



# North Country Ag Advisor

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**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
**North Country Regional Ag Team**

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## North Country Ag Advisor

Cornell Cooperative Extension of  
Clinton, Essex, Franklin,  
Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence  
Counties

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## Our Mission

"The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices, and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry."

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# Field Crops and Soils

## Weed Control Options for Glyphosate-tolerant (Roundup Ready) Corn

By Mike Hunter



Photo Credit: Mississippi State

Based on when the corn planting season started this spring, there will soon be corn approaching or at the V3 growth stage (about 5 to 6 inches tall) see photo. Why does this matter? The critical weed free period for corn is V3 to V8. It is very important that there are no weeds present during this timeframe. If you have corn that is V3 or taller right now and have any weeds

present you are starting to lose yield.

Early season weed control is one of the key ingredients for optimum corn yields. Corn growers need to keep a close eye on both the growth stage of the corn and the size of the weeds in fields that have yet to be sprayed with an herbicide. Regardless of the type of corn grown, the stage of growth of the corn and the weeds present at time of application will influence your herbicide selection.

In a post-emergence, single pass glyphosate-only application, the glyphosate-tolerant corn should be treated with glyphosate (i.e. Roundup PowerMax or other labelled glyphosate product) when the weeds are 2-4 inches tall. Keep in mind that this is a very narrow window to apply the glyphosate at the correct timing. Just because it is glyphosate-tolerant corn does not mean that you can make a late herbicide application without affecting the corn yield. Instead of a glyphosate-only application you may need to include an additional post-emergence herbicide for improved weed control and/or certain hard to control weeds. For example, if yellow nutsedge is emerged at the time of application in a glyphosate-tolerant corn situation, consider adding Permit, Permit Plus (a premix of Permit and Harmony), or Yukon (a premix of Permit and Banvel) to the glyphosate tank mix. Tank mixing herbicides with different mechanisms of action is also a tactic to slow down the development of resistant weeds.

When applying glyphosate to glyphosate-tolerant corn, you should consider adding an herbicide with soil residual activity to provide season-long weed control. This does not allow you to delay the timing of application. Remember, to avoid yield loss from early season weed competition, you still must apply post-emergence herbicides when the weeds are no more

than 4 inches tall. Unless the label prohibits reduced rates, it is not necessary to use the full rate of the soil residual herbicide(s) at this time.

The following is a list of herbicides with soil residual activity that can be tank mixed with glyphosate for use with early post-emergence applications on glyphosate-tolerant corn hybrids: Acuron, Acuron Flexi, AAtrex (atrazine), Bicep Lite II Magnum, Capreno, Cinch ATZ Lite, Degree Xtra, DiFlexx DUO, Harness Max, Harness Xtra, Hornet WDG, Keystone LA NXT, Lumax EZ, Lexar EZ, Outlook + atrazine, Prowl 3.3, Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O, Python, Resicore, Resolve Q, Triple FLEX, and Triple FLEX II. Many of these products listed have specific tank mix directions for use with glyphosate in glyphosate-tolerant corn.

Halex GT (a premix of Touchdown Total, Callisto, and Dual II Magnum), Callisto GT (a premix of Callisto and Touchdown Total), and Sequence (a premix of Dual II Magnum and Touchdown Total) are post-emergence corn herbicides that contain glyphosate herbicide. These three herbicides will control emerged grass and broadleaf weeds plus they'll provide additional residual control of certain weeds. Halex GT will provide residual control of many annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. Callisto GT will provide residual control of annual broadleaf weeds. Sequence will provide residual control of annual grasses. The addition of 1 pint of Aatrex 4L per acre will improve the weed control performance of Halex GT, Callisto GT, and Sequence.

Here is a list of additional post-emergence corn herbicides that can be tank mixed with glyphosate that will also provide some residual weed control in glyphosate-tolerant corn: Callisto Xtra (a premix of Callisto and atrazine), Armezon Pro (a premix of Armezon and Outlook), ImpactZ (a premix of Impact and atrazine), Realm Q (a premix of Resolve SG and Callisto), Revulin Q (a premix of Accent Q and Callisto), and Steadfast Q (a premix of Accent Q and Resolve DF).

It is important to read and follow all label directions prior to the application of any herbicide. Product labels vary considerably. Only use glyphosate products licensed and labeled for use with glyphosate-tolerant (Roundup Ready) corn hybrids. Always refer to the herbicide label for the maximum corn height application restrictions. If you have any questions about field corn weed control contact Mike Hunter at 315-788-8450.

# NNY Weather Summary for April 1 through May 30, 2018.

By Kitty O'Neil

The 2018 growing season began very slowly, with a very cool April, but a warm May has helped to recover lost heat units. Most locations across the North Country accumulated very few base 50 growing degree-days (GDD<sub>50</sub>) in April. Normally, April GDD<sub>50</sub> range from 31 to 60 for the 24 locations listed in the table below. Actual April GDD<sub>50</sub> accumulated for these same locations ranged from 4 to 23, or an average of only 24% of normal. Jefferson and Lewis Counties appeared to be the coolest, receiving just 15% and 12% of normal April GDD<sub>50</sub>.

