepny.org

CleanSweepNY services are provided to farmers & owners of former farms, all categories of NYS certified pesticide applicators, cemeteries, golf courses, marinas, and other entities possessing unwanted or unusable pesticides and other waste chemicals. Each participant is responsible for transporting their materials to the collection site.

**CleanSweepNY Services are NOT available to Homeowners.**

The collections are scheduled and organized by NYSDEC with the collaboration of NYSDOT who generously provide sites for the collection of these unwanted chemicals.

CleanSweepNY is supported by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Agricultural Container Recycling Council, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, New York Farm Bureau, and other related grower associations.

**Please do not contact NYSDOT for CleanSweepNY information**
The estimates in Table 1 resulted from working with growers, and Cornell University regional agronomists and faculty. A set of estimates for conventionally tilled malting barley appeared in the July 2017 issue of *Ag Focus*. See <nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu> for more content regarding the economics of growing malting barley in NY.

Table 1. Estimated Value of Production, Costs and Returns by Variety - Malting Barley, Reduced Tillage, Intensive Management, NY 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Spring, Intensive Management 65 bu. / acre</th>
<th>Winter, Intensive Management 80 bu. / acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value of Production</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>--- $ per acre ---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley @ $6.63 / bu. * (grain only) *Est. weighted avg. price</td>
<td>430.95</td>
<td>530.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>430.95</td>
<td>530.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Costs of Production</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>--- $ per acre ---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable Inputs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizer &amp; Lime</td>
<td>45.86</td>
<td>55.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds</td>
<td>47.48</td>
<td>47.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprays/Other Variable Inputs</td>
<td>73.84</td>
<td>94.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>13.82</td>
<td>13.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs/Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tractor</td>
<td>19.16</td>
<td>19.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels &amp; Lubricants</td>
<td>12.24</td>
<td>12.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Operating Capital</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>10.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Variable Inputs Costs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>--- $ per acre ---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>223.35</td>
<td>258.17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>--- $ per bushel ---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>3.23</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Fixed Inputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>--- $ per acre ---</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tractor</td>
<td>40.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>19.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Charge</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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</table>

### Total Fixed Input Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>--- $ per acre ---</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>159.75</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>--- $ per acre ---</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>383.10</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>--- $ per bushel ---</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5.89</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Returns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>--- $ per acre ---</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return above variable costs</td>
<td>207.60</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return above variable costs</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>--- $ per acre ---</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return above total costs</td>
<td>47.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>--- $ per bushel ---</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return above total costs</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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✅ For additional detail see  
<nwnteam.cce.cornell.edu>, click on “Grains”

✅ Questions? Comments? Contact John Hanchar,  
jjh6@cornell.edu, (585) 233-9249
Monday, August 7, 2017

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Registration: https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=571

Cost: No cost but pre-registration is required so we can plan the sponsored lunch and refreshments accordingly.

Sponsors: Agri-Plastics, Cidec, LLC., DeLaval, Castile, Craigs Station Creamery, Farm Credit East and Fred’s Tent.

Registration Information: Registration is limited to the first 100 people. There will be two tours, Tour A (starting at True Farm) and Tour B (starting at Synergy Farm). Registrants will be assigned to a tour group at the time of registration and notified later by email.
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August 2017

2-6   **Niagara County Youth Fair**, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport. For more information: www.cceniagaracounty.org

4-6   **Monroe County Fair**, Northampton Park, intersections of Hubbell Road & Colby St., Spencerport. For more information: www.mcfair.com

7   **Dairy Calf Intensively Managed Housing/Feeding System, “Drive Yourself Tour”**, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., see page 14 for more details.

8-10   **Empire Farm Days, Rodman Lott & Son Farms**, 2973 State Route 414, Seneca Falls. Parking: $10/car

12-19   **Wyoming County Fair**, 70 East Main St., Pike. For more information: www.wyomingcountyfair.org

14-19   **Wayne County Fair**, 300 W. Jackson St., Palmyra. For more information: www.waynecountyfair.org

22   **Soil Health Workshop**, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds, Trolley Building, 12690 Route 31, Albion. **RSVP by: August 18**. $40 pre-registered, $50 walk-ins. Lunch included. For more information, contact: 585-589-5959, Orleans Co Soil & Water Conservation District

September 2017

16   **Beef Quality Assurance**, Runnings, 3191 Eastern Blvd., Canandaigua. For more information: contact Nancy Glazier at 585-315-7746 or nig3@cornell.edu

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