



North Country Ag Advisor

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

CCE North Country Regional Ag Team

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North Country Ag Advisor

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“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.”

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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.”

Field Crops and Soils

Peak Flight for Western Bean Cutworm in NNY is NOW

By Kitty O'Neil and Mike Hunter

- Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) is a destructive pest that can cause economic losses in field corn, sweet corn, popcorn, and dry beans. On corn, damage occurs to ears of developing corn plants, while dry bean damage is to developing pods. Corn varieties with the Viptera/Vip3A trait still have resistance to WBC.
- WBC moths prefer to lay their eggs in pre-tassel corn. Once a corn field is fully tasseled, WBC will move on to later planted corn fields, or to other host crops such as dry beans. Egg masses are dime-sized and are found on the top side of the upper leaves of the corn plant. The eggs mature in about a week or 10 days and tiny, 2mm-long caterpillar-like larvae begin migrating toward the ear, feeding on the tassel, leaves, fallen pollen/anthers, and silks along the way. They enter the ear from the tip, often clipping off silks, or from the sides, leaving holes through the husks. Several larvae may coexist inside a single ear. After growing inside the ear, mature 1.25" larvae drop off the plant in late summer and early fall and burrow into the soil, often deeply enough to overwinter and survive tillage equipment. NYSIPM guidelines suggest searching for egg masses on 100 plants per field and treatment with an insecticide is appropriate when 5% or more of the 100 plants had an egg mass or small WBC larvae. Insecticide is only effective on small larvae before they've entered the ear.
- Collaborators are again trapping and counting WBC moths across NYS. Fifty-seven traps are being monitored statewide. We have installed 27 traps across the 6 NNY counties and have been monitoring moth catches since mid-June. The purpose of the WBC traps is to monitor moth presence and determine the peak flight. We cannot use trap counts to determine when a field should be sprayed with an insecticide, however. Traps help us identify fields and areas at risk and *when* scouting should take place. Typically, the last week of July or first week of August is when peak trap catches occur, marking peak flight. Last week we are just at peak and NYSIPM's WBC model predicts we have now seen 40-60% of moth flight activity for this season. The table below lists weekly and cumulative moth counts in each of the 27 monitored fields in NNY. Trap monitoring will continue for a few weeks.
- If you have the ability to spray tall corn, it is worthwhile to scout any fields that had not fully tasseled by about July 25th. Scouting corn at the pre-tassel stage of growth is an

important aspect of managing this pest. The economic threshold is 5% of the plants having egg masses and/or small larvae. The 5% is an accumulated threshold, meaning that if week one you get 3% of the plants having egg masses and the next week you get 2% more, this adds up to a cumulative 5%. WBC moths lay eggs on the upper leaves of pre-tasseling corn plants, so any field that is still at pre-tasseling or tasseling last week will be a target of this pest. Those fields should be scouted thoroughly for WBC egg masses as they'll be targeted by WBC that are emerging locally and those arriving on storm fronts.

NYS IPM Western Bean Cutworm Trap Network Data, 2021

		Trap Catch During Week of:				
County	Town	4-Jul	11-Jul	18-Jul	Total	Trend
Jefferson	Calcium	9	80	448	537	
Jefferson	Ellisburg	2	255	526	783	
Jefferson	Hounsfield	1	56	216	273	
Jefferson	Alexandria	0	46	161	207	
Jefferson	Rutland	0	4	339	343	
Jefferson	Henderson	9	102	380	491	
Lewis	Lowville	0	12	593	605	
Lewis	Turin	1	24	110	135	
Lewis	Lowville	7	52	109	168	
Lewis	Martinsburg	0	0	182	182	
St. Lawrence	Oswegatchie	2	22	219	243	
St. Lawrence	Dekalb	0	17	187	204	
St. Lawrence	Potsdam	0	24	775	799	
St. Lawrence	Lisbon	0	33	840	873	
St. Lawrence	Waddington	0	6	275	281	
St. Lawrence	Brasher	1	96	1050	1147	
St. Lawrence	Lawrence	6	16	600	622	
St. Lawrence	Parishville	0	27	410	437	
Franklin	Bangor	0	0	425	425	
Franklin	Malone	4	7	625	636	
Franklin	Chateaugay	2	0	27	29	
Clinton	Champlain	1	15	100	116	
Clinton	Beekmantown	0	11	317	328	
Clinton	Peru	5	272	503	780	
Clinton	Chazy	2	13	228	243	
Essex	Willsboro	1	19	124	144	

