Cornell Cooperative Extension Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

AG FOCUS



NY's Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law and Its Impact on Livestock by Nancy Glazier

I recently received two calls - from a hospital and a school - about feeding food scraps to livestock. The hospital had a small pork producer who picked up totes of pre-patient waste from the kitchen and returned the totes cleaned and ready to be filled, but no longer does it. The school district is looking for an alternative to landfilling the waste. Great ideas, but they both thought there would be many farms out there looking for food waste to feed to pigs or cattle. They were unaware of the regulations.

Feral Swine Health Protection Act mandates any meat scraps and animal byproducts fed to swine must be heat treated at a licensed facility. Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Ruminant Feed Ban Rule prohibits the feeding of any protein from mammalian tissues to ruminants to prevent transmissible BSE. The Preventive Controls Rule under the Food Safety and Modernization Act regulates animal feed quality consisting of human food byproducts. And more, the Food, Drug, & Cosmetic Act states animal feed cannot be filthy or decomposed and must be kept sanitary.

The newest addition to reduce food waste is NY's Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law. Work has been underway for many months regarding the law that will take effect January 1, 2022. The end goal is to reduce the amount of food waste ending up in landfills. Shown in the infographic, the preferred step in the hierarchy is to reduce the volume of surplus food; prevent the waste to begin with. The next step is to use that excess to feed people through donations to soup kitchens, shelters, food banks, etc. The third step applies to animal feed. This law uses the same definitions and builds off the above regulations.

The current required facilities list was posted June 1 to NYS DEC website and is tied to volume of two tons of wasted food per week generated by businesses. A partial list includes restaurants, colleges, hotels, sports or entertainment venues, and supermarkets. Not included are schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and farms. Some facilities have food waste generated by multiple, independent, restaurants. Solid waste haulers are required



EPA developed the inverted pyramid to show the hierarchy of food recovery. The end goal is to keep food waste out of landfills.

to handle that waste.

What can be fed? Using the legal definitions from NYS Ag & Markets, "Garbage means putrescible [spoilable] animal and poultry wastes from the handling, processing, preparation, cooking and consumption of foods." This does not include dairy products or byproducts, eggs, discarded vegetables or fruit. These items need to be handled as human food to prevent any chemical or other type of contamination. Food under contamination recall should not be fed unless heat treated.

What does it mean for livestock feed? At the very least it will make businesses more aware of scraps as a byproduct as opposed to waste. If you are interested in feeding scraps, the first step would be to familiarize yourself with the rules; this article just provides an overview and does not get into the specific details. Regardless of the size of waste generator, they will need



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Remember To Check Out The NWNY Team Blog!

Our goal for this blog is to share with farmers and allied industry professionals, technical and applicable resources regarding all aspects of dairy farming, livestock and small farms, field crops and soils, and topics related to farm business management and precision agriculture.

The blog will feature **Crop Alerts, Dairy Alerts, Bilingual (Spanish) Resources, Upcoming Events** and more from our team members. When new material is published, subscribers will receive an email notification.

You can visit the blog at: <u>https://blogs.cornell.edu/nwny-dairy-livestock-field-crops/</u>



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NY's Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law and Its Impact on Livestock

(Continued from page 1)

to follow the regulations, too. Reach out to your local restaurant, grocery store, college, or school to see what they have available. You would need to pick up the scraps regularly, a few times a week, especially in warmer months. Another action is figuring out nutritive value and how much of the diet can be replaced. This depends on the species. An option would also be to purchase from a facility that heat treats the waste. There are facilities that heat-treat food waste containing meat scraps. Organics recyclers are regulated under NYS DEC.

There are also digesters licensed in the region to take food scraps plus composting sites as well. I won't go into any detail for those options in this article.

It was interesting to me the two calls I received are from exempt facilities. I am guessing the law will change in the future to include all waste generating facilities. To learn more about the law visit our website <u>https://</u> <u>nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu</u>, under the *Livestock* tab to view a resource list put together by a work group at Cornell. Some of the links are from a recent virtual workshop on the topic.



