Summer Seeding

Jodi Letham

Summer offers us the opportunity to successfully plant perennial forages such as alfalfa. It is essential to pay attention to the timing and conditions of the seedbed. Having sufficient soil moisture and a seedbed that maximizes seed-to-soil contact will contribute to a rapid, more uniform emergence.

Summer seeding offers a number of advantages over spring seeding:

• Less weed pressure, therefore this can be an optimum time to seed legume-grass mixtures, which have limited herbicide options.
• Spreads out the planting workload.
• Harvest a small grain crop followed by a full forage production year after seeding.
• Perennial forages can get a jump start on the growing season and can produce at or near established stand production the following year.
• Increase soil health, reduce soil erosion through the winter months.
• More time to prepare an optimal seedbed in the summer.

For optimum crop establishment and to minimize winterkill approximately 6 to 8 weeks are needed for the seedlings to germinate and develop sufficient root reserves to survive. Ideal planting depth for alfalfa in clay or loam soils is ¼ to ½ inch at a rate of 15-18 lbs./acre.

Here are some recommendations for summer-seedings:

Cont. on Page 3
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Summer-Seeding Cont.

1. Plant only if conditions are right
   a. Never seed in dry soil—a light rain (1/2” or less) can germinate seed, but the new seedling will die from drought in a matter of days if no more rain is received.
   b. Weeds must be controlled.

2. Plant at proper date
   a. Next to dry soil, planting too late is the biggest cause of summer seeding failures.
   b. Dates vary based on temperature and moisture availability. *Need at least 45 frost free days of good growing to build up adequate carbohydrate reserves for winter.

3. Weed control
   a. Use a burn-down herbicide before planting to control perennial weeds and destroy any remaining vegetation from the previous crop.
   b. Do not use a cover crop with summer seedings as it will slow establishment down and compete for water.

4. Fertility
   a. Have soil tested and follow lime and fertilizer recommendations.
   b. Optimum pH level is 6.8. Liming should be done 6 to 24 months prior to planting.
   c. Phosphorus is critical to proper root and seedling development. Potassium increases yields and stand persistence.

5. Variety selection
   a. Plant alfalfa varieties with high genetic potential for yields, quality, persistence and the pest resistances you will need for maximum long-term performance from your alfalfa stand (disease resistance and winter hardiness).

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Helpful Business Planning Resources for Farmers: Cornell University Dyson School’s Collection of Extension Bulletins

John Hanchar

This article provides an overview of several extension publications prepared by Steve Richards on the topic of business planning for farmers. See <https://dyson.cornell.edu/outreach/extension-bulletins/>

Messages

In a collection of bulletins on business planning prepared by Steve Richards, readers will note the following.

• From concept and content perspectives, “… a business plan is still pretty much the same as it always was – a document that contains an entrepreneur’s hopes for a successful business.”
• The skills and abilities to effectively carry out planning, and other functions of management are of equal or greater importance than the plans themselves.
• Developing plans over time, as a business and family address changing production, marketing, financial, legal, human resources, and family situations, helps to improve the skills and abilities that are linked to business success.

Overview

This article provides a brief overview of a collection of extension bulletins prepared in 2022 by Steve Richards, Agribusiness Extension Associate, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Cornell University. The collection covers a range of business planning topics relevant to a farm business over time. Titles for bulletins available at <https://dyson.cornell.edu/outreach/extension-bulletins/> follow.

1. Starting an AG-Business? A Pre-Planning Guide
2. Business Transfer Guide – Senior Generation
5. Estate Planning For Farm Families
6. Using Farm Assets for Retirement

Brief reviews by bulletin follow.

Starting an AG-Business? Richards notes the value of business planning, while acknowledging that business planning concepts of today are not necessarily new. For some time, professionals in the field have described a business plan most basically as seeking to answer three questions

• Where is the business now?
• Where do you want the business to be?
• How will you get the business to where you want it to be?

This workbook guides the user through a dynamic process, where the user thinks and re-thinks the principles of the business on a continuous basis. This process will help the user develop and improve business planning skills and abilities, while developing the business plan.

Business Transfer Guide – Senior Generation. Often, farm transfer decisions are complicated. This workbook provides the user with a step-by-step farm transfer process to be completed at the user’s own pace. Guided by the workbook, the user not only develops a plan, but also develops and improves upon planning skills and abilities.

Business Transfer Guide – Junior Generation. This workbook provides the junior generation user with a guide for the business transfer process similar to above.