Additional resources:

- Western Bean Cutworm. 2021. Cornell Field Crops. http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwpr/page/7/#Western_Bean_Cutworm_Update_91214
- Western Bean Cutworm Flight Completion Model. 2021. NYS Integrated Pest Management (NYSIPM), Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) and Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA). <https://alexsinfarosa.github.io/western-bean-cutworm-model/>
- DiFonzo. Feb 2021. Handy Bt Trait Table for US Corn Production. https://aqrilife.org/lubbock/files/2021/02/BtTraitTable_Feb_2021B.pdf

Late Postemergence Herbicide Options for Soybeans

By Mike Hunter

A very popular question has been, “What can I spray on my soybeans to control large weeds that weren’t controlled earlier in the season?” Let me start out by saying that if you have waist high weeds in your soybeans the damage is done and most, if not all, herbicide applications will be a form of “revenge spraying”. Spraying very tall weeds usually provides unsatisfactory weed control. If you still have some weeds that are 6 inches tall or less there is a better chance to control them.

Roundup or glyphosate can be applied through the R2 (full flowering) growth stage on Roundup Ready or glyphosate tolerant soybeans. Enlist One and Enlist Duo can also be applied throughout the R2 growth stage in Enlist or E3 soybeans. Once the soybeans have reached the R3 (beginning pod) growth stage these products are no longer an option.

If the soybeans are at R3 (a pod 3/16” long found at one of the first four uppermost nodes) Cobra, Resource, and Basagran are the options that are left. Cobra can be applied through R6 (full seed) or 45 days before harvest, Resource 60 days before harvest, and Basagran 30 days before harvest. These are all selective contact broadleaf herbicides. Unfortunately, none of these are very good at controlling common lambsquarters.

If you have any questions about late season soybean weed control, feel free to contact me anytime at meh27@cornell or 315-788-8450.



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NYFVI Project Outreach: Calf Management On-Farm Tour

Grimshaw Dairy is proud to host a farm tour focusing on calf care, cow comfort, and transition cow facilities as it related to a NY Farm Viability Institute grant project over the last two years. CCE Regional Dairy Specialists will go over results and benchmarks from assessments of these areas from all 15 farms involved in the study, and Grimshaws will share areas they've worked to improve related to calf barn facilities and management, as well as give a farm tour and answer questions about their value-added operation. The tour is free to all participants, but registration is required.



Pizza and milk will be provided thanks to NYFVI grant funding.

Registration: FREE

https://ncrat.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=1649

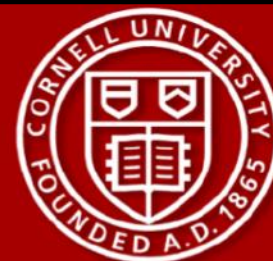
Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

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South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Program

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August 25, 2021
12:00pm - 2:00pm

Grimshaw Dairy
9922 Co Rte 152
Adams, NY

*** NON-VACCINATED**
ATTENDEES MUST
WEAR A MASK AND
SOCIALLY DISTANCE *

COVID-19 Disclaimer:

This program will adhere to all NYS and Cornell University COVID-19 safety guidelines including social distancing, mask wearing, and hand sanitizing. If guidelines change and limit in-person gatherings, this program will be postponed until it is safe.

