

# AG FOCUS



A non-ambulatory cow in need of euthanasia. Photo: K.Lutz.

## Euthanasia: A Difficult Task for Dairy Employees

Kaitlyn Lutz

Euthanasia is no one's favorite topic, but it is an important topic to talk about openly. The American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) updated their [Guidelines for the Humane Euthanasia of Cattle](#) in March 2023. They also released a podcast episode, featuring members of the AABP Animal Welfare committee, explaining the guidelines: [Have you Herd? Euthanasia Episode](#).

### What is Euthanasia?

The word originates from the Greek words “eu” and “thanatos” literally meaning “good death”. When it comes to our animals, the American Veterinary Medical Association defines euthanasia as “ending the life of an individual animal in a way that minimizes or eliminates pain and distress” (AVMA 2020).

### If it's such a noble cause, why is it so hard?

Those of us who work in agriculture understand the bond that occurs when you work with the same animals every day. It is similar when we are saying goodbye to a family member– we don't want them to suffer, but we don't want to say goodbye. Unlike with humans, we are given the great responsibility with animals to determine when to end their suffering.

A study was done at Colorado State University looking at dairy caretaker perspectives on performing euthanasia. It involved interviews and focus groups with 38 dairy caretakers including workers, supervisors, owners and a staff-veterinarian across 5 farms. 32 of the 36 participants were Spanish-speakers. Here are some quotes regarding the difficulty of euthanasia: “There are some cows that are friends and you arrive and they greet you. When they cease to exist, they are missed.”

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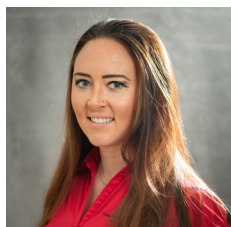
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## Euthanasia: A Difficult Task for Dairy Employees Cont.

Another participant says about perception of their job by their social group, "So again, if I kill a cow, they say 'poor thing, why did you kill it?' It's that they don't know that she was suffering." (Román-Muñiz, 2021).

See the list of mental health resources available in English and Spanish, below, and please share with your employees.

### Euthanasia Training

Another finding from the study above was a disconnect between owners and workers on the sufficiency of training related to euthanasia. Workers expressed that even if they were not directly performing euthanasia, they wanted training on the process to understand why the decision is made. When evaluating your farm's training program, consider extending euthanasia training to all employees, not just the few performing the task.

### How should we make the decision?

First of all, form a euthanasia team. Large decisions are generally easier to make with support of other knowledgeable and trusted colleagues. Who would be on your team? When choosing a team, trust and experience are key.

Second, focus on the data. Euthanasia is emotional for many reasons including the human-animal bond, fear of making the wrong decision, economic losses, and disposal concerns. What we do have on most dairy animals is a lot of data. Start with these questions: Can we control pain and distress? What is the likelihood of recovery? Clear examples of "no" would be a broken leg or gangrenous mastitis. Examples of cases with more gray area are toxic mastitis, down animal with unknown musculoskeletal injury. This is when involving your euthanasia team and your herd veterinarian is helpful.

### How soon after a decision is made should we euthanize?

As soon as possible. It is easy to procrastinate things we do not like doing. An industry recommendation currently is within 4 hours. Riverview dairy in Minnesota strives for 15 minutes from the decision to euthanize to euthanasia.

## Bilingual Mental Health Resources

### Factsheets/info:

National Center for Farmworker Health: [http://www.ncfh.org/mental\\_health\\_hub.html](http://www.ncfh.org/mental_health_hub.html)

NCFH mental health handouts: [http://www.ncfh.org/health\\_education\\_resources.html](http://www.ncfh.org/health_education_resources.html)

Idaho Dairymen's Association: [https://idahodairymens.org/uploads/Salud-Mental-y-Bienestar\\_Manager-copy\\_2022-03-15-034314\\_bqbz.pdf](https://idahodairymens.org/uploads/Salud-Mental-y-Bienestar_Manager-copy_2022-03-15-034314_bqbz.pdf)

### Phone numbers:

988 mental health crisis line: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/crisis/988.html>

