

North Country Ag Advisor

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Cornell Cooperative Extension North Country Regional Ag Team

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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."

Table Of Contents	
Given the Trend in Fertilizer Prices, What's Manure Worth?	3
Asian Jumping Worm Confirmed in Jefferson County	6
Understanding the Difference Between Colostrum Replacers and Colostrum Supplements	8
FARM Workforce Development and Environmental Stewardship Programs	10
Upcoming Events and Programs	Back cover

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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 Given the Trend in Fertilizer Prices, What's Manure Worth?

Recent dramatic increases in fertilizer prices have been a topic receiving a lot of discussion this fall. Many have noted the quick rise in prices and have predicted prices to be on par with record high costs of 2008 by this spring, worrying lots of farmers. Here in the North Country, we're lucky to have animal manure and sod resources contributing to soil fertility on most farms. These high fertilizer prices, and the uncertainty around them, make the value and management of our manure and sod resources even more important as cost-control options for the 2022 season.

High fertilizer prices make manure, sod, and crop residue nutrients equally valuable and worth managing as efficiently as possible. The biggest cost in the fertilizer budget is N, and manure, sod, and residue can contribute plenty, while also providing organic carbon, P₂O₅, K₂O, and lots of other macroand micronutrients. Regarding N, spring and in-season N application is best as environmental losses may be minimized. Fall and winter manure applications are much less efficient as most or all inorganic N is lost to the atmosphere and groundwater. Organic N is not lost however, and will be about 35% available to the subsequent crop, as it begins to decompose in warming spring soils. Farms with accurate, upto-date soil and manure analyses and sufficient manure storage to start the spring with full storage and maximum inventories will be able to maximize the value of both manure and sod nutrients.

The purpose of this article is to provide some numbers for valuing manure nutrients for winter 2021 and spring 2022. Figure 1 depicts price trends for 8 different common fertilizer materials over the past year, from November 2020, through early November 2021. These data are tracked and published by DTN and Progressive Farmer. These per-ton prices were used to calculate current per-lb of individual nutrient prices, which are listed in Table 1, along with 'what if' scenarios of 20% and 50% increases. Fertilizer materials highlighted in bold, MAP, Potash, and UAN28, were used for additional calculations presented in Table 2.

Manure N, P₂O₅ and K₂O

Stored, liquid dairy manure and stored, partly composted poultry litter are probably the most common manure resources applied for soil fertility on cropland in the North Country. Efficiency of use of manure N depends on manure type, application method, and timing during the year. Manure



<u>**Table 1.**</u> Current Mid-October prices for 8 common fertilizer materials, with per-lb nutrient prices, 20% and 50% increases calculated. Bold rows are most common sources of N, P_2O_5 , and K_2O in the North Country and are used for subsequent calculations.

Fertilizer	\$ per lb nutr 2021	rient at Nov 5, prices	+20%	+50%
DAP 18-46-0	\$ 0.885	per lb P ₂ O ₅	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.33
MAP 11-52-0	\$ 0.865	per lb P ₂ O ₅	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.30
Potash 0-0-60	\$ 0.625	per lb K ₂ O	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.94
Urea 46-0-0	\$ 0.788	per lb N	\$ 0.95	\$ 1.18
Am Polyphos 10-34-0	\$ 1.032	per lb N	\$ 1.24	\$ 1.55
Anhydr Am 82%	\$ 0.679	per lb N	\$ 0.81	\$ 1.02
UAN28	\$ 0.973	per lb N	\$ 1.17	\$ 1.46
UAN32	\$ 0.944	per lb N	\$ 0.92	\$ 1.14

analyses measure N content in 2 parts – a soluble, inorganic, immediately available ammonium-N fraction, and an organic-N fraction, which requires slow decomposition and is only 25-55% plant-available during the year following application,

Continued on Page 4...

depending on manure type. Smaller portions of that organic-N are also available to the crop over the next 2 years. Ammonium-N is immediately available for plant uptake, but it is also subject to environmental losses, like fertilizer N. Organic N is at a small risk of these losses, as it's converted to a plant available form and becomes slowly available for plant uptake. Ammonium-N may be almost 100% available for crop uptake when it is quickly in contact with soil beneath a growing crop. When no growing crop is present, and/or when manure is surface-applied without incorporation, loss of ammonia-N occurs, and efficiency is dramatically reduced. None of these inefficiencies exist for manure P₂O₅ or K₂O, as they are considered 100% crop available in the year of application and

Manure Nutrient Value

risk of loss is zero or negligible.