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Benchmarking Calf Growth and Performance on Northern New York Dairy Herds

By Casey Havekes and Lindsay Ferlito

**This article originally appeared in PRO-DAIRY "The Manager" July 2021 issue*

The pre-weaning period is a vulnerable time for dairy calves and as a result, optimizing growth and health can be a challenge for dairy producers. Ensuring calves successfully transition through weaning albeit important, can only tell us so much about a calf raising program. It is equally important to quantify how calves are growing and performing to get the full picture of how successful a calf raising program is. With that objective in mind, Cornell Cooperative Extension North Country Regional Ag Team (CCE NCRAT) Dairy Specialists recruited eight farms across the northern New York region to participate in a peer-to-peer discussion group focused on calf management. The discussion group was funded through the Dairy Advancement Program, which required us to meet on three separate occasions and to meet three specific milestone goals. Early on it was emphasized that the goal of the discussion group was not a competition, nor designed to rank the eight participating farms, but rather to encourage discussion, and for participants to learn from one another. The more specific objectives of the group were to: 1) measure transfer of passive immunity (TPI) among newborn calves, 2) calculate average daily gain (ADG) across the pre-weaning period, and 3) to determine the costs associated with each farm's heifer raising program. The group discussion consisted of eight calf managers/farm owners across northern New York, along with the two CCE NCRAT Dairy Specialists. Results from the first two objectives are described below. To ensure anonymity, participating herds were assigned a herd identification number ranging from one through eight; however due to inconsistencies in data collection farm eight is omitted from this report.

Measuring Transfer of Immunity of Newborn Dairy Calves

The first objective of the project was to measure TPI among newborn calves and to benchmark individual farms against industry standards. For the past several decades, the industry standard to evaluate TPI was to categorize calves as having success or failure of TPI. Recently, new industry standards have been defined and documented by assigning calves into one of four categories (Lombard et al., 2020). According to Dr. Lombard's research, more than 40 percent of calves within a herd should achieve excellent TPI, about 30 percent should achieve good TPI, about 20 percent should achieve fair TPI and less than 10 percent should achieve poor TPI (Table 2).

For this discussion group, we collected blood samples from a subset of calves on each farm between 24 hours and seven days of age. Based on the data in **Figure 1** and **Table 1**, there was variation within and between the participating herds. As a result of sharing this information, individual participating farms have continued to work with the CCE NCRAT Dairy Specialists to improve colostrum management protocols. For example, following the dissemination of these results, farm six made changes to their colostrum management protocols and asked that TPI levels continue to be monitored for new calves entering the herd under the new management strategies. Following these changes, farm six is now achieving 100 percent of sampled calves in the "Excellent" category (≥ 6.2 g/dL).

FIGURE 1. Serum Total Protein levels for a subset of calves on NNY dairy herds.

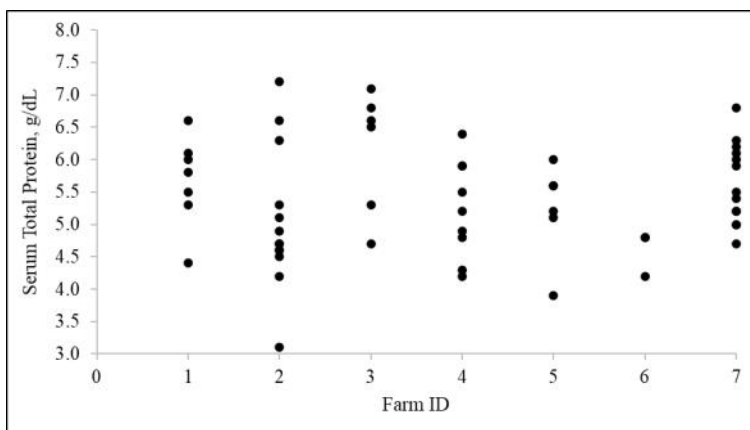


TABLE 1. Transfer of Passive Immunity levels for participating farms categorized using Lombard et al. (2020) revised industry standards.