Doing Business Together – A Joint Business Agreement Guide. Complexity should be expected, but doing business with another may be the best or part of the best solution for improving results. This workbook walks the user through a business agreement process, step-by-step at the user’s pace. Richards does not recommend skipping steps, while stressing the value of reviewing the materials in each chapter before moving forward.

Estate Planning For Farm Families. Estate planning is planning for what happens when a person dies. The vast majority of the benefits of an estate plan accrue to surviving family, friends, business associates, and others. A well-planned estate can encourage family harmony and the continuation of the family business. This workbook guides farm families through options, step-by-step, at a pace that works best for the family, with or without the help of a trained business consultant.

Using Farm Assets for Retirement. No retirement formula or plan is suitable for everyone. Each plan will differ based upon the user’s goals and financial situation. This workbook guides the user through options, step-by-step, at the user’s pace, without or with the help of a trained business consultant.

Closing Thoughts

Given changing production, marketing, financial, legal, human resources, and family situations over time, farm business owner’s planning skills and abilities are more important than ever for business success. Business planning efforts provide the farm business owner with opportunities to develop and enhance planning skills and abilities. The resources prepared by Steve Richards reviewed here help users improve their knowledge and understanding of planning topics, leading to improved skills and abilities to successfully take on the planning function of management.
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Don’t Miss Out On The 2023 NY Corn and Soybean Yield Contests

Mike Stanyard

The annual corn and soybean yield contests sponsored by the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association are underway. Below is the 2023 yield contest entry form. This form and contest rules can be found on the NWNY Webpage https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/. Entry forms must be postmarked by Friday, August 30 and mailed to Ashley Knapp at Genesee County CCE, 420 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020 or emailed to ak2367@cornell.edu. Cost is $30 per entry. This year the grand corn and soybean champions win an all-expense paid trip for two to the 2024 Commodity Classic in Houston, TX.

The deadline for the National Corn Yield Contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association is August 16 and the entry form can be found on their webpage at https://www.ncga.com/for-farmers/national-corn-yield-contest. Please remember that this is a different contest than the state contest sponsored by the NYC&SGA. I would encourage growers to enter both corn contests. Applicants in the NGCA contest can use their contest harvest results to fulfill the requirements in the NYC&SGA contest if they fill out the entry form and pay the entry fee by August 30.

Questions? Call Mike Stanyard @ 585-764-8452 or email @ mjs88@cornell.edu.

Good Luck!

See back page for Entry Form!

ALL

All decisions of the Contest Committee are final. The Committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry without refund for violation of the stated rules and harvest procedures. Contest entrants will be notified in December 2023 of the final yields and contest placements. The winners will be recognized at the 2024 NYCSGA Corn & Soybean Expo in Syracuse on January 16, 2024. All contest fields must be located in the state of NY. The originally entered hybrid/variety must the same that is reported on the harvest report or it will be disqualified.

Entrants are not eligible to win the Grand Champion prize more than two consecutive years in a row.

Contest Supervisor: Contest supervisors are responsible for conducting all computations and field measurements and must be present during harvesting, weighing and moisture testing. All entries must be weighed on certified scales or a calibrated weigh wagon.

The unbiased contest supervisor may be a NRCS, SWCD staff person, Extension agent, farm lending institution representative, FFA or vocational ag instructor, private crop consultant, state/private college agricultural staff member, FSA crop insurance agent, or retiree from one of these occupations. A supervisor may have no financial or direct business ties to a company selling agri-business supplies to the entrant.

The applicant must completely fill out the Harvest Report Form(s) and attach the weigh ticket(s) along with the moisture percent information or moisture ticket. The unbiased supervisor must sign off on the completed Harvest Report Form(s). The completed Harvest Report Form(s) must be sent to Mike Stanyard at the address listed on the other side of this form within 7 days of the harvest date or no later than December 1, 2023, whichever date is earlier.

The NYCSGA has the right to publicize any information about any contest participant including their address, photo, and information on production practices. In addition, all soybean contest participants’ contact information may be furnished to the Soybean Export Council for the purpose of seed protein and oil research that may be conducted by the Council.
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Ask Extension: Is it Safe to Bale Eastern Black Nightshade to Feed to Heifers?

Nancy Glazier

I received a call last week from a crop consultant asking about Eastern black nightshade (Solanum ptycanthum Dun.) in a new grass seeding. He had a dairy client looking to make baleage to feed to heifers. He had the weed identified but did not know the toxicity when fed. There were parts of the field with concentrated patches and other areas where it was scattered. The heavy patches could be chopped and removed, but what about the rest of the field?