Call For Health info & referral hotline: <http://www.ncfh.org/callforhealth.html>

Farm Aid's toll-free hotline: 1-800-FARM AID (1-800-327-6243)

SAMHSA national helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

### Local community health clinics:

Finger Lakes Community Health (315) 781-8448  
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# Effects of Late-Season Application of Nitrogen in Corn

Jodi Letham

High-clearance fertilizer application equipment has become more widely available in recent years. Such tools make it possible to apply nitrogen (N) fertilizer to corn later in the growing season. This options gives corn growers more choice in their N fertilizer program, but what are the potential benefits and risks of late-season N applications? Nitrogen is one of the most expensive inputs for corn producers. It's also the most difficult nutrient to manage in the soil. Once applied, N fertilizer may be lost through leaching, denitrification, and volatilization. How much N gets lost depends on soil factors (such as moisture and temperature) and on N fertilizer factors (such as source and placement), and on crop factors (like rate and timing of N uptake). Corn accumulates the majority of the N it needs between growth stages V6 (six visible leaf collars) and R1 (silking). The aim of managing N should be to have the amount of available N as close as possible to its peak when the crop needs it. Farmers can influence when and how long N is available by considering the source of N used, application timing, and use of N inhibitors. Some things corn producers should consider when managing N is when does the corn need N?

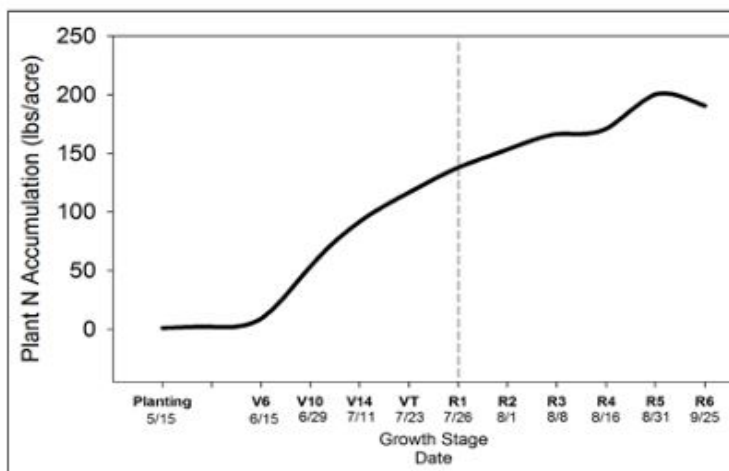
Corn development is divided into two categories:

1. Vegetative stages (prior to silking)
2. Reproductive stages (after silking)

The plant's primary goal during vegetative growth stages is to accumulate leaf area, biomass, and N for reproductive stages. Vegetative growth ceases after silking, but the plants are approximately doubled in dry weight because ears account at maturity for about 55% of the total dry matter of the plant. Plant N uptake times are different from dry weight gains. Generally speaking, a plant accumulates around 70% of the total N needed before it is silked and accumulates around 30% during reproductive growth. The percentages, of course, depends highly on weather and environment.

Corn plants cannot meet the N needs of a growing ear from new N uptake alone during

the reproductive growth. Rather, a plant depends on remobilizing the N from its stems and leaves. More than half the N present in the grain at harvest originates from remobilized N.



**Figure 1.** This graph shows how much a N a corn plant accumulates over the growing season. Dates are included for reference. **Source:** Woli et al., 2017.

Figure 1 Source: [www.extension.purdue.edu](http://www.extension.purdue.edu)

Recent research shows no evidence that split, late-season N applications provide significant yield benefits over the same N rate applied in a single application at early side dress or at planting. In several cases split-N applications increased whole-plant N accumulation but that did not increase grain yield or grain N concentrations. Modern hybrids have the flexibility to increase post-silking N accumulation if early-season N is limited however, if post-silking N accounts for more than 40% of the total N accumulation at maturity, more than likely yields will still be reduced. Split applications are useful in cases of unforeseen circumstances that prevent timely N applications.

To learn more visit: The effects of late-season nitrogen applications in corn (2017) Extension Purdue. Available at: <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AY/AY-364-W.pdf> (Accessed: 08 June 2020).