Table 2 combines these efficiency concepts with per-lb N, P_2O_5 , and K₂O prices from Table 1. Values were calculated for 2 scenarios - a 5000 gallon per acre liquid dairy manure application and a 1.5 ton per acre application of partly composted poultry litter, 2 commonly used manure sources across the North Country. For this example, liquid dairy manure supplied 13.1 lbs available N (ammonium-N + 35% of organic N), 6.8 lbs P₂O₅, and 16.8 lbs K₂O per 1000 gallons. The poultry manure example provides 41.4 lbs available N, 32.7 lbs P₂O₅, and 22.3 lbs K₂O per ton, as-is. Using these nutrient concentrations, values for 5000-gal per acre liquid dairy manure and a 1.5 ton per acre poultry litter applications were calculated. These 2 different scenarios provide a similar amount of N per acre – 65.4 lbs N for the dairy manure example and 62.1 lbs N for the poultry litter. The liquid dairy manure example also provides 34 lbs of P₂O₅ and 84 lbs K₂O per acre while the poultry litter example also provides 49 lbs of P₂O₅ and 34 lbs K₂O per acre. The value of these 2 application examples is presented for today's nutrient prices as well as 20% and 50% increases, imagining possible springtime

scenarios. If your preferred N source is dry urea, rather than liquid UAN28, expect your fertilizer replacement value to be 8-9% lower than those listed, due to its lower per-lb of N price.

The fertilizer replacement values listed in Table 2 reflect the high nutrient prices we expect for 2022 as well as the impact of timing of the application within the year and application method. Examples of a 5000-gallon per acre application of liquid dairy manure or a 1.5-ton per acre application of partly composted poultry manure were calculated and are listed. Actual manure analyses were used to represent nutrient content for these 2 examples, but note that nutrient content varies widely from one manure source to another or across time of year, so regular analysis is recommended to best utilize these resources. These rates were chosen because they represent small reasonable applications, providing about 62-65 Ibs of N. The biggest 'bang for the buck' is clearly the first scenario of applying manure to a growing crop with immediate contact with soil by injection or incorporation. A 5000-gallon application of liquid dairy manure has a value of \$145 at today's prices and as much as \$218 if prices rise by 50% by spring, while a 1.5-ton poultry litter application is worth \$124 today and as much as \$ 186 by spring if fertilizer prices continue to rise dramatically by 50%.

This table also reflects the loss in manure values if application is timed or applied with less ammonium-N capture. If manures are surface applied and incorporation is delayed by a day or two, values are reduced to \$116 and \$96 per acre for these liquid dairy and poultry manure examples. These losses of 21% and 23% of potential fertilizer value are entirely due to the loss of inorganic N that occurs when soil contact is delayed by up to 48 hours. The least fertilizer value, again due to 100% loss of inorganic N, occurs for the fall/winter applications, well outside the growing season. The value of the 5000-gal liquid dairy manure and 1.5-ton poultry litter applications fall by 44%

