



North Country Ag Advisor

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

CCE North Country Regional Ag Team

Kitty O'Neil, PhD
Field Crops & Soils
315-854-1218
kao32@cornell.edu

Michael Hunter
Field Crops & Soils
315-788-8450
meh27@cornell.edu

Casey Havekes
Dairy Management
315-955-2059
cdh238@cornell.edu

Lindsay Ferlito
Dairy Management
607-592-0290
lc636@cornell.edu

Kelsey O'Shea
Ag Business Management
315-955-2795
kio3@cornell.edu

Tatum Langworthy
Sr. Admin Assistant
315-788-8450
tln92@cornell.edu

CCE Harvest NY

Lindsey Pashow
Ag Business and Marketing
518-569-3073
lep67@cornell.edu

CCE County Ag Educators

Betsy Hodge (St. Lawrence)
315-379-9192
bmf9@cornell.edu

Carly Summers (Essex)
518-962-4810
cfs82@cornell.edu

Jessica Prosper (Franklin)
518-483-7403

Melissa Spence (Lewis)
315-376-5270
mms427@cornell.edu

Robin Wendell-Zabelowicz (Lewis)
315-376-5270
rw583@cornell.edu

Billy Bullock (St. Lawrence)
315-379-9192
wrb93@cornell.edu

North Country Ag Advisor

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

"The North Country Regional Ag Team is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties."

Ag Advisor is published by the CCE North Country Regional Ag Team collaborating with Harvest NY

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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."

Soybean Cyst Nematode Now Confirmed in Six Additional Counties in New York

By Jaime Cummings and Ken Wise, NYS Integrated Pest Management Program; Mike Hunter, Mike Stanyard, Aaron Gabriel, and Kevin Ganoë, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Michael Dorgan, NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

The [soybean cyst nematode](#) (SCN) is considered the number one pest of economic concern of soybeans nationally and globally, potentially causing 10-30% yield loss in the absence of above ground symptoms. In 2017, national estimates reported over 109 million bushels lost to this pest in the U.S. alone. Considering that this pest is confirmed in surrounding states and provinces, and given its potential to spread, statewide survey efforts have been underway since 2013 to determine the presence or absence of the soybean cyst nematode in NY. From 2013-2016, numerous fields in 17 counties were sampled and tested as part of a statewide soybean disease survey led by Cornell's Field Crops Pathology program, funded by Northern NY Agricultural Development Program and NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association. In 2016, SCN was confirmed in one field in Cayuga County by Cornell's USDA ARS Nematology lab, albeit at very low levels. Since then, survey efforts have continued, because it is widely assumed that SCN is much more prevalent in NY.

In 2019, the NYS Integrated Pest Management Program was commissioned by NYS Department of Ag and Markets to coordinate a Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) in soybeans with Cornell Cooperative Extension specialists to maintain vigilance against potentially invasive species. For more information about the CAPS program and this survey effort, please refer to this [article](#). As part of this survey, 25 soil samples were collected from fields in 16 counties across NYS and were submitted for testing at the [SCN Diagnostics](#) laboratory. Of those 25 samples, seven of them were positive for SCN in six different counties, confirming our suspicions that this pest is potentially widespread throughout soybean production areas in NY. This brings us to a total of seven counties in NY with at least one field positive for SCN. The counties identified with fields positive in 2019 include Columbia, Dutchess, Jefferson, Monroe, Tompkins, and Wayne (Figure 1).