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# Bipartisan COVER Act Introduced to Boost Farm Resilience and Soil Health

John Hanchar

## Summary

- Members of Congress introduced the bipartisan Conservation Opportunity and Voluntary Environmental Resilience Program (COVER) Act to “incentivize this soil health practice [cover crops], and align crop insurance with risk mitigation practices.”
- Based upon studies in the Midwest, and work done by American Farmland Trust (AFT) in cooperation with Cornell University/College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (Cornell/CALS) in New York, adoption of soil health systems, including cover crop systems, results in more stable, more resilient, more favorable risk management outcomes for farmers and the federal crop insurance program.
- A more favorable risk management environment underlies the COVER Act’s proposal to provide producers with a \$5 per acre crop insurance premium subsidy when they enroll in a covered insurance program and plant cover crops for conservation purposes.

## Soil Health System Adoption Linked to a More Favorable Risk Management Environment

The COVER Crop Act considers that cover crops are a solution to help farmers realize a more favorable risk management environment. A 2023 study cited in the text of the act found that higher cover crop adoption led to lower levels of crop insurance losses due to preventive planting. Another study concluded that just a 1 percent increase in cover crop adoption led to nearly \$40 million in savings from reduced preventive planting related indemnities. More resilient agricultural production systems will play a vital role in achieving climate sustainability objectives.

AFT Soil Health case studies note that farm business owners observe that cropping program results, for example, total values of production, are more stable, less variable after soil health system adoption. Analysis completed by AFT and Cornell/CALS suggests that the more resilient soil health systems are associated with a more favorable risk management environment.

## The COVER Act

In mid-May, members of Congress introduced the COVER Act to “incentivize this important soil health practice [cover crops], building on the federal Pandemic Cover Crop Program, and align crop insurance with risk mitigation practices.” To achieve objectives the act will: 1) offer a \$5 per acre discount for crop insurance premiums for producers who utilize cover crop systems; 2) develop a soil health pilot program to investigate soil health practices; and 3) extend research based knowledge to producers on cover crop implementation, and provide technical assistance.

A more favorable risk management environment underlies the COVER Act’s proposal to provide producers with a \$5 per acre crop insurance premium subsidy discount when they enroll in a covered insurance program and plant cover crops for conservation purposes. The act will leverage farmers’ capacities to successfully implement soil health systems, including cover crops, and decades of experience doing so. For more information, please see

American Farmland Trust. 2023. Soil Health Case Studies. Web posts. Washington, DC: American Farmland Trust. <<https://farmland.org/project/genesee-river-demonstration-farms-network/>>

Casten, S. 2023. Bipartisan COVER Act Will Boost Farm Resilience and Soil Health. Press release, web post. Washington, DC: US Congress. <<https://casten.house.gov/media/press-releases/casten-introduces-bipartisan-cover-act-to-boost-soil-health-and-align-crop-insurance-with-risk-mitigation-practices>>

Hanchar, J. and A. Ristow. 2022. “Climate Resilient Farming: Quantifying Farm Level Economic Benefits and Costs.” AgFocus. Issue 10, October 2022. Batavia, NY: Cornell University/CALS and CCE/NWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

Mulugeta, Megnot. 2023-05-18. “Bipartisan COVER Act Will Boost Farm Resilience and Soil Health.” Web post. <<https://www.nwf.org/LATEST-NEWS/PRESS-RELEASES/>>

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21 ft. Dump

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2008 PETERBILT 367 DUMP TRUCK; 500 HP CAT C15; 18-Spd. Manual; 21' Aluminum Box; 20K F/A; 42K R/A; 20K Non-Sterile Lift Axle; Air-Trac Susp.; 270" WB; Tarp; Plumber for Pup Trailer; 709,591 Miles; Stk. # 6789 - \$54,900



Rear Mounted Knuckleboom

Flatbed Truck

2007 KENWORTH T800; CAT 335; 10-Spd.; Palfinger PK9501 Rear Mounted Knuckleboom Powered Pony Motor; 42" Forks; 44K Full Locking Rears On Newway Air Ride; 22" x 96" Aluminum Deck; 4.63 Ratio; 256" WB; 182" CT; 23" Frame Behind Cab; 252,135 Miles; Stk. # 6309 - \$44,900