Table 2. Calculated fertilizer replacement values for 5000-gal liquid dairy manure and a 1.5-ton stored poultry litter application examples. Actual manure analyses were used for nutrient content, though this varies by source. Fertilizer values for each material are calculated for current N, P₂O₅ and K₂O nutrient prices and for 20% and 50% increases as listed in Table 1, and for 3 manure application scenarios. Liquid Dairy Manure Stored Poultry litter Fertilizer value per Fertilizer value per Manure Application Scenario Nutrient Prices 5000 gallons 1.5 tons, as is. \$ 145.57 Injected, during the growing season **Today's prices** \$ 124.08 (0% ammonium-N loss) +20%\$ 174.68 \$ 148.90 +50%\$ 218.35 \$ 186.12 Surface applied, incorporated within 2 days, Spring \$ 115.65 \$ 95.66 **Today's prices** +20%\$ 114.79 (47% ammonium-N loss) \$ 138.78 +50%\$ 173.47 \$ 143.49 Surface applied, fall or winter **Today's prices** \$ 81.91 \$ 63.61 \$ 76.34 (100% ammonium-N loss) +20%\$ 98.29 +50% \$ 122.87 \$ 95.42

Continued on Page 5...

and 49% respectively in that case.

These fertilizer replacement values in Table 2 may be a bit low for Northern NY where fertilizer prices tend to be a bit higher than those published by DTN, so our manure is likely a bit more valuable than Table 2 indicates. The ballpark values listed here are intended to be used in 2 ways , firstly to motivate optimal N capture, if possible, with best manure management practices, achieving immediate soil contact during or immediately prior to plant uptake. Secondly, this information may help to update what a good price is for purchased manure materials. Liquid dairy manure is less commonly bought and sold, but partly composted or stored poultry litter is available for purchase across the region and is widely relied upon for its fertilizer value.

Our poultry litter materials are often available at reduced prices during the fall and winter, but they can still be good purchases if they replace a greater amount of fertilizer. Use the values listed in the 3rd scenario in Table 2 for comparison and also be aware that this is the least environmentally sound scenario. Lastly, animal manures provide more than N, P, and K to our ag soils. They are typically a great source of micronutrients, like S and B, and also provide organic matter which supports soil biology, and improves water-holding capacity and tilth.

Additional Resources:

- Dehlinger, K. Nov. 2021. DTN Retail Fertilizer Trends - Nitrogen Fertilizer Prices Shatter Records as Anhydrous Hits \$1,113 Per Ton. DTN / Progressive Farmer. <u>https://www.dtnpf.com/</u> agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2021/11/10/ <u>nitrogen-fertilizer-prices-shatter-1</u>
- Ketterings, Q., et al. 2005. Nitrogen Credits from Manure, Factsheet #4. Nutrient Management Spear Program, Cornell University. <u>http://</u> <u>nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/publications/factsheets/</u> <u>factsheet4.pdf</u>
- Thomas-Murphy, J, et al. 2021. Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management. Cornell University.

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Asian Jumping Worm Confirmed in Jefferson County

By Sue Gwise, CCE Jefferson County

The invasive Asian jumping worm (AJW) has been confirmed in Jefferson County. In November, a suspicious worm sample that was brought into CCE Jefferson was sent to Colgate University for positive identification. This destructive earthworm was found in St. Lawrence County in 2018, and we knew it was only a matter of time before it showed up in Jefferson County. Asian jumping worms create an ecological disaster by rapidly consuming all the organic matter in a soil. This leaves behind a soil that looks like coffee grounds, is devoid of nutrients, and is highly susceptible to erosion; worst of all, there is no control.

Wormy Background

All the worms that inhabit soils in the northern portions of North America are NOT native. Any 'native' worms were scoured away by glaciers. Upon colonization worms were introduced from Europe, brought over in plants, or in soil that was used as ship ballast. Even though these foreign worms were not native, they are beneficial and well-behaved. They aerate and break up soil, stimulate microbial activity, and break down plant residue. This happens in a balanced manner and nutrients are cycled slowly through the ecosystem.

Asian jumping worms behave differently. They live at much higher densities than European worms and have a high reproductive rate. They can reproduce via parthenogenesis, a process by which a female can produce female offspring without a male. That means that if just one worm is introduced to a site it can give rise to an entire population.