Thankfully, the egg counts in these positive samples were all below 500 eggs per cup of soil (250 cc of soil). Although that may sound like a lot, these are very low numbers com-

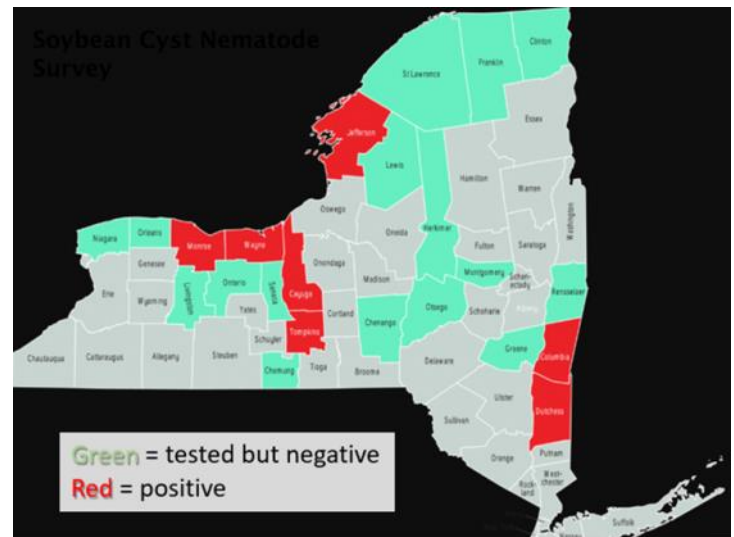


Figure 1. Soybean cyst nematode survey efforts in NY since 2013. Counties colored in green had fields tested with negative results, and counties colored in red had one or more fields that tested positive. The first positive result was in Cayuga County in 216. In 2019, six more counties tested positive as a result of the soybean Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey.

pared to the 10,000-80,000 egg counts that some growers struggle with in other states. This means that we are in a good position to proactively manage for this pest before it gets out of hand and starts causing economic losses.

An integrated management approach will help NY soybean growers stay ahead of the soybean cyst nematode. This involves continued testing efforts to monitor your fields for SCN. Determining if you have the pest is the first step toward management. For detailed information and recommendations on how to collect samples for SCN testing and where to send those samples, please refer to this article. If you get a positive result, keep records of your egg counts for each individual field. Implement the following tactics when managing for this pest:

1. SCN can be moved among fields on soil, whether it be via wind, water, equipment, or boots. Consider improving sanitation of equipment coming from fields with known SCN infestation to avoid spreading it to others.

Continued on Page 4 ...

- Crop rotation is the number one tool for managing SCN. Rotating to a non-host crop, such as corn, small grains, alfalfa, forage grasses, and mixes for one year can reduce the nematode population by up to 50%. Continuous soybean production in an infested field can increase nematode populations exponentially since this pest can have up to three life cycles per season in NY.
- Select and plant soybean varieties with resistance to SCN, and rotate those resistant varieties that you plant. The nematode quickly develops resistance to the resistant varieties when exposed to the same varieties over and over, in the same way that weeds develop resistance to over-used herbicides.
- Consider nematicidal seed treatments if your SCN populations start causing economic damage (Figure 2). Research has shown that these products are only cost-effective with high SCN population levels that are causing significant damage.
- Keep testing. Continue to test fields that you get negative results from, and especially continue to test fields that you get positive results from. Keep track of your egg counts in each field to know how your populations are changing, as that may affect your management strategy. It is recommended that as long as egg counts remain below 30,000 eggs per cup of soil, crop rotation with SCN-resistant soybean varieties is the best approach.









What About Those Seed Treatments?

Yield and SCN effects may be different for new seed treatment products with new modes of action

"Treatments may reduce SCN production, may increase yields, may have both effects, or may have no effect"

Results will vary among treatments, among locations/soil types and growing seasons

Nematode-protectant seed treatments

Brand name	Crop(s)	Targeted nematodes	Active ingredient	Mode of action
 Axalta Complete	cotton, corn, soybean	all ppn	abamectin	inhibits nematode nerve transmission
 N-Habit	all plants	all ppn	harpin protein	induced plant defenses
 VOTIVO	cotton, corn, soybean	all ppn	Bacillus firmus	living barrier of protection on roots
 Clariva [pn]	soybean	SCN	Pasteuria nishizawae	nematode parasite
 ILVO	soybean	SCN, RKN, reniform, lesion	fluopyram	SDH enzyme inhibitor
 AMATHRINE	cotton, corn, soybean	SCN, RKN, reniform, lesion, others	toxazafen	mitochondrial translation inhibitor
 AVO	corn, soybean	SCN, RKN, reniform, lesion, others	Bacillus amyloliquefaciens	not stated or known
 nemasect	corn, soybean	all ppn	heat-killed <i>Burkholderia thuringiensis</i> + fermentation media	not stated or known

24

Products listed current as of Fall 2018

What's your number?
Take the [Soil Health](#) quiz
Now

Image and info courtesy of SCN Coalition

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Integrated Pest Management

Figure 2. Nematicidal seed treatments available for managing soybean cyst nematode.