May GDD<sub>50</sub>, to date, have adequately compensated for April's cold temperatures. On average, the 24 locations listed are about 3% ahead of seasonal GDD<sub>50</sub> as of May 30. Early season precipitation totals are hit-or-miss. Though the average for the NNY region is close to average (just 0.32" below the April-May 15-year norm), locations listed range from 1.39" more than normal to 2.36" below normal rainfall. Most locations are within 1.0" of normal. Essex County appears to be the dry spot.

----- Accumulation from April 1 to May 30, 2018 -----							
County	Town/Village	--- Precipitation, in ---			- GDD Base 50F -		GDD Base 40F
		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Clinton	Champlain	7.8	-0.11	31	254	-9	595
	Ellenburg Depot	8.28	0.95	34	219	-7	549
	Beekmantown	7.33	0.49	31	264	-4	613
	Peru	6.87	0.76	26	284	20	629
Essex	Whallonsburg	5.93	-1.17	28	293	25	646
	Ticonderoga	5.64	-1.84	22	310	14	671
Franklin	Bombay	7.08	0.02	35	267	9	614
	Malone	7.66	0.56	34	287	53	634
	Chateaugay	8.95	1.39	37	256	18	594
Jefferson	Rodman	7.06	-0.53	33	294	29	634
	Cape Vincent	6.34	-0.5	29	205	11	527
	Evans Mills	6.97	-0.27	30	292	-4	640
	Redwood	7.33	-0.95	31	241	-21	574
	Antwerp	6.9	-0.31	29	251	-2	583
Lewis	Talcottville	5.43	-2.36	32	229	18	534
	Martinsburg	5.43	-1.22	30	287	34	609
	Carthage	6.32	-0.89	32	278	18	609
St. Lawrence	Gouverneur	6.9	-0.9	34	220	-8	553
	Hammond	7.19	-0.53	31	218	-17	550
	Ogdensburg	7.71	-0.11	31	277	36	623
	Canton	7.72	0.33	32	262	-1	607
	Madrid	7.55	0.55	31	250	-2	589
	North Lawrence	7.29	-0.19	33	259	-14	596
	Louisville	6.49	-0.91	30	253	11	596
<b>Average</b>		<b>7.01</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>599</b>

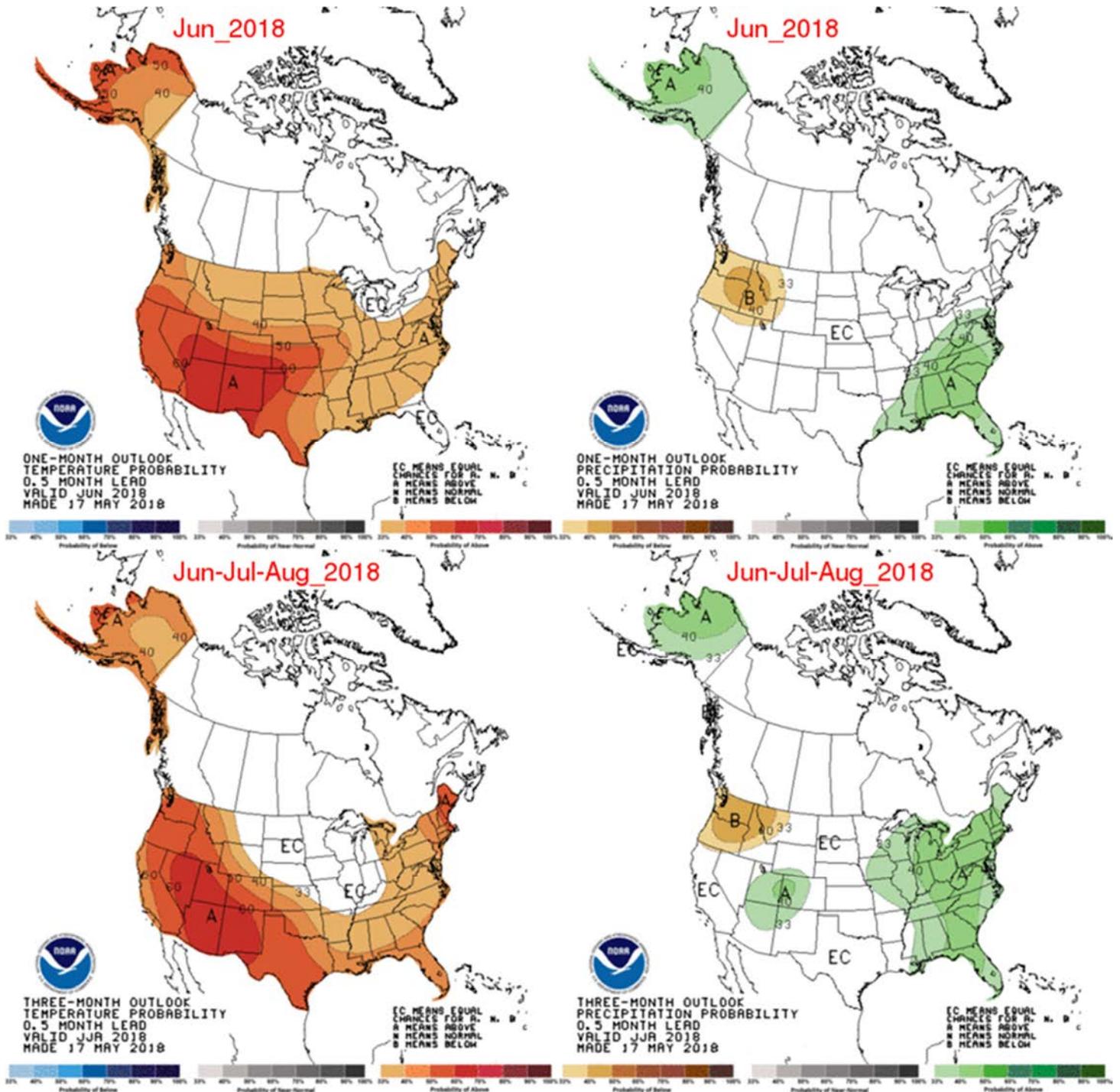
\* Precipitation in inches, temperature in Fahrenheit, DFN = difference from 15-year average, Days = days with precipitation. Calculated from [ACIS NRCC 2.5-mile gridded datasets](#). Highs (red) and lows (green) in each column are highlighted.