These voracious worms consume the organic matter in soils much quicker than European worms. This interferes with nutrient cycling and eventually leads to less regeneration in forests and a decrease in biodiversity across all trophic levels. The degraded soil is not habitable for most plants. AJW are also toxic to birds, amphibians, and other worms. Animals such as raccoons, chipmunks, squirrels, opossum, and moles will consume AJW.

Identification

Also known as 'crazy snake worms' or 'Alabama jumpers', the worms will thrash about wildly when disturbed. They can also detach



Top photo by Wisconsin Master Gardener, bottom photo by Holger Casselmann

their tails when handled. They range from 1.5 to 8 inches in length. AJW have a smooth, white-colored clitellum (the narrow collar found around the body of most earthworms) as opposed to European worms which have a raised pink-red clitellum. All other characteristics are subjective, making identification difficult.

Life Cycle

Adult AJW do not overwinter in New York - the adults die once subjected to frost. The next generation passes the winter in small (poppy seed sized), white cocoons that are hardy to minus 40 degrees. Worms emerge in the spring and become mature in 70 to 90 days. At that point they are mature and can produce new cocoons. There are two generations per year versus European worms that only have one generation per year.

What to Do

As mentioned, there are no controls for AJW. If you are suspicious that your soil is infested, mix 1/3 cup of ground mustard with one gallon of water and pour it slowly over the soil. This will irritate any worms and bring them to the surface (this is a sampling method, not a control; it will not harm plants or beneficial earthworms). You can then look for any jumping worms and bring suspicious samples to your local extension office for identification.

To minimize the spread of AJW:

• Do NOT buy or use jumping worms for bait,

vermicomposting, or gardening.

• Only purchase or trade compost that was heated to appropriate temperatures and duration following protocols for reducing pathogens.

• Clean compost, soil, and debris from vehicles, personal gear, equipment, and gardening tools before moving to and from sites.

• Be careful when sharing and moving plants. Always check for worms and know where your plantings come from. Buy bare root stock when possible.

• Dispose of all live worms in the trash or place them in a bag and leave out in the sun for at least 10 minutes. Then throw the bag away.



www.cals.cornell.edu/pro-dairy/ events-programs/regional-programs

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Transition Cow Tuesdays Transition Cow Management Webinar Series

Tuesdays from Nov. 2 to Dec. 14, 2021 12:30-1:00pm

These webinars are short and to the point, just 30 minutes. Grab your lunch and join us.

Have you...

...been working with the farm transition cow program but want to know more about the how, what and why?

....wanted to improve the transition cow performance of your herd but need to know where to start?

...wanted to increase the skills you bring to the farm or your farm employer?

...been wondering where you'll find the time to attend a course or workshop?

If so, this webinar series is designed for you.

Dates and Topics:

Nov 2 - Transition Cow Nutrition This session discusses why the transition diet has a tremendous impact on cow health and milk production, and how to ensure adequate nutrition is supplied at each phase of transition.

Nov 9 - Feeding the Transition Cow The mechanics of providing feed in conjunction with transition cow behavior is a crucial aspect in providing adequate nutrition. We'll discuss factors in feeding management during this session.

Nov 16 - Selective Dry Cow Therapy Learn how dry cow therapy impacts transition cow management. We will discuss the basics of selective dry cow therapy. Nov 23 - Facility Considerations Housing can make or break a cow's transition period and her next lactation. Both her physical and behavioral needs will be discussed.

Nov 30 - Calving

Parturition is critical step in transition. This session will discuss the basics of cow behavior, calving assistance, and physiology.

Dec 7 - Post Calving Monitoring This session will outline the steps for monitoring cow health post calving.

Dec 14 - Evaluating Transition Management

This session will cover Dairy Comp items to track and measure success of the transition program.