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Possible Record Wheat Harvest? I Like the Sound of That!

by Mike Stanyard

It is not in the bin yet, but overall, winter wheat in NWNY looks fantastic and in great shape. The June 20 USDA National Ag Statistics Service report rated the NY winter wheat crop as 42% excellent, 34% good, 15% fair and 9% poor. I know of a least three farms who have entered the National Wheat Yield Contest. Last year's NY Champ, Matt Touissaint, put up a great benchmark of 110 bushels but I am pretty positive someone will exceed that this year.

2021 Wheat Season In-Review

Why does it look so good? We had a great fall for early planting in great conditions. We had great establishment with plenty of tillering and wheat went into the winter in great shape. We had a reasonably mild winter with limited wet holes and winterkill losses. With temperatures above normal in March and early April, many fields received that early shot of nitrogen as field conditions were dryer than normal. Wheat responded and despite some cooler temperatures, the crop continued to look good. We had some excellent growth and many fields closed canopy early which allowed maximum interception of light. Powdery mildew was pesky early and many sprayed it along with their herbicide application. Most were able to hit the perfect time for most of their nitrogen when the first node came above ground at Feekes stage 6. The flag leaf surprised many who had not applied their herbicides yet and some missed the window. I did not see many marestail issues but it will become more evident as wheat matures and dries down. I know more growers were applying Huskie in the fall or spring to take care of it.

Wheat planted in mid-to-late September started to flower in the last days of May into the first week of June. Conditions for pollination were excellent, dry weather and a breeze. Cereal leaf beetles were present, but numbers never really got above threshold. Stripe rust was a no-show. We did not catch many armyworm moths in our pheromone traps and thankfully, we have not seen any larvae in any of our wheat as of June 15. Growers who sprayed a fungicide for Fusarium Head Scab were able to clean up some of these other pests at the same time. The Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (<u>http://</u>

www.wheatscab.psu.edu/) predicted a low risk of FHS infection (green) for most of the NWNY region during peak pollination.



The Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool showing the NWNY region at low risk on June 5, 2021.

Harvest Preparation

Know your grain moisture and have the combine prepared to go when it is time to pull the trigger. Weather and field conditions do not always cooperate during harvest. Many producers will start harvesting at 20% and dry it down to 13%. Producers who do not have dryers and rely on field drying, run the greater risk of reduced grain quality. The first harvested wheat will have the best quality. If your wheat flowered that first week of June, hopefully the low Fusarium risk predicted for this region held true. When scouting prior to harvest, look for pink coloration and shrunken kernels in the heads. If these conditions are present, set the combine fans to high and try to blow these light kernels back onto the field. Anything you can do to keep that vomitoxin level below 2ppm is worth the extra time.



Wheat just prior to harvest in 2020. Photo: M. Stanyard/ NWNY Team (Continued on page 6)

Possible Record Wheat Harvest for NY? I Like the Sound of That!

(Continued from page 5)

Grain Bin Preparation

Storage facilities should be inspected thoroughly prior to grain fill. Look for openings, leaky vents, fallen supports, and signs of rodents. Bird nests are always a treat to find in the auger or vents. Stored grain insects survive in old grain so a thorough cleaning is the first line of defense. Clean up all remaining grain on the floor of the bin. Take a long-handled broom and remove any grain stuck to the walls, around the door, supports, ladder rungs and in the fan opening. If there are lots of fines remaining on the floor, clean up with a shop vacuum. It is amazing how many insect eggs and larvae are in a small amount of material. The same is true for grain handling equipment such as augers and drying bins.

After the bin is cleaned out, an insecticide application will help keep the grain mass clean. This can be more helpful the longer you keep the grain in storage. We are very limited when it comes to empty bin insecticide treatments. TEMPO[®] SC ULTRA and STORCIDE[™] II (see label for application restrictions) both are labeled. Diatomaceous earth is a non-insecticidal silica sand applied as a dust in the bin and below the floor.