# NNY Weather Summary continued.

June is predicted to bring average temperatures and roughly normal precipitation. June-July-August is forecast to be warm and wet. See 4 maps below.

The 2 top maps depict forecasts for June and the bottom 2 represent the 3 month forecast. Warm June temperatures are forecast for the entire US except for most of NYS, where we have equal chances of above and below normal temps. June precipitation in NYS is predicted to be 50/50 above/below normal.

The 3-month outlook for June, July and August (bottom 2 maps) is predicted to be warm and wet for the Eastern US, including NNY.



# DAY ON THE FARM

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**10 am - 2 pm**

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## *North Country Farmers: Time is Running Out to Complete the 2017 Census of Agriculture*

**WASHINGTON, Apr. 24, 2018** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is reminding farmers and ranchers that the window is closing on the opportunity to participate in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. To date, NASS has received more than 1.5 million completed questionnaires. But the national return rate is currently lower than at this point in the 2012 Census. NASS is encouraging U.S. producers who have not returned their completed Census questionnaires to do so as soon as possible to avoid phone and in-person follow-up.

The Census of Agriculture is the only comprehensive source of agriculture data for every state and county in the nation. Census data are used by policymakers, trade associations, researchers, agribusinesses, educators, and many others. The information helps inform decisions on farm policy, rural development, and new farm technologies. It also aids in the creation and funding of loans and insurance programs and other forms of assistance, as well as in the cultivation of the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

Producers can respond to the 2017 Census of Agriculture online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail. The same law, Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113, that requires response also requires NASS to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and to only publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation. NASS will release Census results in February 2019. For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture or for assistance with the questionnaire, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call toll-free (888) 424-7828.



*Photo Credit: CCE of Jefferson County*

## Treatment Records: What to Include and How Long to Keep Them?

By Kim Morrill

The U.S. dairy industry is committed to producing safe, abundant, and affordable milk and dairy beef of the highest quality. Healthy animals mean safe food, and disease prevention is the key to keeping cows healthy. Treatment records can help dairy producers (and livestock producers) easily know which animals have been treated, which drugs were used, and what the withdrawal period is for each treatment. Inadequate drug treatment records can increase the risk of milk and meat residues. Treatment records can be kept in DC 305 or in paper version. Paper version is preferred, as they are still accessible if the computer is down. Make sure to keep copies of your records for at least 3 years.

Animal treatment records need to be easily accessible and should include:

- Animal ID – who was treated
- Why the was animal treated
- What drug was used to treat the animal
- Date the drug was given
- Dosage and route of administration
- Milk and meat withholding times
- Who treated the animal

### Reducing the risk of a residue

The use of treatment records is just one step in preventing a drug residue. Best management practices to avoid a residue include:

- Establish a valid VCPR (veterinary client patient relationship)
- Use only prescription drugs, or FDA approved over the counter drugs with veterinarian’s guidance
- Administer all drugs properly and identify all treated cows
- Maintain and use proper treatment records on all treated animals
- Implement employee/family training of proper drug use to avoid marketing adulterated milk and meat products
- Use drug residue screening tests
- Market only healthy cattle

Prevention, protocols, proper use of antibiotics, identification, treatment records, and working with your veterinarian all help reduce the risk of a drug residue in milk and meat and help maintain consumer confidence in our food supply.