Register:

This program is available at no cost, thanks to the generous support of our industry sponsors. Preregistration is required.

https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uQV9ZVpQQXtxWspcLqKfq

Presenters:

Tom Overton, PhD, Professor of Dairy Management, Chair of the Department of Animal Science at Cornell University

Daryl Nydam, DVM, Faculty Director, Atkinson Center for Sustainability, Dept of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

Rob Lynch, DVM, Cornell PRO-DAIRY Program

Judy Moody, Agricultural Resource Management Specialist, Dairy One

Margaret Quaassdorff, CCE NWNY, Regional Dairy Specialist

David Balbian, CCE CNY Regional Dairy Specialist

Lindsay Ferlito, CCE NNY Regional Dairy Specialist

Casey Havekes, CCE NNY Regional Dairy Specialist

Betsy Hicks, CCE SCNY Regional Dairy Specialist

Register once for access to all webinars.



Dairy

Understanding the Difference Between Colostrum Replacers and Colostrum Supplements

By Casey Havekes

Two of the most discussed areas of pre-weaned calf management are passive transfer and colostrum management. This is largely because the two go hand in hand and combined, they have a huge influence on early life success. One of the greatest risk factors for failure of passive transfer is poor colostrum management. Proper colostrum management is outlined very nicely by the "3 Q's" concept (quality, quantity, quickly). In theory, this is a great concept, but a common complaint that we hear in the industry is that colostrum production is lacking which makes it difficult to achieve the 'quantity' part. While not as common, occasionally we also hear complaints that colostrum quality just isn't there making it difficult to achieve the 'quality' part. Additionally, some herds may choose not to feed maternal colostrum as a strategy to break transmission cycles of infectious disease. As a result, it's important to understand options for supplementing colostrum quality and replacing colostrum quantity, and to understand the difference between the two. This article aims to outline how and when colostrum replacers and supplements should be used, and to highlight the key differences between the two products.

Colostrum replacer

Colostrum replacers aim to be a direct replacement for maternal colostrum and are commonly used when volume is lacking. To be marketed as a colostrum replacer, the product must be able to raise serum IgG concentrations above 10 mg/ mL. Pay close attention to the label when you are purchasing a colostrum replacer as they are not all made equally. In order to be licensed in the US, colostrum replacers must be certified by the US Department of Agriculture Center for Veterinary Biologics. Additionally, they must originate from bovine colostrum, must be processed using accepted protocols, and must be tested for purity and potency (Godden et al., 2019). There are a lot of products on the market that are not licensed and use various manufacturing techniques, and while they may not all be 'bad' per say, the only way to be absolutely certain of the IgG content is to buy a licensed product. Additionally, make sure you read the label and instructions. Some replacers may require you to feed two packages to provide the recommended and necessary IgG level for successful passive transfer.

Colostrum supplement

Colostrum supplements are designed to do exactly as the

name suggests, supplement existing colostrum. Typically, they contain anywhere from 40-60g of IgG per dose (Penn State) and they aim to supplement additional IgG when colostrum quality is lacking. It's important to remember that colostrum supplements cannot replace high quality maternal colostrum. In fact, researchers have established that passive transfer may be poorer for calves fed supplemented colostrum. The mechanism driving this is unclear, but could be related to increased competition for protein absorption sites.

The table below (adapted from Penn State) outlines data summarized across 26 published studies that investigated colostrum products. As you can see from the data in Table 2, there is a lot of variation between IgG intake, serum IgG levels, and apparent efficiency of absorption when calves are fed maternal colostrum versus replacers / supplements. Maternal colostrum should always be the first choice, as demonstrated by the highest levels in each category in Table 2. However, when maternal colostrum is not available or it's not good quality, or perhaps not a safe option, these products can be useful! Please remember to read the label and understand the product you're giving to the calf and that you're giving it to her appropriately. Proper colostrum management will set the calf up for success down the road!

	#	Average	Max	Min
lgG Intake, g				
Maternal Colostrum	19	203	447	53
Colostrum-based Replacer	21	126	210	18
Colostrum-based Supplement	8	157	297	85
Serum IgG. mg/mL				
Maternal Colostrum	25	16	27	3
Colostrum-based Replacer	21	11	20	2
Colostrum-based Supplement	8	10	20	5
Apparent Efficiency of Absorption. %				
··· ·	-			
Maternal Colostrum	16	23	36	10
Colostrum-based Replacer	14	33	51	12
Colostrum-based Supplement	7	12	26	6

Dairy Day

Join us <u>VIRTUALLY</u> for the main dairy program offered for *FREE* by Cornell Cooperative Extension this winter in the North Country. This 3-part seminar will provide the latest information on dairy production and farm business management, emerging trends, and local research updates.