I know many growers are excited about their potential wheat yield this year. The NY final average for last year was 69 bushels. Fingers crossed for some great yields this month!

Anyone interested in viewing the recording of the Virtual Cornell Small Grains Field Day on June 3rd can watch it at this link, <u>https://tinyurl.com/Small-Grains-Field-Day-2021</u>.



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AG FOCUS JULY 2021

CREDIT EAST

Improving the Viability of Hemp Supply Chain Enterprises in the Northeast: An Important Role for Risk Management

by John Hanchar and Lindsey Pashow

This article is a very brief introduction to the risks faced by hemp supply chain firms. The article draws from the USDA publication listed below. For more complete coverage of agricultural risks, please see

- USDA. 2013. <u>Introduction to Risk Management Un-</u> derstanding Agricultural Risks: Production; Marketing; Financial; Legal; Human, 2nd edition. < <u>http://</u> extensionrme.org/pubs/ <u>IntroductionToRiskManagement.pdf</u>>
- Sciabarrasi, UNH Cooperative Extension, < <u>https://</u> <u>nevegetable.org/big-five-risks-faced-farmers</u>>

Summary

- Hemp supply chain firms (agricultural producers, processors, retailers, and other providers of goods and services) face a variety of risks: production, marketing (price), financial, legal, and human resources.
- Risk is variability in outcomes. Risk exists when outcomes, for example, quantities and quality of harvested hemp, are not known with certainty.
- Knowledge, awareness, attitudes, skills, and strategies implemented by value chain firms with respect to risks differ by business.
- Cornell University/College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CALS)/Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) has begun work on a Northeast Extension Risk Management Education funded project – the purpose is to increase the supply chain's capacity to successfully manage risks.

Risk

Risk is variability in outcomes. Risk is present when outcomes are not known with certainty. Often, farmers can expect outcomes to occur over some range. Each outcome has some chance of occurring. Production, market (price), financial, legal, and human resources are five sources of agricultural risks. Too, processors of hemp raw products face risks – quantities produced, quality of product, quantities marketed, and prices received are frequently not known with certainty, that is, outcomes can vary.

Risk management strategies include: avoid, retain, reduce, self-insure, shift.

- Avoid not selecting a particular enterprise or activity
- Retain no protection from downside risk, as in holding an unpriced good
- Reduce for example, keeping fences in good repair to keep livestock off the highway, crop management practices, developing and implementing a marketing plan that locks in some level of guaranteed return
- Self-insure emergency reserves funded from previous years' returns
- Shift -- a contractual agreement where someone else takes on some of the chance of a negative outcome in exchange for a premium, for example, crop insurance; the more risk shifted, the greater the cost

Risk Management for Hemp Supply Chain Firms

Risks threaten the viability of hemp supply chain firms. Successful implementation of risk management strategies increases the likelihood of improving viability. CALS/CEE has started work on a project funded by the Northeast Extension Risk Management Education Program (NERME). The main purpose of the project is to work with hemp growers and processors to provide insight into five sources of risks associated with the hemp industry -- production, marketing, financial, legal, and human resources.

The project focuses on working with hemp growers and processors in New York and Vermont to identify, evaluate and implement risk management solutions. Survey respondents will help to identify priority risks, and a small working group of hemp growers and processors will work together to recommend solutions. Knowledge, awareness, attitudes, abilities, and strategies with respect to

(Continued from page 7)

managing risks will vary by value chain firm, but with a better understanding of risks and strategies, a business owner can decide what risk management strategies are best.

Throughout the grant, Pashow and Hanchar will be working with Heather Darby from The University of Vermont. The grant period is April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. To discuss and/or learn more about this project, including participation opportunities for supply chain firms, please contact Lindsey Pashow (lep67@cornell.edu; 518-569-3073) or John Hanchar (jjh6@cornell.edu; 585-233-9249).