Resources available:

National FARM Antibiotic Stewardship Module: <http://www.nationaldairyfarm.com/antibiotic-stewardship#manual>

NYSCHAP: <https://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/programs/NYSCHAP/modules/fda/>

## NYSCHAP - Sample Treatment Records

Daily Treatment Record Herd \_\_\_\_\_ Veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_



Cow ID	Time of Treatment			Pen	Designate which Quarter or Coats Diagnosed	Treatment (include dose & route)	Withdrawal Time		Date Withdrawal Period Expires Milk/Meat	Actual Date In Tank	Residue Test		Remarks (for example initials of person testing)
	Date	AM	PM				Milk (hrs)	Meat (days)			Date Tested	Test Results	
					LF RF LR RR								
					LF RF LR RR								
					LF RF LR RR								

## Are you ready to have a different conversation around farm and food? Join us at Table Talk, June 12-13.

Do you need new tools to discuss hormones, GMOs, animal welfare, sustainability, food waste, and other emotional issues impacting the food conversation?

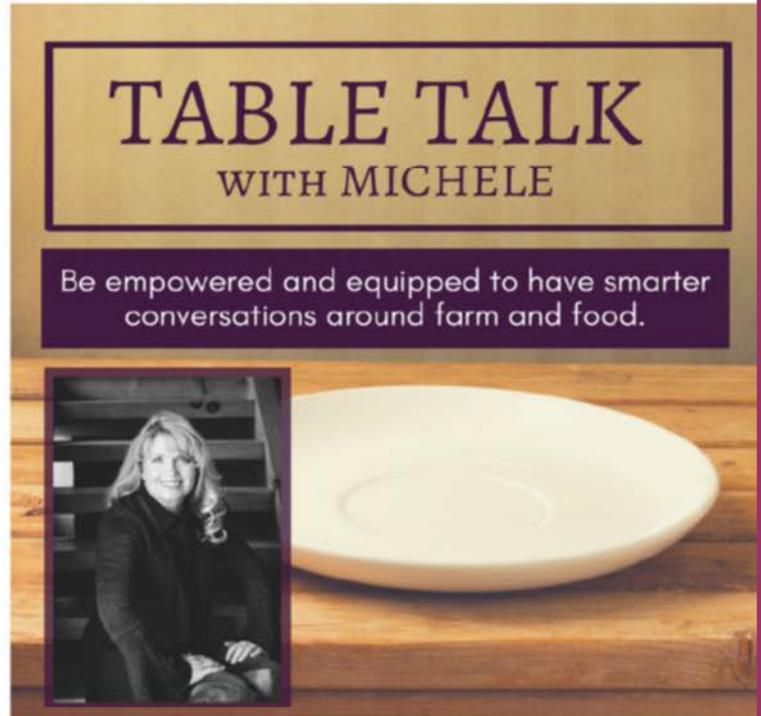
"Table Talk" is a customized training that will equip you to have smarter conversations around farm and food. Michele Payn has developed a NEW two-day intensive program for a small group. She's designed it to be casual and personal to help those in agriculture who really want to make advocacy authentic and take their efforts to a new level.

- Do you want to gain specific skills in understanding consumer perspective to grow the farm and food conversation?
- Are you looking for a greater impact in connecting people around the plate?
- Would you love to have an action plan to go beyond the choir?
- Are you an advanced "advocate" wanting specific and actionable strategies to increase your influence?

**Table Talk has been created to empower people in agriculture.** This intensive training is truly unique — 12 people will gather around the table in Syracuse, June 12-13, focused on smarter communications. Certified Speaking Professional Michele Payn has spent 17 years gathering best practices, powerful insights, resources, and techniques to equip leaders in agriculture.

You'll get personal coaching, a dozen hours of interactive training with case studies, both of Michele's books (and the insight gleaned from writing them), and answers to your burning questions. You will walk away with an action plan built for you and your situation. And you'll be better equipped to have the conversation around the toughest issues facing farm and food, plus ways to go beyond the choir. You will be gaining insight from consumers, asking questions around the table, and building tools to take home with some of the best minds in the business.

**Join Michele at the table. Register today at <https://causematters.com/tabletalktraining/ny/> - registration increases \$50 after May 25.**



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# Prepping for Fair Season 2018

By Jessica Scillieri Smith, DVM, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

It was 80 degrees yesterday! While spring took it's time in getting here, it has finally arrived. While I know most of you are focused on spreading manure, getting corn in, lambing/kidding season, and other telltale spring activities, I am now focused on "fair season." The jam-packed few weeks of summer where I get to see so many of my favorite farmers (and their beautiful animals) all in one place. You might be wondering why I'm already in my "fair season" frame of mind when the first fairs in the area don't start until July, but that's because my goal is to help all of you prep and enjoy the fair. We want to avoid having to call the vets out to fix paperwork or apply for official ID. We want to avoid having animals rejected for contagious disease. Below are the essentials for a smooth and care-free fair experience so you can focus on top lines and showmanship. Please note, this is not an all-inclusive document. Not all forms of ID for all species are covered, just those that are most commonly used. This is also focused on animals originating from farms in NYS. If you have out of state animals, please refer to the link below for more in depth information.