6NZ CAT Heavy Spec

2002 WESTERN STAR 4964 DAYCAB TRI-DRIE CAB & CHASSIS; 475 HP CAT C15 "6NZ"; Jake; 18-Spd. Manual; Double Frame; 316" Bridge Measurement; 4.56 Ratio; AirLiner Susp.; 24" Frame Behind Cab; 264,000 Miles; Stk. # 6746 - \$62,900



46K Lockers

2015 WESTERN STAR 4700SF; Detroit DD13 470 HP; 10-Spd. Manual; Clean Daycab with 12K Front Axle; 46K Full Locking Rears; AirLiner Suspension; 210" WB; Headache Rack; 3.91 Ratio; 391,389 Miles; Stk. # 6798 - \$71,900



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(4) 2012 PETERBILT 367 DUMP TRUCKS; 485 HP Cummins ISX; 18-Spd. Manual; 21' Alum. Body w/Tarp; Air Trac Susp.; 20K F/A; 20K Non-Sterile Lift; 46K Full Locking R/A; Plumber for Trailer; 274" WB; Dual Exhaust & Air Cleaners; 357K/301K/340K/953K Miles; No Blowby - Run Great; Stk. # 6667 - \$49,900 Each



Allison Auto.

Heavy Chassis

2004 VOLVO VHD64 CAB & CHASSIS; Heavy Single Frame; Volvo 365 HP; Allison Auto. Trans.; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; T-Ride Susp.; 214" WB; 150" CT; 18" Frame; 153,968 Miles; Stk. # 6758 - \$49,900



104 ft. Height Tri-Drive Bucket Truck

2007 INTERNATIONAL PAYSTAR 5600; Cummins ISM 385 HP; Eaton-Fuller Autoshift Trans.; TRI-DRIVE; Double Frame Bucket Truck w/Altec AM900-E100 Boom; 104.6' Working Height; (4) Outriggers; 20K F/A; 52,998# Locking Rears; Newway Susp.; 294" Bridge; PTO; Wetkit; Pintle Hitch; 36,335 Miles; Stk. # 6693 - \$84,900



46K Lockers

Low Mile Chassis

2009 KENWORTH T800 CAB & CHASSIS; Clean Double Frame; 355 HP Cummins ISM (Can Be Re-Rated To 425 HP); 18-Spd. Manual; 264" WB; 21" Frame Behind Cab; 186" CT; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears On Newway Air Ride; 4.30 Ratio; PTO w/Controls; 107,210 Miles; Stk. # 6778 - \$59,900



46K Lockers

56,000 Miles

2008 MACK CHU613; 415 HP Mack MP8; 13-Spd. Manual; Clean, Low Mileage Daycab w/208" WB; 14,32K F/A; 46K Rears; Camelback Susp.; Wetline; 4.17 Ratio; 56,172 Miles; Stk. # 6685 - \$54,000



Brand New 2023 Chassis

2023 WESTERN STAR 4700SB BRAND NEW!! CAB & CHASSIS; TWIN STEER; 450 HP Detroit Diesel DD13; 9L Trans.; 40K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Haulmax Susp.; 270" WB; 22" Frame Behind Cab; 170" CT; 12" x 1/2" Thick Steel Frame; 3.91 Ratio; Includes Factory Warranty; Stk. # 6740 - CALL



20K/46K Locking Rears

2006 MACK GRANITE CT713 WITH NATIONAL CRANE; 400B Crane; Mack 370 HP; Eaton-Fuller 9L Trans.; 55' Boom & 8-Ton Capacity; (4) Outriggers; 252" WB; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Hendrickson Haulmax Susp.; 189" CT; 218" Frame Behind Cab; 114,624 Miles; Stk. # 6711 - \$63,900



20K/46K Rears

CAT C15

2007 WESTERN STAR 4900SA CLEAN HEAVY SPEC SLEEPER TRUCK; CAT C15 475 HP; w/34" Mid Roof Sleeper; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; AirLiner Suspension; 244" WB; 4.10 Ratio; 276,693 Miles; Stk. # 6733 - \$55,900