Crop rotation is the most important tool, and we are lucky to have a number of non-host crops already in our rotations. But, SCN has a fairly wide host range, including a number of our common weeds and cover crops. Some of these weed and cover crop hosts include chickweed, some clovers, common mullein, henbit, pokeweed, vetch, and purslane (Table 1).

That's just another thing to remember as you plan your crop rotations and weed management strategies.

Table 1. Host plants for SCN, including weed hosts, that have had one or more populations of SCN reproduce on them, and nonhost crops.		
(Courtesy of Univ. of Nebraska, extension publication G1383)		
Host Crops	Weed Hosts	Nonhost Crops
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Common Chickweed	Alfalfa
Edible Beans	Common Mullen	Canola
Clover (Alsike, Crimson, Sweet)	Field Pennycress	Clover (Red, White, Ladino)
Cowpea	Henbit	Corn
Lespedezas	Pokeweed	Forage Grasses
Lupine (White, Yellow)	Purslane	Small Grains (Barley, Oats, Rye, Wheat)
Soybeans	Sericea Lespedeza	Sorghum (Grain, Forage)
Vetch (Common, Crown, Hairy)	Wild Mustard	Sugar Beets

Keep in mind that testing for SCN can be tricky, since it can be difficult to detect at low population densities, and populations can be quite variable within a field (Figure 3). Focus your testing efforts on fields with unexplained lower yields, or fields with a history of Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) or Brown Stem Rot. It is well known that there is a strong correlation between the presence of SCN and SDS. If you see patches of SDS in your field, that would be an ideal location to pull soil samples for testing for SCN. For more information on the relationship between SDS and SCN, please refer to this article.

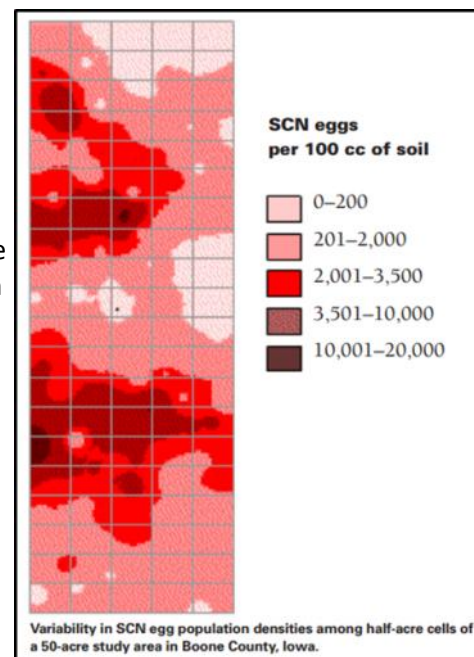


Figure 3. Grid sampling reveals high variability in soybean cyst nematode population densities within a single field. Image courtesy of Iowa State University.

For more information on this pest and recommendations, please visit the Soybean Cyst Nematode Coalition website. There you will find numerous resources explaining the resistance issues with this pest, how and where to test for it, management recommendations, and success stories. Expanded SCN testing efforts will commence in 2020, supported by the NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association. If you suspect SCN in your fields, contact your area Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist for assistance, they may be able to offer you free testing on suspect fields as part of the expanded testing efforts in 2020.

2020 Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management Now Available

The Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP) at Cornell University is pleased to announce the availability of the *2020 Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management*.