## Official Identification

All livestock at the fair must be officially identified. Options vary by species, but hallmarks for an official ID are a US Shield (pictured on right) and plastic bangle tags and buttons with the phrase "Unlawful to Remove." The most common options are metal ear tags starting with the prefix "21" followed by 3 letters and 4 digits, part of the National Uniform Ear-tagging System (NUES). Animals that were born in other states will have the same metal tags, but they will start with a different prefix based on state of origin. The second most common option is a button or bangle tag with a 15-digit number, starting with "840", as part of the Animal Identification Number (AIN) system. Animals with tags

following this system that were born in another state will have the first 3 digits based on their country of origin (124 is the prefix for Canada). Sheep and goats are identified with metal or plastic ear tags, buttons, or tattoos assigned through the USDA Scrapie program. Flocks not enrolled in this program may use the same "840" buttons and tags, although the program is free and important for Scrapie surveillance in the US. Cows born and tagged before March 11, 2015, may use their breed association tag numbers (8 digits) or 15-digit RFIDs starting with a number other than "840"; however, these must be recorded with the USA prefix if present on the tag. If your animal was born after March 2015, one of the other official ID options above must be used. Official ID options also vary for pigs and camelids; if you plan to bring one of those species to the fair, please contact me or your veterinarian with questions.

## Getting a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)

The most important thing is to call your veterinarian well in advance of the fair. New York even makes this easier for you by extending how long a CVI is good for. Normally, CVIs expire 30 days after they are written. However, as long as your CVI was written after May 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be good for the fair season. You can keep bringing the same CVI to each fair and a NYS Department of Ag & Markets official will sign it at each fair.

When your veterinarian is inspecting your animals before writing your CVI, they are checking to make sure that your animals appear to be free of contagious diseases. In sheep and goats, they're required to inspect your entire flock/herd because of the risk of soremouth (aka "orf"). With the longer timeframe between issuing a CVI and the actual fair, NYS Department of Ag & Markets officials will inspect your animal as well upon arrival. Animals with evidence of contagious disease – ringworm, warts, soremouth, etc, will be rejected from the fair. If in doubt, leave it home! In addition, animals with vaginal discharge or that give birth at the fair (not involved in a birthing center) will be sent home as well.

Double check the ID written on the CVI. Make sure it's official. Make sure it's accurate. Make sure it's legible. CVIs where the ID is not official or is inaccurate will mean that your vet will need to make a visit to the fairgrounds to fix it (at your expense). In addition, all IDs on the animal should be on your CVI, not just the official tags (this includes tattoos in ears). Finally, the only person who should write on your CVI is your vet and NYS Dept of Ag & Markets officials.

Horses from NY do not require a CVI. Their Coggins results and Rabies certificate is sufficient.

### Vaccine Requirements

Rabies vaccination is required for sheep, cows, and horses (and dogs and cats) because there are approved vaccines for these species. Vaccination requirement will vary by county fair for other species, although it is recommended for all the livestock species. If your county does not require the vaccine, but you are hoping to go to the state fair, your animal will be required to be vaccinated to show at The NYS Fair. Animals under the age of 4 months do not need to be vaccinated. If your animal turns 4 months between when your vet writes your CVI and the fair, your vet will need to come back before the fair and vaccinate the animal (and edit the CVI). Other vaccination requirements vary by species and fair, but all cattle should be vaccinated for respiratory diseases using a product which covers BRSV, PI3, BVD, and IBR. Ideally, animals should be vaccinated a few weeks before the fair to allow time for the immune system to respond. Vaccine information should be written on the CVI by the vet.

### Disease Testing

A negative test to ensure that cows and camelids are not persistently infected (PI) with the Bovine Viral Diarrhea virus (BVD) is necessary for all fairs in the state. This is because of the risk of these infected animals, which otherwise appear healthy, spreading the disease to other herds at the fair. In addition, cows that calve at the fair will be sent home immediately as BVD negative animals may carry a BVD-PI calf if they were exposed to the disease during gestation. BVD results should be recorded on the CVI, but please bring test results provided by your veterinarian as well.

Horses are required to have a negative Coggins test. This test screens for the disease Equine Infectious Anemia, which is transmitted by mosquitos. If your horse originated in NYS, then a negative Coggins from 2017 or 2018 will be accepted at the fair. If your horse is from out of state, the Coggins needs to be from within the last 12 months.

### Poultry

Poultry coming to the fair should be pullorum tested with a negative result within 90 days of the fair, the only exception being for doves, pigeons, and waterfowl. A leg band will be applied to your bird at the time of testing. Call your county's CCE office for dates and locations of pullorum clinics. Please keep in mind that pullorum testing of turkeys does not yield same day results like other species do. If the poultry was purchased within the last year from a US pullorum-typhoid clean flock (or

equivalent), proof of purchase with date and details of animals, along with NPIP certification information testing is not needed.

### Conclusion

I hope you all have a great fair season. May your animals behave in the ring and everyone eat too much funnel cake. See you all there. If you have any additional questions, information can be found at [https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AI/Fair\\_Health\\_Requirements.pdf](https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AI/Fair_Health_Requirements.pdf). Don't hesitate to send questions to Dr. Scillieri Smith at 315-414-7367 or [Jessica.ScillieriSmith@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Jessica.ScillieriSmith@agriculture.ny.gov).