47,000 Miles

20K/46K Lockers

2007 PETERBILT 357 CAB & CHASSIS 370 HP CAT C11; 8L Trans.; Double Frame; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears On Hendrickson Haulmax Susp.; 12,350 lb. Stereable Lift Axle; 230" WB; 144" CT; 176" Double Frame Behind Cab; 47,273 Miles; Stk. # 6755 - \$78,900



46K Lockers

500 HP

Automatic

2013 MACK PINNACLE CXU613; Clean Daycab Tractor; 500 HP Mack MP8; MDRIE Auto. Trans.; 14.6K F/A; 46K R/A; Air Ride Susp.; 12R22.5 Front, 11R22.5 Rear Tires; 226" WB; Wetline; 569,438 Miles; Stk. # 6713 - \$54,900



Knuckle Boom Crane Truck

2002 STERLING LT9500 CRANE TRUCK; w/MT24562 Knuckle Boom Crane; 350 HP Cummins ISL; 8L Trans.; 62' Reach/5,000 lbs. Lift Capacity; 246" Steel Flatbed; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Stereable Lift Axle; T-Ride Susp.; 270" WB; 30" Frame Behind Cab; 208" CT; 181,868 Miles; Stk. # 6750 - \$51,900



22,500 Miles

Like New Packer

2015 MACK LEU613; Mack MP7-325M \*\*HP CAN BE INCREASED TO 395-425 WITH SOFTWARE FLASH\*\*; Allison Auto. Trans.; Double Frame Cabover Truck w/Haul-All Equipment Systems 25 Cu. Yd. Side Load Packer; 18K F/A; 46K Locking Rears; Haulmax Susp.; Both LH/RH Side Drives; 176" WB; 150" CT; 17" Frame Behind Cab If Hydraulic Tank Is Removed/Re-located; 22,557 Miles; Stk. # 6739 - \$49,900



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2000 OSHKOSH; Detroit Diesel V8 500 HP Turbo Diesel Engine; Engine Brake; Automatic Trans.; 86,000 lb. GVWR; Two 55,000 lb. Winches; Aux. Winch; 8x8; Rear Wheel Steer; Exhaust Brake; Air Ride Susp.; PTO; Fifth Wheel Ramp Plates; Central Tire Inflation System; Stk. # 6696 - \$88,900



46K Lockers

500 HP

2015 INTERNATIONAL PROSTAR CLEAN DAYCAB; 500 HP Cummins ISX; 18-Spd. Manual; 13,220# F/A; 46,000# Full Locking Rears; 190" WB; Hendrickson Air Ride Susp.; Wetline; 603,768 Miles; Stk. # 6624 - \$42,000



Allison Auto.

Heavy Spec

2003 KENWORTH T800 FLATBED; Heavy Single Frame; 395 HP CAT C12; Allison Auto. Trans.; 15'6" x 102" Steel Deck; 18K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; On Haulmax Susp.; 196" WB; 122" CT; 14" Frame Behind Cab; 4,56 Ratio; 233,014 Miles; Stk. # 6767 - \$58,900



46K Rears

525 HP

2016 FREIGHTLINER CORONADO 122 DAYCAB; Clean; Cummins ISX 525 HP; 18-Spd. Manual; 14.7K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; 201" WB; AirLiner Susp.; 3.91 Ratio; 557,561 Miles; Stk. # 6700 - \$65,900



20K/46K Rears

Allison Auto.