January 18, 2022 – Dairy Markets and Business

- Dairy Market Update (Dr. Chris Wolf, Cornell University)
- Finding and Keeping Employees (Dr. Bob Ceglowoski, Rupert Vet Clinic)
- NY Dairy Business Benchmarks (Jason Karszes, Cornell PRO-DAIRY)

January 19, 2022-NY Dairy Research Updates

- NNYADP Calf Ventilation Project Case Studies (Tim Terry, Cornell PRO-DAIRY)
- NNYADP Transition Cow Management and Nutrition (*Casey Havekes, CCE* NCRAT)
- NYFVI On-Farm Management: Areas of Excellence and Opportunity (Lindsay Ferlito, CCE NCRAT)
- NYFVI Forage Variability on NY Dairies (Dr. Kristan Reed, Cornell University)
- NY Dairy Labor Updates (Dr. Richard Stup, Cornell University)
- Heat Stress on NNY Dairies (Emily Freed, Miner Institute)

January 20, 2022 – Animal Welfare and Industry Sustainability

- Dehorning Best Management Practices (Alycia Drwenke, UC Davis)
- Transition Cow Welfare (Dr. Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph)
- Dairy Genetics Updates (Dr. Kristen Gaddis, Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding)

<u>Registration</u>: This event is free, but registration is required.

https://ncrat.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=1751

Program is in part sponsored by Northern New York Agriculture Development Program grant funding

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January 18, 2022 12:00pm - 2:15pm Markets and Business

January 19, 2022 12:00pm - 2:15pm NY Research Updates

January 20, 2022 12:00pm - 2:15pm Animal Welfare and Industry Sustainability

* All sessions are offered online only (via Zoom) *

Contact Info: Tatum Langworthy tlm92@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

FARM Workforce Development and Environmental Stewardship Programs

By Lindsay Ferlito

In addition to being a trained evaluator for the FARM Animal Care Program Version 4.0, I am also now trained in FARM Workforce Development Version 1.0, and FARM Environmental Stewardship Version 2.0. While the Animal Care Program is considered mandatory (99% of the nation's fluid milk is part of the program), and has improvement plans and action plans as part of the evaluation, both the Workforce Development and Environmental Stewardship Programs are still voluntary, and have no required action plans.

FARM Workforce Development

This module focuses on farm labor, human resources, and worker management and safety. The on-farm evaluation for this program mainly consists of a questionnaire done with the producer.

Questions are related to HR, on-boarding and employee handbooks, farm safety, and worker management. This program also provides producers with a variety of resources to help them implement best management practices on their farm (<u>https://</u>nationaldairyfarm.com/producer-resources/worker-safety-human-resources/).

FARM Environmental Stewardship

This module is designed to estimate greenhouse gas emissions and energy use on dairy farms. It is a questionnaire that asks the farmer several questions about environmental management and energy use on the farm to assess the farm's overall carbon and energy footprint. It is based off of a life cycle assessment (LCA) of fluid milk from the University of Arkansas, 2013. The program also offers producers several resources to help them identify areas of opportunity on their farm and ways to make improvements (<u>https://nationaldairyfarm.com/producer-resources/environment/</u>).

Both Workforce Development and Environmental Stewardship are still voluntary at the national level, however some cooperatives have started to implement them. If you are interested in having me conduct a mock evaluation on your farm or you have questions, please reach out to me (<u>lc636@cornell.edu</u>; 607-592-0290).









Farm Service Agency U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ORGANIC AND TRANSITIONAL EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (OTECP)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Producers and handlers incur significant costs to obtain or renew USDA organic certification each year, and the economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic have made obtaining and renewing USDA organic certification financially challenging for many operations.