*US Shield on all forms of official ID*



*Metal "21" tag - acceptable for cows, pigs, camelids*



*"840" button, acceptable for cows, pigs, sheep, goats, camelids*

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# The New Dairy Margin Protection Program is Worth Considering in 2018

By Lindsay Ferlito

In years past, the Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP) has failed to deliver payments to many producers; however, 2018 looks to be a different story. The major updates to the program include increasing the amount you can protect under Tier 1 to 5 million pounds, calculating the margins on a monthly (not bi-monthly) basis, and eliminating the administrative fee for certain farmers (veterans, beginning, and disadvantaged). Further, coverage is retroactive to January 1, 2018, and we already have the numbers for January, February, and March. It looks extremely likely that payouts will more than cover premium costs (for the \$8 coverage level) and even bring in thousands of dollars for certain farms (covering at the 5 million pound level).

Use the decision tool link below to see what your estimated payment should be. The deadline to enroll in the 2018 MPP is June 1, 2018, so do not delay!

Contact your local FSA office to ask about enrolling and to discuss ways to have your premium payments deducted from your program payout payments before you receive them.

For more information on the updates to MPP, watch the webinar presented by Andrew Novaković, Cornell University, and Mark Stephenson, University of Wisconsin, or visit the MPP Decision Tool site:

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/knowledge-exchange/Webinars/inside-2018-mpp>

<https://dairymarkets.org/MPP/Tool/>

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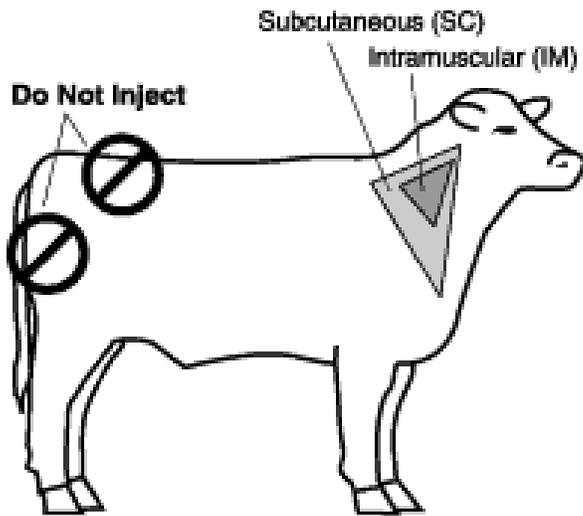
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# Livestock

## Shoot 'Em Up

By Betsy Hodge, CCE St. Lawrence County

Have you ever tried chasing an animal around with a syringe desperately trying to give an injection? Have you ever had one jump while you are in the process and ended up poking yourself with the needle? Have you ever bent a needle while giving an injection? All of these situations end up being frustrating and detract from the effectiveness of the medication or vaccine. Sometimes they are downright dangerous.



To be the most effective, medications and vaccines need to be given in the correct location and by the correct route. Once you decide what needs to be administered, choosing the right size syringe and needle is a good place to start. For cattle, a 1" or 1.5" needle in the 18 or 16 gauge size works the best. For sheep and goats, a ½" or 1" long 18 or 20 gauge works well. Your choice of needles can be influenced by the viscosity of the liquid you are drawing up. Thicker things like long-acting tetracycline work better in a wider needle (18 gauge for sheep and 16 for cattle). Of course, using the most slender needle that will work well is the kindest to the animal.

Most farmers are using disposable plastic syringes. They are designed to use once but are often used again for the same animal with a fresh needle or for the same medication at the same time (such as when you are giving the dose in more than one place on the animals so you don't give more than 10 ml in one site). Don't rinse them out and use them again. Use a size that makes sense for the amount of meds injected. Syringes come in 1 ml, 3 ml, 6 ml, 12 ml, 20 ml, and 60 ml sizes. Most common are 3 ml and 12 ml on a sheep or goat farm.

Needles are designed to be used once because they become dull or develop barbs on the end pretty quickly with repeated use. Whenever possible, use fresh needles. It's the kind thing to do, it helps prevent contamination in the medicine/vaccine bottle, and helps prevent spreading diseases between animals.

What do you do with those used needles? Dispose of them in a sharps container. There are official sharps containers available, but any hard plastic container with a cover can work. Something like a plastic juice bottle or laundry detergent bottle will work fine. It's a good idea to slap a piece of duct tape on there and clearly write "SHARPS" on it with a permanent marker. When the container is full, you can turn it in to various locations – usually the local hospital. Here is a link with the locations around the state. Note that there are times posted as well as locations.

[https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/needles\\_syringes/sharps/](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/needles_syringes/sharps/)

Back to the original problem I was talking about—animal restraint is important when administering meds. Take the time to get someone to help you or to pen the animals close together (for sheep), or use a halter, headlocks, chute or squeeze chute for cattle. An assistant could help you hold an animal on the halter, collar, or hold the tail on a cow.