560 HP

2014 WESTERN STAR 4900SF DOUBLE FRAME SLEEPER CAB & CHASSIS; 560 HP Detroit DD16; Allison 4500 RDS Trans.; 52" Mid Roof Bunk; 296" WB; 20" Frame Behind Bunk; 146" CT; AirLiner Susp.; PTO; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Hitch; 508,000 Miles; Stk. # 6729 - \$59,900



Clean Vac Truck

2006 INTERNATIONAL 7600 w/VAC-CON VXP04212-LHE VAC SYSTEM; 380 HP CAT C13; 20K F/A; 46K R/A; Hendrickson Susp.; 258" WB; Dumping Steel Tank w/Hydraulic Tailgate & Locks; 8" Suction Hose On Telescopic Boom w/Remote; Dynablast-Hot Water Pressure Washer; 3.91 Ratio; \*\*Vacuum System Can Be Removed\*\*; 216" Frame Behind Cab; 178" CT; 82,550 Miles; Stk. # 6743 - \$48,900



Cummins N14

20K/46K Rears

1999 INTERNATIONAL PAYSTAR 5000 DOUBLE FRAME DAYCAB; Cummins N14 370+ HP; Allison Auto. Trans.; 184" WB; NEWAY Air Ride; Wetline; Rubber 95%; 90,427 Miles; Stk. # 6745 - \$39,900

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# An Early Look at the 2022 National Beef Quality Audits

Nancy Glazier

The Beef Checkoff has funded the National Beef Quality Audits since 1991 to measure quality improvements made by the cattle industry. They are conducted every 5 or so years and results from the 2022 audit are just getting released. There are fed cattle and market (cull) cow and bull audits. When looking at results we need to keep in mind that we were still rebounding from the pandemic; the entire industry was impacted, but beef demand remained high. There were more cattle over 30 months of age that were harvested than leading up to the pandemic.

Some of the good news from the fed cattle audit, the beef industry is raising a high-quality product.

- More carcasses graded Prime and Choice beef and much less Select.
- More use of electronic identification (EID).
- More efficiencies across the supply chain.
- Companies are striving to increase sustainability.

Early audits were focused on physical characteristics of cattle. Challenges included external fat, palatability, tenderness, and marbling. Research and education have improved breeding and feeding strategies to improve quality; one way has been through the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program. In the past few years BQA has incorporated more topics into trainings to reach producers more broadly. Some key challenges reported in the 2022 audit include traceability, sustainability, and environmental concerns. Food safety and eating satisfaction are expected.

There was some disturbing information collected during the audit process. In the fed cattle audit, bruising continues to be an issue. This can occur throughout the life of a beef animal (dairy or beef), all the way through trucking to the processor.

Carcasses are larger, up about 26 lbs from the 2016 audit. This adds challenges at processing plants. Excessive fat thicknesses have led to higher numbers of Yield Grade 4 and 5 carcasses.

Reported in both audits, foreign objects continue to be found in beef at processing plants and at further processors (grind plants). Some of the culprits found include bird/buck shot, broken needles (including from darts), and wire. These objects are found by x-ray, metal detectors, and magnets. Nearly half of foreign objects are from bird/buck shot, more than what could potentially be caused by hunters. It was found across the country with the 16 plants interviewed responding they have found bird/buck shot. These foreign objects are adulterants and a whole carcass may be condemned if found. Plants are getting complaints from their customers.

As part of NY BQA, we strongly encourage single use for needles. At \$0.20 (or less) a piece that is a very cheap return on investment! Dart guns are not an appropriate technology for treatment. Shooting cattle to get them to move is not acceptable.

Another opportunity for improvement that was highlighted in the market cow and bull audit was the need for better culling decisions. The decision to cull sometimes is made not considering the length of time before the cow will finally get to the plant. Condition deteriorates at the auction barn, in transport, and in the holding pen at the plant. Also, many cows do not have much fat cover, so they bruise easily. For animal welfare, it is better to cull sooner than later.

This is just a very brief overview of the audits. Information on the audits will be posted to [bqa.org](http://bqa.org).



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# Get Ready for Winter Wheat Harvest

Mike Stanyard

## 2023 Wheat Season In-Review

Why does it look so good? We had great planting conditions last fall. Growers were able to plant wheat from September into November. It was estimated that 170,000 acres were planted. We had great establishment with plenty of tillering and wheat went into the winter in great shape. Because much of the corn and soybean harvest was done early, I saw more acres of fall herbicide applied than I ever had. 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 greened up despite some cooler temperatures and wet conditions. Powdery mildew was not a real player early on and you could really tell which fields were sprayed for weeds in the fall. The winter annuals, especially chickweed and shepherd's purse, were very prevalent and competitive this spring. 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 was out right on time and stayed clean except for some cereal leaf beetle (CLB) larvae feeding. Cereal leaf beetles were very prevalent this year and many fields had to be sprayed. Armyworm flights were low all spring and as of June 10, no damaged wheat had been reported. I continue to see more roughstalk bluegrass each year. Osprey Xtra needs to be incorporated into many spray programs.