This material is based upon work supported by

USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28588.





USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Upcoming Webinars

July 12, 2021 - Noon (CST)

"Three key points for exceptional hoof health" Karl Burgi, Save Cows Network Sponsored by Hoof-Zink https://hoards.com/flex-309-Webinars.html

August 9, 2021 - Noon (CST)

"Estimating energy supply and requirements of dairy cows" Bill Weiss, Ohio State University Sponsored by QLF https://hoards.com/flex-309-Webinars.html

August 16, 2021 - Noon (ET)

"Dairy Workforce Focus: Changing Workforce Dynamics" Phil Durst, Senior Extension Educator at Michigan State University, presented by Penn State Extension https://extension.psu.edu/dairy-workforce-focuschanging-workforce-dynamics

Tyler is a Farm Systems Support Specialist. He is one of 6 people who work to integrate technology systems across dairy farms.

Tyler grew up on a dairy, and like many of his colleagues, he has a unique understanding of farming and technology. He understands the role these systems play on a dairy operation and what solutions will work best for each situation. Tyler believes in farming, and so do we.



Why Timely Euthanasia Matters by Margaret Quaassdorff

If our farm system is working correctly, every dairy cow should have two careers; a great healthy career as a milk cow, and a short successful career as a beef cow. In her presentation during the 2021 Dairy Cattle Welfare Symposium, Dr. Jen Walker, discussed the challenges producers, veterinarians, and caretakers face in identifying the correct time to euthanize a dairy cow or calf at the appropriate humane endpoint. This is a difficult topic for dairy producers to discuss, but Walker underlines the importance of having a plan to help work through what is usually an emotional situation, stating that "Death is not a welfare issue, but dying is."

Euthanasia is a critical component of dairy production systems, providing animal caretakers a way to alleviate animal suffering. Though our goal is always to keep all animals on our farms healthy, there are times when an animal must be euthanized when chances of recovery are low, the animal's pain is not manageable, and/or its quality of life has deteriorated. The timeliness of euthanasia is an equally critical component of animal welfare.

Based on research data, untimeliness of euthanasia on dairy farms has been identified as an area in need of significant improvement. If it were easy, everyone would be getting it right. So how do we start thinking about timely best management practices for proper euthanasia on our own farms?

Dr. Walker suggests taking into consideration each of the following:

1. The Cow's Perspective

From the cow's perspective, all we need to accomplish is to **avoid or minimize suffering.** That's it. Pretty simple.

2. The Consumer's/Customer's Perspective

From the perspective of the consumer or processors and other companies buying or promoting our milk and dairy products, **avoiding or minimizing suffering** is still the main moral importance. This is also tied to maintaining a social license to operate a dairy business, and is important for brand protection. In addition, a best management practice for euthanasia from this perspective includes assuring food quality and safety.

3. The Producer's Perspective

Again, as stewards of the animals we own, it should be foremost in our minds to **avoid or minimize suffering,** which as you can see is made a priority in all three perspectives. We are also concerned with maintaining our social license, and meeting the demands of consumers and customers, and providing a quality food product. In addition, we as producers also need to keep in mind that we need to maximize our return on investment when considering these best management practices. However, it is clear that profit is not a justification for suffering.

What might this look like?