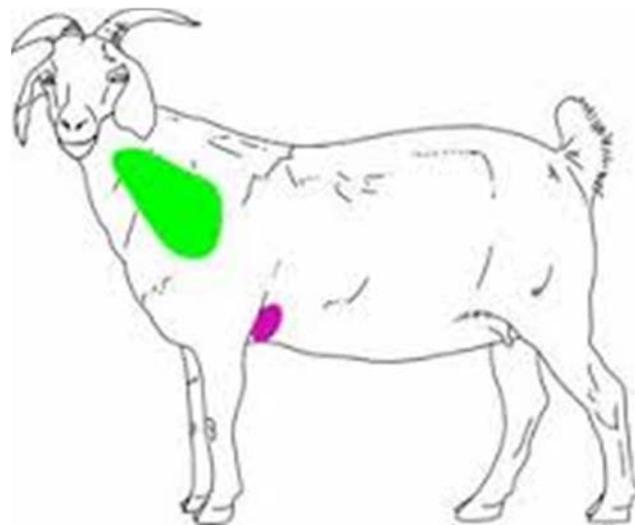
Most medications are given SubQ (subcutaneous – under the skin) or IM (intramuscular). The recommended location on the animal is in the neck area in front of the shoulder. If you go up too high you will be in the area of the ligaments and if you go too low you will be in the area of the jugular vein. There is a pretty good size triangle there to do your injections. On sheep and goats, the skin right behind the elbow works well, too. There is little wool there so it can be a handy place to use on

wooly sheep. The ½” needle works well for subQ injections on sheep and goats.

It seems counter-intuitive but IM injections are absorbed quicker than SubQ injections. There is a bigger blood supply to the muscle which increases the absorption rate. Most meds are labeled for SubQ now because IM can leave a mark in the muscle and most livestock muscle eventually becomes meat. Follow the label or your vet’s instructions on how to administer the meds and vaccines and remember that if you do something different than the label it can affect the withdrawal times. Your vet can look up a recommended withdrawal for drugs administered by off-label methods or off-label amounts or even for off-label species.

Your life will be easier and your medications will work better, and therefore your animals will recover faster, if you follow a few – well quite a few— protocols. Store your medicines and vaccines carefully. Use patience with your patients. Use good animal restraints. Change needles often and dispose of them carefully. Administer the drugs correctly and in the right place on the animal. Read the labels on your meds and work with your veterinarian. Last but not least, write it down somewhere you can find it again. Record the date, the meds, who got it, why they got it, and who gave it. Save those records for 3 years in case there is ever a question or an investigation.

Hopefully this article will remind you that giving medications should not be a rodeo. For your safety and your animals’ safety, take time to do it right!

An advertisement for Farm Credit East. The background is a photograph of two men standing in a field, looking towards a line of trees. One man is pointing towards the trees. The text is overlaid on the image.

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## **Looking at Leases: Part 1**

Anna Richards

Well-structured lease agreements can provide a number of benefits to a farm operation, yet many of the leased acres used in agriculture are still secured with a handshake deal. Written leases provide security for the operator and the landlord, as well as important liability protection, but may also allow the operator to receive tax benefits that neither party was eligible for in the past.

### **Manufacturer's Real Property Tax Credit**

The Manufacturer's Real Property Tax Credit is a refundable credit claimed on your New York State income tax return, which means that even if you owe no taxes, or the credit exceeds the amount of taxes you owe, it will be returned to you as a refund.

- The credit is equal to 20% of the eligible taxes paid on land that you own or lease that is used for manufacturing, processing, assembling, refining, mining, extracting, farming, agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, or commercial fishing. For most operating farms, the school taxes paid on this property have already been used for the NYS Farmer's School Tax Credit, so we're usually only talking about the town and county taxes. Certain areas do have to be carved out, so it's important to work carefully with a qualified tax preparer who specializes in agriculture.
- According to Tim Moag, Freed Maxick CPAs, to qualify for this credit on leased land, a written lease must be in place with the correct language, even if you are leasing the land from an owner or related entity. The taxes must be paid directly by the operating entity. When dealing with intercompany leases, town and county taxes should ideally be paid by the tenant, and the school taxes by the landlord.
- When working with outside landlords, there are more complexities to the credits, and each situation needs to be evaluated individually. Dario Arezzo, a Senior Tax Consultant with Farm Credit East, gives this advice: "When looking to optimize real property tax credits, farm operators should pay careful attention to how their leases are structured. For example, farm operators renting from landlords who are not engaged in farming should structure the lease agreement to require the farmer to pay all real estate taxes, including school taxes."

The key to maximize these tax credits is to work together with a good tax preparer who is well versed in agricultural issues, along with an attorney, to draft a lease with the correct wording. The upfront costs will repay themselves in year after year of tax savings.



# Looking at Leases - Part 2

By Kelsey O'Shea

Most farm owners are aware that a written lease can help secure land access and lease terms with outside landlords, but many are unaware of the important role they can play in managing liability risk. Between operating activities that come with higher than average risk, and large land bases that have high values, liability protection is an ever-growing concern for farm businesses. Without proper planning and documentation, a minor accident could leave a farm vulnerable to a costly, even crippling, law suit.