Who is Eligible?

Certified organic producers and handlers and crop and livestock producers transitioning to organic who have paid eligible expenses during the 2020, 2021, and/or 2022 fiscal year may apply for reimbursement of the incurred expenses.

FISCAL YEAR	COVERED EXPENSES COVERED FROM	APPLICATION DEADLINE
2020	October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020	January 7, 2022
2021	October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021	January 7, 2022
2022	October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022	Announced at a later date

*OTECP payments will be issued after the applicable application deadline. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated.

Is Organic Certification Required to Participate?

No. Crop and livestock producers that are in the process of transitioning to organic will be eligible to apply for cost share on transitional expenses, soil testing, and education.

However, organic certification will be required to be eligible for cost share for the crop, livestock, wild crop, handling, and State organic program fees categories. Certification must be provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent. If your operation is not currently certified organic and you would like to learn more about the certification process, please visit **fsa.usda.gov/organic**.



FACT SHEET - NOVEMBER 2021



What Expenses are Reimbursable?

Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement for certification application fees, inspection expenses, fees related to equivalency agreement/ arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, certifier sales assessments, and postage, as well as soil testing and educational event registration fees.

Transitional operations may receive reimbursement for fees charged by a certifying agent or consultant for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan, soil testing, and educational event registration fees.

What Expenses are Not Reimbursable?

Ineligible expenses include inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violations, expenses related to non-USDA organic certifications, expenses related to any other labeling program, expenses related to materials/supplies/equipment, late fees, membership fees, consultant fees (except as described above for transitional operations), expenses related to educational event attendance other than registration fees, and expenses for tests other than soil testing.

PAYMENT AMOUNT ELIGIBLE CATEGORY OF ELIGIBLE OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES APPLICANTS **EXPENSES** PER CATEGORY Organic certification – crops 25 percent, up to \$250 Organic certification - livestock 25 percent, up to \$250 Certified Organic certification - wild crop 25 percent, up to \$250 operations Organic certification - handling 25 percent, up to \$250 State Organic Program fees 25 percent, up to \$250 Transitional Eligible transitional expenses 75 percent, up to \$750 operations Certified Educational event 75 percent, up to \$200 operations and registration fees transitional operations Soil testing 75 percent, up to \$100

What is the Maximum Reimbursement Amount?

How Do I Apply for a Reimbursement?

You may apply directly to one of over 2,100 FSA offices. Applicants must submit an FSA-883, Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program form, and certify to eligible expenses, which may be subject to spot check.

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements may apply. For more information, visit **farmers.gov/otecp** or contact your local FSA office.

To find your local FSA office, visit **farmers.gov/service-center-locator**.

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2

Job Opportunity with the CCE North Country Regional Ag Team

We are hiring: Regional Agricultural Business Development Associate Cornell Cooperative Extension; Northern NY

Click here to view more details and apply



Welcome Amanda to the CCE Jefferson County Staff



My name is Amanda Bickford, and I am the Local Food Marketing Specialist for the North Country Food and Farm Connection. I work with local farmers in Northern New York to develop business and marketing plans catered to their company. My goal is help producers research, learn, and understand how

to grow their business through channels that work best for their specific needs. Whether they need assistance with website design, strategic planning, market research, or general education on marketing, I guide them in the right direction.



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

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.

Transition Cow Tuesdays. See page 8 for more information.

Dairy Day 2022 - Virtual. See page 9 for more information.

Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program. See page 10 for more information.

Save the Date: Net Zero for NY Dairy: What You Need to Know Feb 2-3, 2022, 12:00-2:00pm via Zoom.

Save the date: *Implementing Practical Genetics for Commercial Dairies*. Weekly Wednesdays starting Feb 16, 2022 12:00-12:45pm

Save the date: *Foot Health for Your Dairy Herd.* March 22, 2022, 10:00-3:00pm via Zoom.

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