- 1. Before treating a sick or injured cow, consider likelihood of her return to production, not simply her chance of survival.
 - a. Consider her on-farm journey as well. What does that look like? What are we asking her to tolerate and endure during recovery?
 - b. Can we provide proper care for this particular cow in this particular situation at this time?
 - c. Does the level of care we can provide change throughout the year? What times of the year are we understaffed or our attentions are focused elsewhere (holidays, cropping season, etc.) How should our protocols change under these circumstances?
- Examine Hospital, Special Needs & Chronic Pens daily for culling decisions & 2x/day for Euthanasia decisions
 - a. Take action swiftly (as soon as it is safe)
 - When euthanasia is the correct decision it is better to do it a day too early than an hour too late to avoid or minimize animal suffering

(Continued on page 10)

Why Timely Euthanasia Matters

(Continued from page 9)

- 3. Evaluate Treatment Success
 - a. Work with your veterinarian to review protocols and for guidance on how to improve
 - b. Keep on-farm records of your treatments, costs associated, and success rates to have reliable data to make decisions moving forward

"For the welfare of the individual cow and for the health and sustainability of the industry, it is paramount that stakeholders develop effective training and guidance tools that can be used at the farm level to ensure that farms support the creation of a culture of care that ensures that timely euthanasia is seen and practiced as a priority." Walker, Jennifer B et al. "Timely Euthanasia in the United States Dairy Industry-Challenges and a Path Forward." *Animals : an open access journal from MDPI* vol. 10,1 71. 31 Dec. 2019, doi: <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/</u> <u>ani10010071</u>

Cornell Dairy Specialists worked together with the National FARM program to produce the *Dairy Cattle Euthanasia Decision Tree* (see page 11) to assist animal caretakers in making difficult choices regarding animal welfare and euthanasia.

You can download your own copy of the chart here: https://tinyurl.com/FARM-English-Euthanasia

It is also available in Spanish here: https://tinyurl.com/FARM-Spanish-Euthanasia

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Ag & Art Join Forces to Promote Soil Health and Sustainability

by Joan Sinclair Petzen

Since 2016, the CCE NWNY Team and American Farmland Trust have been working hand-in-hand with USDA Agencies and WNY Crop Management Association in the Genesee River Basin to expand the knowledge of farm practices that improve soil health and sustainability. Our work informs women non-operating landowners, farmers, and professionals who work with landowners to understand conservation and business practices that foster sustainability. One unique aspect of the project developed a photo essay with funding from the Great Lakes Protection Fund. The premiere of the photo essay, delayed by the pandemic, will be in August and September at the Wyoming County Arts Council in Perry.

American Farmland Trust commissioned national renowned photographer, Rebecca Drobis, to document the soil health improving practices being implemented on lands owned and/or or operated by women in the Genesee Watershed. NWNY's Farm Business Management Specialist Joan Petzen worked together with Drobis to identify subjects and helped her to capture the essence of sustainability on farms in Wyoming and Livingston Counties.

The culmination of that work, a documentary photo essay, will premiere beginning with an opening reception on August 6th and runs through September 24. Make plans today to visit the exhibition at the 31 South Main Street in Perry. See full details of the event in the flyer included on the next page. An online version of the photo essay featuring work in the Genesee River Basin can be viewed at: <u>farmland.org/project/partnering-for-clean</u> <u>-water-in-the-great-lakes</u>



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THE ARTS COUNCIL FOR WYOMING COUNTY GALLERY TO HOST

Our Farmers, Our Water, Our Future

A Photo Essay of Farmers and Conservation in the Genesee Valley

BY REBECCA DROBIS

AUGUST 6-SEPTEMBER 24. 2021

SHARED LAND ETHIC UNITES FARMERS in the fertile Genesee River Valley of New York–conservation-minded farmers who aim to leave the land better off than they found it. Through this exhibit, American Farmland Trust and award-winning portrait photographer Rebecca Drobis tell the story of these farmers, many of them women, in a series of intimate images that capture the essence of agriculture in the Genesee Watershed.

In this beautiful Wyoming County valley, many farmers, like the families depicted in the photo essay, are leaders in conservation practices that rebuild the soil and protect the environment.

"We know we are blessed and that we need to be responsible for what we have been given. We couldn't ask for a better place to be," says Meghan Hauser of Table Rock Farm in Castile, one of the forward-looking farmers depicted in the essay. "If we want to be farmers in the future, we must understand and take on our role with a sense of what it means to be trusted with these resources."