Written by Cornell University specialists, this publication is designed to offer producers, seed and chemical dealers, and crop consultants practical information on growing and managing field corn, forages, small grains, and soybeans. Topics covered include nutrient management, soil health, variety selection, and common field crop pest concerns. A preview of the Field Crops Guide can be seen online at:

<https://cropandpestguides.cce.cornell.edu>.

Highlighted changes in the *2020 Cornell Field Crops Guide* include:

- Revised pesticide options for economically important field crop pests.
- Updated corn, forage, and small grain variety trial and research data.
- Pesticides available for stored grain management.

Cornell Crop and Pest Management Guidelines are available as a print copy, online-only access, or a package combining print and online access. The print edition of the *2020 Field Crops Guide* costs \$31 plus shipping. Online-only access is \$31. A combination of print and online access costs \$43.50 plus shipping for the printed book.

Cornell Guidelines can be obtained through your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or from the Cornell Store at Cornell University. To order from the Cornell Store, call (844) 688-7620 or order online:

<https://www.cornellstore.com/books/cornell-cooperative-ext-pmep-guidelines>.

Office

The Farm Business Management Specialist will be hosting regular "Office Hours" in each county! These give farmers a chance to bring their questions on any of the following topics:

- Accounting
- Financial Statements
- Budgeting
- Business Plans
- Decision Making
- Employee Hiring
- Employee Handbooks
- Human Resources
- Diversification
- Regulation
- Grant Applications
- Project Evaluation
- Book Keeping Systems
- Farm Transition Planning
- Retirement Strategies

Please note that all office hours are from 10AM to 3PM. It is not necessary to make an appointment, however, you can by contacting:

Kelsey O'Shea at
kio3@cornell.edu or
315-955-2795



Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

Clinton County

Dates: Jan 23rd Feb 10th,
Mar 16th & Apr 14th

Location: CCE Office
6064 NY-22 Suite 5,
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Essex County

Dates: Jan 10th, Feb 14th,
Mar 16th & April 15th

Location: Hub on the Hill
545 Middle Road
Essex, NY 12936

Jefferson County

Dates: Jan 27th, Feb 13th,
Mar 10th & Apr 16th

Location: CCE Office
203 N Hamilton St
Watertown, NY 13601

Lewis County

Dates: Jan 28th, Feb 12th,
Mar 9th & Apr 20th

Location: CCE Office
5274 Outer Stowe St
Lowville, NY 13367

Franklin County

Dates: Jan 2nd, Feb 14th,
Mar 6th & Apr 17th

Location: CCE Office
355 W Main St #150
Malone, NY 12953

St Lawrence County

Dates: Jan 17th, Feb 17th,
Mar 13th, & Apr 13th

Location: CCE Office
2043B NY-68,
Canton, NY 13617

Perfecting the Dry Cow Diet: Part 1

By Casey Havekes and Dr. Trevor DeVries

The transition period is considered to be one of the most challenging times during a cow's life as she faces various metabolic, physiological, and behavioral stressors. Over the past decade, considerable research has focused on nutritional strategies to help cows overcome the severity of negative energy balance that they experience as they transition from gestation to lactation. Of particular interest to me during my time at the University of Guelph, was the concept of feeding controlled energy dry cow diets. These diets, more commonly referred to as the 'Goldilocks Diet', are based on the concept of not too much, and not too little, but just the right amount... of energy that is. Typically, we see large amounts of wheat straw incorporated into the diet to lower the energy density which enables the cow to consume as much as she wants of a low nutrient dense diet. From a physiological standpoint, these diets work great because the cow is limited in body condition gain resulting in improved metabolic health post-calving. However, a downside to these diets is that straw is considered un-palatable to the cow and as a result we see lots of sorting and consumption of an imbalanced diet. The overall objective of my grad research at the University of Guelph, under the supervision of Dr. Trevor DeVries, was to manipulate physical characteristics of these diets to promote consistency in intake, improve metabolic health, reduce feed sorting, and promote overall performance across the transition period. In part 1 of my research, I manipulated the chop length of wheat straw. Straw was either chopped with a 1-inch screen or a 4-inch screen, and incorporated into the diet to make up ~30% of the ration DM. Other ingredients included corn silage and a dry cow pellet. Cows were fed this diet throughout the entire dry period, and after calving all cows were fed the same lactating TMR. In this research, we were able to collect daily intakes, various measures of feeding behavior (including feed sorting), rumen pH, blood metabolites, BW and BCS, rumination time, and milk and component yield. Some of the key take away points for cows fed the **short straw diet** include:

- **HIGHER** intake across the entire dry period (Figure 1); no difference in intake post-calving
- **LESS** of a drop in intake as cows approached calving
- **LESS** sorting against the long forage particles
- **MORE** stable rumen pH around the time of calving
- **LOWER** blood ketones three weeks post-calving (Figure 2)

In summary, the results from this research indicate that shorter chopped straw was favorable in terms of feeding behavior and metabolic health. In order to maximize intake of these high-straw dry cow diets, the longest forage particles should not make up more than ~5% of the total diet. The success of these diets comes down to perfecting their management and making sure that the diet the cows consume is as close as possible to the diet that is formulated.

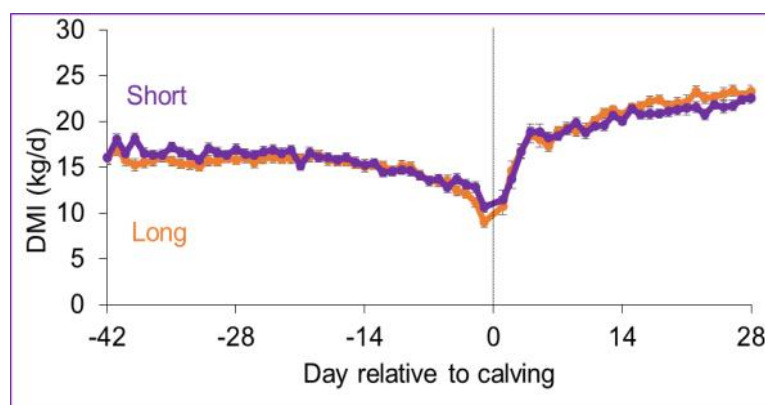


Figure 1. Daily DMI during the transition period

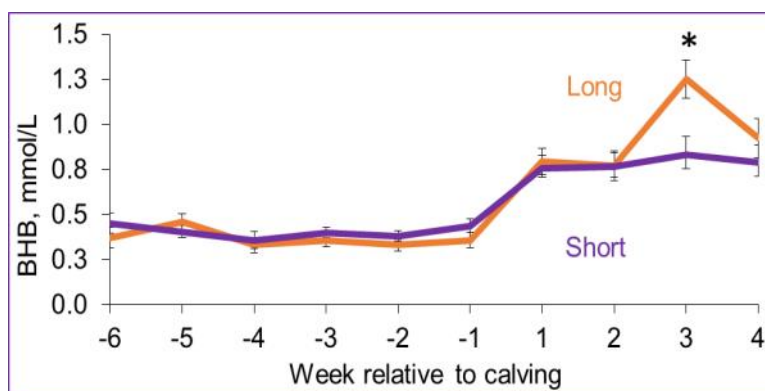


Figure 2. Blood BHB during the transition period

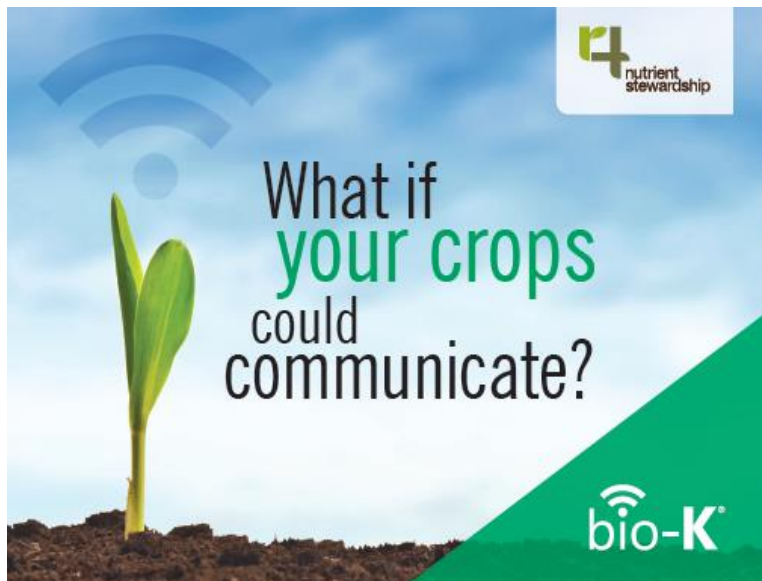
For more details please check out:

[https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302\(19\)30932-4/pdf](https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(19)30932-4/pdf)

Dairy Cattle Nutrition: Vitamin and Mineral Series

By Casey Havekes

Each month, for the next several months, I am going to write about one of the key vitamins or minerals that dairy cows require (or benefit from) and describe their role in the ration. **Calcium** is an essential mineral that is required for the basic function of many tissues and physiologic processes (ie: it's required for bone formation, muscle contraction, nerve transmission, blood clotting, and it has a role in the transmission pathway for many hormones). Due to its complex involvement, low calcium levels (hypocalcemia) is referred to as the 'Gateway Disease' making it increasingly important to understand its role in transition cow nutrition. Cows are able to balance calcium supply and demand effectively the majority of the time, but it becomes a challenge during the weeks leading up to calving and the first few days following calving. In the weeks leading up to calving, calcium requirements begin to increase due to the synthesis of colostrum and after calving the requirement greatly increases. In fact, in early lactation, a cow's calcium requirements increase by 65%. In order to meet these demands, cows initiate homeostatic mechanisms to restore blood calcium levels – a process that is facilitated by parathyroid