Wheat started to flower in the last days of May into the first week of June. Conditions were great for pollination, warm and dry. Growers who sprayed a fungicide for Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) were able to clean up CLB at the same time. The Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (<http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>) predicted a low risk of FHB infection for the NWNy region and all of NY during peak flowering. Vomitoxin levels should be low overall. We were dry during the grain fill period and the U.S. Drought monitor had all of WNY as abnormally dry on June 8. Not sure how this may affect our test weights if we continue dry into June. As of June 5, USDA National Ag Statistics Service report rated the NY winter



Wheat drying down. Photo: M. Stanyard/CCE NWNy Team

wheat crop as 17% excellent, 43% good, 28% fair, 8% poor and 4% very poor.

## 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% to avoid pre harvest sprouting and dry it down to 13%. Producers who don't 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, vomitoxin from FHB could be a concern. 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.

## 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) are both labeled. Diatomaceous earth is a non-insecticidal silica sand applied as a dust in the bin and below the floor.

It is not in the bin yet, but overall, winter wheat in NWNy looks fantastic and in great shape. I know of a least three farms who have entered the National Wheat Yield Contest. Last year's NY Champ, Matt Toussaint, put up a great yield of 130 bushels. I think we can push it higher.



## What's Next for Your Dairy?

Modern dairies require modern tools. Maybe it's time to take another look at your herd management software. BoviSync is more than a traditional herd management software. BoviSync is clean, intuitive, and emphasizes the value of moving through cow chores with ease, precision, and speed.

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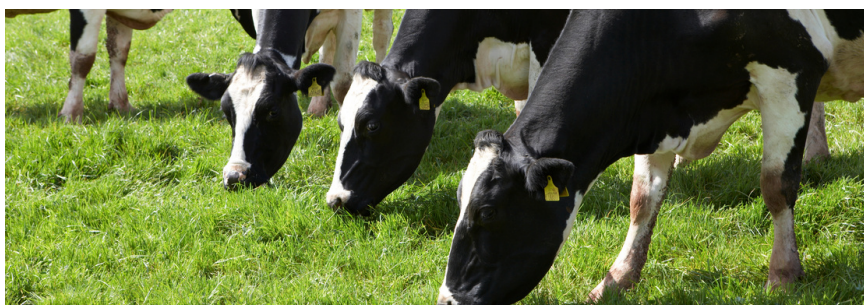
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**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**August 2023**



# Calf Fitness for Transport

Margaret Quaassdorff



Moving young calves to and from raising facilities is necessary yet can be a stressful event. Are the calves that you transport properly prepared? Let's review a 6-point checklist developed by the Calf

Care & Quality Assurance (CCQA) Program to evaluate the calves prior to leaving the source farm:

✓ **Does the animal have an active case of disease?**

Many symptoms of disease (such as dehydration) are exacerbated during transport. Stress can also compromise an animal's ability to fight disease it is exposed to during and shortly after transport.

✓ **Is the animal non-ambulatory, or is there a good chance it may become non-ambulatory during the transport or marketing process?**

Non-ambulatory animals cannot be marketed. Dehydrated, sick, or injured animals are at risk of becoming non-ambulatory during transport and should not be shipped.

✓ **Is the animal severely lame?**

Consider the amount of weight shifting required for an animal to remain standing during transport. A lame animal will not be able to do this without experiencing pain.

✓ **Does the animal have a Body Condition Score of less than 2?**

These animals may be weak, injured, or ill. Depending on the duration of transport, animals may go long periods without feed and need to rely on stored energy reserves.

✓ **Does the animal have any bone fractures of the limbs, injuries to the spine, or open wounds?**




Animals will be required to shift weight to remain standing on a trailer and cannot do this with injuries. Open wounds are also likely to become infected and may impair the calves' ability to remain standing.