American Farmland Trust SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

This exhibition documents American Farmland Trust's "Landowners and Farmers partnering for Clean Water in the Great Lakes" campaign

to keep rivers and streams in the Great Lakes Basin clean. At this same time, AFT is focused on engaging with women landowners to develop new voices for conservation. Women currently own a significant portion of farmland around the country and are key stakeholders in the future of US agriculture. To learn more:

farmland.org/greatlakes/





Arts Council for Wyoming County Gallery GALLERY PHONE NUMBER: 585.237.3517 artswyco.org



OPENING RECEPTION Friday, August 6, 6:30pm Brief artist talk at 7pm

RSVP: Due to COVID-19, all ACWC's receptions will be offered in a hybrid format combining in-person attendance with digital streaming. The gallery will limit capacity to 50% and no food will be served. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may choose to wear or not wear a mask. Masks will be required for individuals who are not vaccinated. The event is free and open to the public, but individuals are required to RSVP via phone at 585.237.3517.

To find out more about the artist, Rebecca Drobis: **rebeccadrobis.com**

Thank you to our hosts: Arts Council for Wyoming County Gallery 31 S. Main Street, Perry, NY 14530 info@artswyco.org, artswyco.org





Weed ID: Meadow Foxtail by Nancy Glazier

I recently had a couple questions on the identification of this weed. It was found growing in Wayne County pastures. It showed up early May, was mowed, and quickly reappeared. My best guess from the photo is meadow foxtail.

Meadow foxtail is a perennial and has been around for many years. It shows up early May and prefers wetter soils; it is drought intolerant. What I didn't ask if heads had been clipped off; that would have helped prevent heads from reappearing. There is no way to control a grassy weed in grassy pastures and hayfields without total vegetation control. While it may not be as high-yielding as other grasses, it can be managed as and be a palatable grass after seedheads are removed, and adequate moisture is present.

> A closer look at meadow foxtail. Photo provided by: D. Rowlands









Troubleshooting Herd Health Issues on Your Dairy

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with Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Dairy Specialists and Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY

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Episode 2 - Pre-Weaned Calves (Part 2)	Episode 10 - Fresh Cows
Episode 3 - Weaning Transition	Episode 11 - Lactating Cow Production
Episode 4 - Post Weaned Heifers - Disease & Growth Issues	Episode 12 - Milk Production
Episode 5 - Heifers - Reproduction	Episode 13 - Feed Behavior
Episode 6 - Calving	Episode 14 - Facilities and Ventilation
Episode 7 - Transition Cow Issues	Episode 15 - Lameness
Episode 8 - Mastitis Part 1	Episode 16 - Dry Cows

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>> UPCOMING EVENTS <<



August 2021

Empire Farm Days - August 3-4-5, 2021. Tues. 9-4, Wed. 9-4, Thur. 9-3 at Palladino Farms - Heritage Hill Brewhouse 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY 13138. For more information visit: <u>www.empirefarmdays.com</u>

2021 New York Corn & Soybean Growers Summer Crop Tour - August 5, 2021 from 11:00am - 7:00pm. Catalpa Farms 1921 County Road 8, Canandaigua, NY 14424. Keynote speaker Rob Sharkey, better known to his many followers as The Shark Farmer. \$75 General Admission, \$50 NYCSGA Member Admission. Registration deadline: August 4, 2021. Register online at: https://tinyurl.com/20201-NYCSGA-Summer-Crop-Tour

<u>Women Landowners Learning Circle - Exploring Soil Health Practices</u> - August 9, 2021 from 10:00am - 3:00pm. Held at the Wyoming County Council for the Arts, 31 South Main St., Perry, NY and also includes a tour of Table Rock Farm. Registration is required and can be found on the American Farmland Trust - Women for the Land Program website: <u>https://farmland.org/women-events/</u>



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