hormone (PTH) and 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D. When a cow experiences low blood calcium, PTH is stimulated and activates the kidney to release vitamin D and decrease calcium excretion. Vitamin D activation further increases calcium absorption in the small intestine and helps restore blood calcium levels. Several strategies have been put in place to assist the cow's natural homeostatic processes. One of which involves feeding an anionic diet, or a negative DCAD diet. This strategy results in lower blood pH which promotes an acidic metabolic state and enhances the cow's natural homeostatic mechanisms for maintaining calcium balance. An alternative solution is to feed a calcium binder to lower calcium levels and force the activation of PTH which will initiate the release of calcium into the blood. Initiating this process in the dry period can help cows adapt to the sudden and dramatic demand for calcium that they experience upon calving. Regardless of method, maintaining proper calcium levels in the dry cow diet is crucial to minimizing milk fever on farm, and I strongly recommend working with your nutritionist if milk fever is a problem on your herd. Stay tuned for next month when I talk about the role of **phosphorous** in the diet.



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Northeast Dairy Management Conference

The Northeast Dairy Management Conference “Focus on the Future” will be held March 11 - 12, 2020, at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY.

Previously known as the NEDPA Conference, this biennial conference will continue to offer high-quality programming targeted to progressive dairy farmers in the Northeast. Hosted by Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY and the Northeast Dairy Producers Association, the mission remains the same – to provide the latest information on current trends and topics in the dairy industry through dynamic and informative sessions designed to re-energize businesses and improve performance.

The “Focus on the Future” theme includes sessions that feature diverse topics including: on-farm technology; protecting your brand; environmental issues updates; and several presentations on navigating changes resulting from the new agricultural labor legislation. In addition to gaining invaluable information for your dairy operations, this conference creates a valuable opportunity to network with other farmers and industry professionals from throughout the Northeast and beyond.