FARM ID	EXCELLENT (> 6.2)	GOOD (5.8-6.1)	FAIR (5.1-5.7)	POOR (< 5.1)
1	14%	43%	29%	14%
2	23%	15%	0%	62%
3	67%	0%	17%	17%
4	20%	40%	0%	40%
5	0%	17%	67%	17%
6	0%	0%	0%	100%
7	23%	23%	31%	23%
INDUSTRY STANDARD (LOMBARD ET AL., 2020)	$>40\%$	$\sim 30\%$	$\sim 20\%$	$<10\%$

Continued on Page 7...

TABLE 2. Adapted from Lombard et al. (2020); Revised industry standard recommendations.

TPI CATEGORY	SERUM IGG (G/L)	EQUIVALENT TOTAL PROTEIN (G/DL)	EQUIVALENT BRIX (%)
EXCELLENT	≥25.0	≥6.2	≥9.4
GOOD	18.0-24.9	5.8-6.1	8.9-9.3
FAIR	10.0-17.9	5.1-5.7	8.1-8.8
POOR	<10	<5.1	<8.1

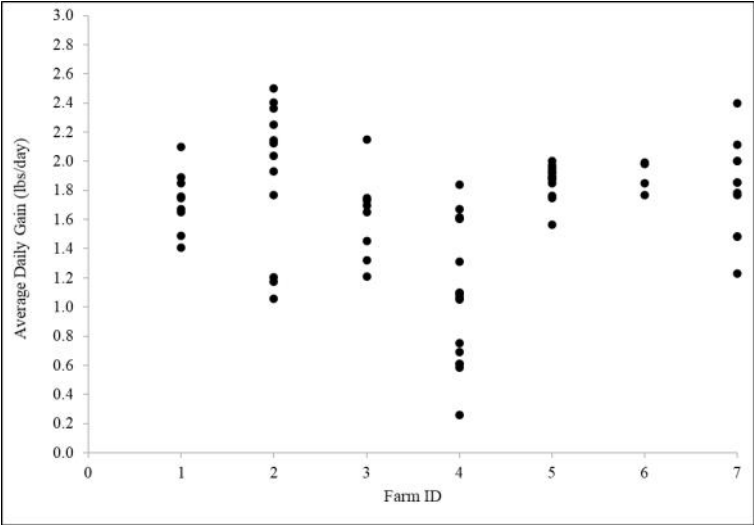
Measuring Average Dairy Gain (ADG)

Quantifying ADG was a topic that surfaced multiple times on a recent CCE Agricultural Needs Assessment Survey that was distributed to farms across the northern NY region in 2019. It became apparent through follow-up conversations that calf managers and producers ‘think’ that their calves are growing well and meeting targets, but they do not have a method of to track ADG to know for sure. This led the CCE NCRAT Dairy Specialists to develop a second objective to track ADG throughout the pre-weaning period for a subset of calves on each participating farm. We aimed to collect birth weights within three days of birth and weaning weights within seven days of being fully weaned off milk. The average amount of time between weights for each farm is reported in **Table 3**.



CCE NCRAT dairy specialist Casey Havekes weighs a calf on a northern NY dairy. Photo credit: L. Ferlito

FIGURE 2. Average daily gain for a subset of calves on seven participating herds in Northern NY.



The ADG results shown in **Figure 2** display variation within and between farms. The widely accepted industry benchmark for calf growth is to double birthweight by 60 days of age. Rather than focusing our attention on weighing calves at 60 days of age, we aimed to weigh calves once they were fully weaned off milk (**Table 3**). Interestingly, farm four made changes halfway through the discussion group after learning their calves were not growing adequately. The four highest ADGs reported for farm 4 (**Figure 2**) were taken from calves following our recommendation to extend the weaning age and extend the weaning period length. Farm four has continued to work with CCE NCRAT Dairy Specialists to promote the growth and success of their calves. Additionally, despite having good results, farm three has asked to keep tracking calf growth as they transition from feeding milk replacer to whole milk.

TABLE 3. Benchmarking seven participating northern NY dairies with industry standards for average daily gain.