✓ **Is the animal dehydrated?**

Look at the eyes for a sign- a gap between the animal's eyeball and inside corner of the eye is an indicator of dehydration. Dehydrated calves are at a greater risk of disease and will not gain as much weight over their growth period. Delay transport and provide fluid therapy.

If the answer is "yes" for any of these questions, the animal is unfit and should not leave the facility.

We want to hear from you! Our friends at Colorado State University are conducting a research survey to describe current industry practices regarding the transportation of preweaned dairy replacements, beef x dairy, or dairy bull calves. They would like to understand producers' challenges and needs in this area to identify research and outreach efforts. They want to hear from producers, owners, operators, or managers on dairies, calf ranches, heifer-raising facilities, and veal operations, as well as truck drivers. To take the survey online please use password **Holstein23** and go to this link. [https://colostate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_06fT5SyqrqMMxfw?Source=DCHA&fbclid=IwAR073eMjWLrotLNW-8ocqQBP2-hUprO6q3G0pAKwB6WDvL0\\_Nls0-InAy5Q](https://colostate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_06fT5SyqrqMMxfw?Source=DCHA&fbclid=IwAR073eMjWLrotLNW-8ocqQBP2-hUprO6q3G0pAKwB6WDvL0_Nls0-InAy5Q) For a paper copy of the survey, please reach out to Margaret Quaassdorff at 585-405-2567 or [maq27@cornell.edu](mailto:maq27@cornell.edu). The survey is open through August 2023. Thank you for your help!

SCORE 1: Low body Condition	SCORE 2: Low body Condition	SCORE 3: Ideal Body Condition
Gaunt, emaciated animal, having little to no fatty tissue around tailhead and short rib region. Extremely pronounced back, hook and pin bones.	Thin animal, with minimal coverage around the tailhead and short rib region. Minimal coverage over back, hook and pin bones.	Well-conditioned animal with coverage around the tailhead and short rib region. Back, hook and pin bones are not pronounced.
		

Adapted from the FARM Animal Care Manual Version 4.



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## Workshop Details

Active demonstrations will be used to teach best practices with skid steer and equipment management, operation and safety on dairies.

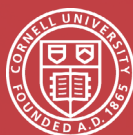


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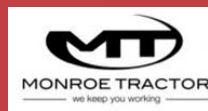


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For questions contact:

Kaitlyn Lutz (585) 689-3114 or [kal263@cornell.edu](mailto:kal263@cornell.edu)



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### July 6th

Pasture Walk at Horizon  
Ridge Farms

6PM - 8PM : In-Person : Free

More Info: [Click Here](#)

Registration: [Click Here](#)

### July 17th

Agritourism Workshops  
Monthly

12PM - 1PM : Zoom : Free

More Info: [Click Here](#)

Registration: [Click Here](#)

### July 20-21

Agricultural Supervisory  
Leadership 2 Day Spanish  
Workshop

11AM-4PM : In-Person : \$300

More Info: [Click Here](#)

Registration: [Click Here](#)

### July 20-22

Grasstravaganza

SUNY Morrisville : In-Person

More Info: [Click Here](#)

Registration: [Click Here](#)

### July 28th

Managing for Quality Milk

9:30AM - 2:30PM :  
Seneca County : \$55

More Info: [Click Here](#)

Registration: [Click Here](#)

### SAVE THE DATE

### AUGUST 2023

Robotic Milking Management  
on Grass-Based Systems and  
Grazing Technology Update

Registration: Coming Soon

### August 2nd

Managing for Quality Milk

9:30AM - 2:30PM :  
Wyoming County : \$55

More Info: [Click Here](#)

Registration: [Click Here](#)

### August 16th

Farm Equipment  
Maintenance, Operation  
and Safety

12PM - 4PM : EL-Vi Farms

More Info: [Click Here](#)

Registration: Coming Soon

### August 21st

Agritourism Workshops  
Monthly

12PM - 1PM : Zoom : Free

More Info: [Click Here](#)

Registration: [Click Here](#)

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