A sneak peak of presenters at the 2020 conference includes: Jay Waldvogel - Dairy Farmers of America; Steve Bodart - Compeer Financial; Phil Plourd - Blimling and Associates; Cheryl Jones - University of Kentucky; Julio Giordano - Cornell University; Chuck Palmer - Michael Best and Friedrich LLP; Emily Stepp - National Milk Producers Federation; Karl Czymmek - Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY; Chris Wolf - Cornell University; Tom Wall - Dairy Coach LLC; and Rich Stup - Cornell Ag Workforce Development.

Additional conference highlights include sponsored pre-conference presentations, NEDPA annual meeting, exhibitor trade show, Popp Award Presentations, labor panel, and networking dinner.

To learn more: prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/ne-dairy/



An advertisement for Farm Credit East. The top half features a black and white photograph of a man and a woman in a field, looking at a tablet together. The man is wearing glasses and a jacket, and the woman is also wearing a jacket. Overlaid on the top of the photo is the text "STRONG at the ROOTS" in large, white, sans-serif font. Below the photo, there is a dark grey banner with white text listing services: "TAX PREP • PAYROLL SERVICES • BENCHMARKS • APPRAISALS • RECORD-KEEPING ESTATE PLANNING • TAX PLANNING • FARM BUSINESS CONSULTING". At the bottom, there is a white box with black text. On the left, it says "TAX PREP SERVICES" followed by a paragraph: "Just like you, Farm Credit East has roots in agriculture. In fact, we were made in agriculture. That gives our tax specialists the expertise to develop a tax strategy geared to your ag business. Get every deduction and allowance the law allows. Look to Farm Credit East to keep your business Strong at the Roots." On the right, it says "Burrville NY 800.626.3276" and "farmcrediteast.com/taxprep".

Now Enrolling Herds in a new NNYADP Calf Research Project

“Determining the Enteropathogen Causing Neonatal Diarrhea and Associating it with Antibiotic use on Northern New York Dairy Farms”

Calf scours can be caused by a variety of pathogens including bacteria, viruses, and parasites. However, only bacterial diarrhea will respond to antibiotics, so the goal of this research is to identify the main pathogens causing diarrhea in the North Country and relate it back to antibiotic use on these herds. In order to accomplish this, we will need to collect fecal samples from diarrheic calves **prior** to them being treated with antibiotics. The overall objective of this project is to determine if there is an opportunity to reduce antibiotic use on NNY dairy farms, and to better understand how to manage diarrheic calves.

How can you help? If you have calves with scours on your farm AND you plan to treat them with antibiotics AND you want to participate in this project, please contact us:

Casey Havekes (all counties); 315-955-2059

Lindsay Ferlito (all counties); 607-592-0290

Sarah Morrison (Clinton County); 518-846-7121 ext. 105



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

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- Why do you get a lower price for your animals? How to get more money?
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- What makes a feeder calf, kill calf or no sale calf.
- Why BQA/DACQA is important. Beef Quality Assurance/Dairy Animal Care Quality Assurance.
- Keith Roggie, Glenn Tefft and Tom Unger; Buyers and Dr. Mike Baker; Cornell University Beef Specialist will answer all of your questions.

OPEN HOUSE-LUNCHEON

Provided by NNY Market

March 28, 2020 11am-1pm

N.N.Y. Farmers Marketing Co-op, Inc.