FARM ID	DOUBLE BIRTH WEIGHT?	WEEKS BETWEEN DATA COLLECTION	DOUBLE BIRTH WEIGHT BY 60 DAYS OF AGE? (APPROXIMATE CALCULATION)
1	Yes (2.88x)	~13	1.90x
2	Yes (2.12x)	~8	2.27x
3	Yes (2.17x)	~9	2.06x
4	No (1.70x)	~7	2.08x
5	Yes (2.60x)	~10	2.22x
6	Yes (3.32x)	~16	1.78x
7	Yes (1.97x)	~14	1.20x

Continued on Page 8...

Overall Impact

Overall, this project was successful in helping northern NY farms track TPI rates and ADG on their herds. While benchmarking is a very valuable tool, and one that we relied on heavily for this discussion group, it is important to understand the data provided in this report are the results of an exploratory project. There are many outside factors that were not considered that could drive the results presented in this report. For your reference, **Table 4** outlines the housing and feeding strategy for each of the seven participating farms.

The results from this exploratory project sparked great discussion among the participants. One calf manager said “The info is really rich, and we can use it to make improvements on our farm. I’m interested in what the other farmers are doing and this feedback from them is helpful.” Further, this project also motivated some farms to implement changes to their feeding and management strategies to achieve better calf growth and performance. As noted earlier, a third objective is to quantify the cost of raising heifers for each farm up to 13 weeks of age. The CCE NCRAT Dairy

Specialists are still working through this objective, and participating farms are eager to better understand their costs associated with this period to make economically favorable improvements to their systems.

TABLE 4. Descriptive summary the housing and feeding program for each participating farm.

FARM ID	HOUSING SYSTEM	FEEDING PROGRAM
1	Individual pens	Whole milk + probiotic, 2x/d
2	Hutches	Whole milk + balancer, 2x/d
3	Hutches	Whole milk / milk replacer, 2x/d
4	Individual pens	Milk replacer, 2x/d
5	Hutches	Pasteurized whole milk + balancer, 2x/d
6	Hutches	Whole milk, 2x/d
7	Group pens	Acidified milk replacer, ad lib

ATTENTION NORTHERN NEW YORK DAIRY FARMERS...

NCRAT Dairy Specialists want to help you track progress as you make changes to your dairy!

Example Projects:

- monitoring lying time and lameness scoring following a foot bath change
- tracking cow comfort metrics following a stall update, or new barn build
 - measuring average daily gain of calves following a dietary change
- tracking passive transfer of calves following a colostrum management change
 - analyzing sorting activity following a forage particle size reduction
 - ... and more!

Lindsay: lc636@cornell.edu; 607-592-0290 / Casey: cdh238@cornell.edu; 315-955-2059



Beat the Heat!

By Casey Havekes and Lindsay Ferlito

Heat stress is a hot topic these days as more and more research demonstrates the negative impacts it can have not only on mature cows, but also on calves born to heat-stressed dams, and the future performance of those calves. Every year we are learning more about heat stress, and perhaps even more importantly what we can do in terms of heat abatement. We are no stranger to heat stress in the North Country, especially after the summer we have had so far, so we decided to host a program dedicated to discussing strategies to beat the summer heat! We hosted the program at 2 locations across the North Country in the month of June, the first was hosted at the Kelly Farm in Rensselaer Falls, NY, and the second was hosted at Miner Institute in Chazy, NY. We were fortunate to have Dr. Rick Grant, Katie Ballard, and Emily Fread, all from Miner Institute as our featured speakers for the program. Below are some of the take home points for those who were not able to attend the program in person.