A popular strategy in mitigating liability risk in farm operations is to separate land ownership from operations. Operating assets that have a higher liability risk, such as cows, equipment, vehicles, and employees, are kept in one entity, while the majority of the land ownership is either owned in one or more separate entities, or by individuals. This method has become common practice among dairy farms. In order for this protection to be maintained, however, it is crucial that the two entities demonstrate that they are truly separate businesses, operating independently of each other. Steve Walker, an attorney with Scolaro, Fetter, Grizanti & McGough P.C., who specializes in agricultural businesses, explains below: "A good litigation attorney will attempt to "pierce the corporate veil" in a lawsuit meaning that they will attempt to argue that the two entities are "one and the same". If they are successful in making that argument, then the land will be brought into the law suit and the equity in the land can be tapped into. In a lawsuit, the suing party wants to find the deepest pockets. Therefore, a well written lease is the first step in establishing the separate identities of the two entities and shows that you are respecting "corporate formalities" which makes it more difficult to "pierce that corporate veil."

Beyond just having a written lease in place, the manner in which money is managed

between the entities is also important. The land holding entity or individual has certain cash flow needs, including property taxes, and possibly debt payments. This entity or individual should maintain its own checking account, and rents should be paid from the operating entity to the land owner, rather than the farm paying those expenses directly. Steve adds, "This is particularly true with respect to the debt payments. If the entity (or individuals) that owns the land fails to appear to make the debt payments because the operating entity is servicing the debt out of the milk check, then a future disgruntled exiting member of the operating entity or heirs, in the event of a death, will have cause to argue that perhaps they own a portion of the land since they helped to make the payments on the land out of the milk check. The solution is to pay rent so that the owner of the land has the cash to service the debt." The exception to this payment rule would be certain property taxes if applicable, as addressed in the previous Part 1 article.

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# SMALL GRAINS MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

June 7  
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Pre-registration requested:  
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## Topics

- Small grain varieties
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- Perennial rye for New York

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# Fruit Growers are Seeing Spots

By Paul Hetzler, CCE St. Lawrence County

Ever since a tiny Asian fly called the spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) “discovered” us in 2012, growers of cherries, raspberries, blueberries, and other small fruits have battled this fruit-wrecking pest. Though it’s “just” a fruit fly, SWD are not your grandparents’ fruit flies. Wait, that sounded awkward. Old-school, respectable fruit flies gently push their eggs into rotten fruit. SWD, which come equipped with sharp saws and bad attitudes, don’t wait for fruit to go soft.

The female has a sabre-like ovipositor with sharp, sclerotized (hardened) teeth. She uses this formidable tool to break the skin on unripe berries—strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries are favorites—and insert eggs. As the berry starts to turn color, tiny maggots are maturing inside. Other fruit flies need mushy fruit to lay eggs; SWD makes fruit mushy.

Signs of SWD in raspberries include fruit which are darker and squishier than normal, have poor flavor, fall to the ground prematurely, or “deflate” and dry out. Once picked, infested fruit spoils very fast, even overnight. Juice droplets on the fruit or on the plant after the berry is plucked are other clues. At dusk or early morning you may even see adult flies checking out the fruit.

With one spot on each wing, the male SWD stands out from other species. Females have no wing spots, but can be identified, under magnification, by their spike-tooth ovipositors. Spotted-wing drosophila larvae are white, and about 1/32” to 3/16” long. SWD breed in loads of wild fruit such as elderberry, dogwood, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and even nightshade. In warm weather they can have about one generation per week, with eggs hatching in as few as 12 hours. Cool weather, of course, slows them down. Eggs and larva become inactive at about 35F, and at 33F some may even be killed.

Initially it was believed SWD were not cold-hardy, but that is now in question. No one is sure if they simply emerge later than other fruit flies, blow in from the south, or if their major route of infestation here is via produce shipments. Early-season berries shipped from warmer locales come with a free supply of SWD eggs and larvae. It’s unavoidable. Although commercial berries are now sprayed more frequently than ever, SWD cannot be entirely controlled.

We can’t eradicate SWD, but we can reduce their impact. Pick berries less ripe than you’d normally select, and refrigerate right away. Stomp on berries that fall to the ground so they dry out and don’t continue to breed flies. For homeowners, there are few pesticide options. Some common products like carbaryl can remain toxic for 7-10 days, and shouldn’t be used on berries. Fortunately, innovative 2017 research on attract-and-kill methods, and a new SWD-exclusion netting system, may hold the key to SWD control. You can learn more about field-proven control options at [fruit.cornell.edu/spottedwing/](http://fruit.cornell.edu/spottedwing/) or call your local Extension office.



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**CCE North Country Regional Ag Team**  
**203 North Hamilton Street**  
**Watertown, New York 13601**

## What's Happening in the Ag Community

*Small Grains Management Field Day, June 7, 2018. See page 18 for more information.*

*Table Talk, June 12-13, 2018. See page 9 for more information.*

*Day on the Farm, June 16, 2018. See page 6 for more information.*

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