8204 NY-26 Lowville, NY 13367 315-376-7441

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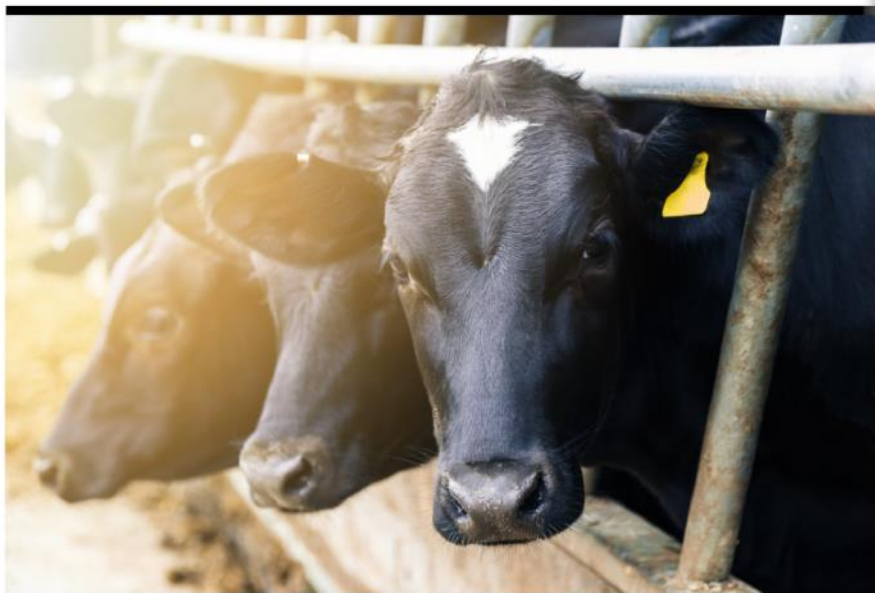
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Please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County if you have any special needs.



prodairy.cals.cornell.edu

Modern On-Farm Preparedness On-Farm and Live Webinars



Webinars can be accessed at the local site or signed in anywhere from a mobile device or computer.

Six consecutive Thursday afternoons: January 23 - February 27. Attend all sessions or individual sessions.

Registration is \$10 per session or \$50 for all six sessions.

Presenting organizations:

Cornell Cooperative Extension, NY State Cattle Health Assurance Program, American Dairy Association, and New York Center for Agriculture and Health.

NNY Locations:

CCE Jefferson Office, 203 N Hamilton St, Watertown, NY
Miner Institute Conference Room, 1034 Miner Farm Road, Chazy, NY

Registration or questions:

Tatum Langworthy
t1m92@cornell.edu | 315-788-8450
reg.cce.cornell.edu/modernonfarmpreparedness_10512



Cornell CALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Jan 23 - Preparedness for Urgent Situations. Be prepared for a fire, weather emergency or barn damage.

On-Farm: 1 - 4 pm.

Jan 30 - F.A.R.M 4.0 Update. The F.A.R.M program is evolving as farmers implement the program. Learn about how farmers have used and gained benefits and how you can use the FARM program.

Webinar: 1 - 2 pm.

Feb 6 - Activist Preparedness. This session will address several aspects of dealing with activists, including good hiring practices, available resources for support, and a plan of who to contact if something happens on your farm. Learn how to talk about videos taken on another farm and how to prepare your employees for these events.

Webinar: 1 - 2 pm.

Feb 13 - Social Media Preparedness. How to respond to negative comments on farm pages. Resources to tap into and people you can call for effective responses.

On-Farm: 1 - 4 pm.

Feb 20 - Disease Outbreaks and Biosecurity. Do you have a plan in place if there is a disease outbreak on the farm? Dr. Melanie Hemenway, State Veterinarian, will provide concrete steps to deal with disease outbreaks and make biosecurity recommendations for prevention.

Webinar: 1 - 2 pm.

Feb 27 - On Farm Safety-Prevention, Prevention, Prevention. Yet accidents still happen. This session will focus on prevention and also address accident response.

On-Farm: 1 - 4 pm.

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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

Silage Truck Workshop, Feb 13th, 6-8pm, CCE Lewis office, Lowville.

Lewis County Shop Meeting, Crops Discussion, Feb 19th, 12:30pm, CCE Lewis office, Lowville.

Jefferson County Shop Meeting, Crops Discussion, Feb 21st, 12:30pm, Gathering Barn, Sackets Harbor.

SAVE THE DATE - Hay & Pasture School, February 27th, Canton.

How to Get a Better Price for Your Beef or Dairy Animal in the Ring at the Auction, March 28th, see page 10 for more information.

Northeast Dairy Management Conference "Focus on the Future", March 11 - 12, 2020, see page 8 for more information.

Office Hours, see page 5 for more information.

Modern On-Farm Preparedness Program, 6-part series starting January 23, 2020, see page 11 for more information.

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