First, it is important to recognize that temperature is not the only factor that plays a role in heat stress. When we talk about heat stress and livestock, we often refer to the term “THI”, which stands for temperature humidity index. Both ambient temperature and relative humidity are considered when calculating THI, and the resulting value and severity of heat stress can be seen in the chart in Figure 1. Past research has concluded that lactating cattle start to experience heat stress at a THI of 68. According to Figure 1, this could happen with a temperature as low as 72°F if the humidity approaches 45%. During our in-person session, Katie Ballard explained that last year in the North Country between the months of June and October there were 45 days where the THI exceeded 68, and 27 days where it was above 70. This may not seem like a lot compared to a state like Florida where the THI is chronically high; however, Katie emphasized the importance of recognizing that the cows in Florida are at least able to adapt to the high THI levels. On the flip side, cows in the North Country are constantly shifting back and forth from hot and humid days to cooler days. In fact, the day we hosted the program at the Kelly Farm everyone was wearing long pants and a sweater, whereas just days before the heat and humidity were almost unbearable. These swings in temperature and humidity result in what we call episodic heat stress. Episodic heat stress can be more challenging for cows as it can take weeks for cows to acclimate to the heat.

Recently, researchers at Miner Institute conducted an on-farm experiment across four farms in Northern New York that had differing levels of heat abatement. The results from this

trial concluded that the presence of fans increased lying time and resulted in lower lameness levels compared to the barn that did not have any fans. It was also found that the cows in barns with no fans had higher reticular temperature compared to cows housed in barns with fans. Interestingly, these reticular temperatures were highest at night which suggests that even at night when the temperatures are typically lower, cows are still experiencing the impact of heat stress from throughout the day. Another interesting conclusion from this research was that cows that had ample water availability had lower reticular temperatures compared to cows with limited water availability. This finding really emphasizes the importance of providing adequate clean and fresh drinking water to cows and calves.

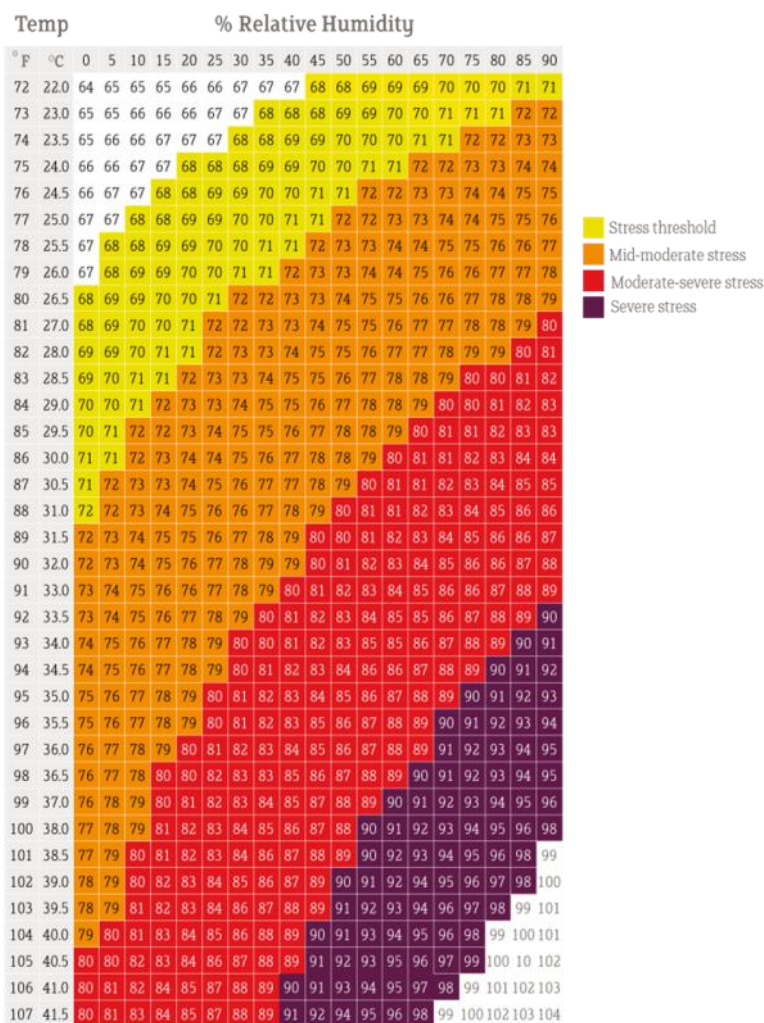


Figure 1. Temperature Humidity Index for dairy cattle

Continued on Page 10...

It's well known that heat stress can lead to reduced feed intake, milk production, and lying time, and the last subject we touched on was the impact on milk components. Often when we discuss milk fat depression during the summer months we associate it with heat stress, and this makes sense when we think about what is happening from both an intake and rumen functionality perspective. The on-farm trial mentioned above also measured milk components, and Rick Grant described how they also saw a milk protein percentage decrease in response to increasing THI regardless of heat abatement system. This is interesting because we don't often associate milk protein depression with heat stress, and although the mechanism driving this is still unclear, it drives home the point that heat stress has a profound impact on cow behavior and physiology.

After we discussed the potential negative impacts heat stress can have on cows, we also discussed some basic cooling strategies. The most important and likely the easiest strategy is to make sure that cows have sufficient drinking water. Rick Grant shared that cows will drink 0.4 more gallons per day for every 1.8°F increase in ambient temperature, so making sure the supply is there is very important to help with heat stress. Proper fan placement and angles are also important considerations for proper heat abatement. Fans should be positioned appropriately so that air is moving across cows at lying and standing heights at 4 to 6 miles per hour. Lastly, placing fans and sprinklers over feed alleys and in the holding area can go a long way in helping cows cool down.

If you have any questions, or suspect that heat stress may be an issue for your herd, please reach out to either Lindsay or Casey (lc636@cornell.edu, cdh238@cornell.edu). We have equipment and tools to measure different environmental parameters like temperature, humidity, THI, and wind speed and we can help troubleshoot these areas on your farm.



Figure 2. CCE NCRAT Lindsay Ferlito identifying hot spots in the barn by using an infrared thermal imaging gun. Photo credit: C. Havekes.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Healthy, Hardy, Heifers!

**A virtual series for managing heifers
post-weaning to calving**



CCE Regional Ag Teams are excited to offer this NEW heifer series! Join us VIRTUALLY for an 8-week series on heifer management topics across post-weaning to calving! This series will be offered virtually via Zoom every Friday starting October 1st, 2021, at 12:00pm EST. Sessions will be ~30-45 minutes in length, with a question period at the end.



Registration:

<https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1656>

**This program is offered at NO COST thanks to our
generous sponsors!**

For registration help/questions please contact:
Donette Griffith, dg576@cornell.edu / 607-391-2662

Sessions offered online (via Zoom) at 12:00pm EST

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Fridays at 12:00-12:45pm EST

October 1 – Series Kick-Off
Murilo Carvalho, Holstein Canada

**October 8 – Transition After
Weaning**
CCE NCRAT Dairy Specialists

**October 15 – Pre-Breeding
Comfort and Nutrition**
*CCE NCRAT and SCNY Dairy
Specialists*

October 22 – Hoof Health
Dr. Dorte Doefer, UW Madison

October 29 – Repro Strategies
Dr. Julio Giordano, Cornell

November 5 – Bred Heifers
Dr. Tom Tylutki, AMTS

**November 12 – Pre-calving
Nutrition**
Dr. Mike van Amburgh, Cornell


**November 19 – Pre-calving
Comfort and Facilities**
Dr. Katy Proudfoot, UPEI

Farm Business


Job Opportunity with the CCE North Country Ag Team

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(Cornell Cooperative Extension); Northern New York

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at the
ROOTS

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Burrville NY 800.626.3276
farmcrediteast.com/taxplanning



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

What's Happening in the Ag Community

*Due to COVID-19, there may be some restrictions for in-person work and programming.
Check out our CCE NCRAT Blog and YouTube channel for up to date information and content.*

Calf Management On-Farm Tour, August 25th, see page 5 for more information.

"Healthy, Hardy, Heifers!" A free virtual series starting October 1st, 2021. See page 11 for more information.

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