Referring to my well-used copy of A Guide to Plant Poisoning of Animals in North America by Anthony P. Knight, there are many species in the Solanaceae (nightshade) family, which include jimson weed, horse nettle, Eastern black nightshade, and bittersweet nightshade. The deadliest is belladonna, though poisoning rarely occurs. Feeding green-skinned potatoes can lead to poisoning as well. They all contain various tropane alkaloids and all act similarly on the involuntary nervous system. The alkaloids are mostly found in the green parts of the plant and unripe fruits.

Black nightshade complex contains 4 species. Eastern black nightshade is found east of the Rocky Mountains and the only black nightshade in the region. The weed in question is a summer annual or possibly a short-lived perennial. The seedlings often start out with a purplish tint to them. The alkaloids may concentrate in the mature plants. Since they are a summer annual, they may germinate after the spray program is completed for the growing season. It can be found in corn silage fields as well and has the potential to be chopped at harvest.

Unlike some poisonous plants, the toxins in nightshades remain toxic after chopping, drying down, fermenting, or freezing. From a short article from Jerry Volesky at University of Nebraska, it is very difficult to estimate how much Eastern black nightshade will lead to toxicity. He reports a cow would need to consume 3-4 lbs. of fresh plant material to be poisoned. It is always best to be on the conservative side in these situations, in this case of feeding heifers reduce that depending on animal weight. Since in this instance baleage (50% DM) was being made, that could potentially be 1 lb. of plant for 1,000 lb. heifers to be impacted.

A wise idea would be to label the bales coming out of the field. What also might be helpful in this scenario would be to alternate bales from another field. I did not see the nightshade concentration in the field so it’s always best to play it safe.

A word of caution, plant taxonomy sometimes gets updated, as with Eastern black nightshade. With poisonous plants it is always good to refer to the scientific names since sometimes common names can vary in different parts of the country.
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Characteristics of the Beef x Dairy Industry in New York State
Margaret Quaassdorff & Betsy Hicks

The usage of beef sires on dairy farms more than doubled from 2015 to 2019. In recent years, New York sale barns reported that beef x dairy (BxD) calves consistently brought $50-$150 over a standard dairy bull calf. Because of the premium for black-hided calves, many dairy farmers have tried to capitalize on this novel market without fully understanding the BxD industry and the implications of an inferior calf entering the beef supply chain.

Data presented in the white paper are from a Qualtrics survey conducted online between the months of October 2020 and June 2021. Farmers were surveyed to assess how they utilize beef sires in their dairy herds, their criteria in selecting dairy animals to breed to beef sires, and sire selection criteria. Farmers were also surveyed on their management practices of producing, raising, marketing and selling BxD cattle, as well as information needed by them to further their knowledge.

The majority of BxD calves are leaving dairy farms at less than a week old, however there are still a number of farms raising these cattle to different timepoints across the state implementing a variety of management and feeding strategies. This combined with the scarcity of on-farm scales and actual growth measurement data make it nearly impossible to gauge the “best” way to encourage farmers to incorporate a BxD enterprise into a farm’s business strategy.

Results from this survey led to establishing several keys for the viability of the beef x dairy industry in New York State.

1. Proper Sire Selection at the Dairy Level
2. Excellent Newborn Management
3. Proper Nutrition and Efficient Growth Rates
4. Networking, Marketing, and Infrastructure Development
5. Economics and Benchmarking

Breeding for beef x dairy calves is becoming a common practice on dairy farms regardless of breed. Pictured here is beef cross calf out of a Jersey cow. Photo by M. Quaassdorff.

P.S. Exciting news! There has been so much progress in the Beef x Dairy Industry in NYS since 2021, and we are looking to learn what dairy farmers, buyers, and growers are doing now. Stay tuned for our follow-up survey to be launched this summer!
We all are aware of Lyme disease in humans in the Northeast and the harm it causes. However, our cattle have historically been spared from many of the serious tick-borne diseases that are endemic in the Southern United States and other countries. Two such diseases that have been identified in our area are Anaplasmosis and Theileriosis. Not so fun fact: ticks transmit a wider range of diseases than any other arthropod, including mosquitos!

**What is Anaplasmosis?**

Anaplasmosis is a hemoparasitic (blood parasite) disease carried by the Dermacentor species of tick, commonly known as the American dog tick or wood tick. *Anaplasma marginale*, specifically, is the most common tick-borne disease of cattle in the US. Although the disease is transmitted by ticks, it can be spread to naïve cattle through fomites contaminated with blood from carrier animals (i.e. mosquitos, stable flies and processing equipment such as needles, dehorners and tattoo guns).

All ages and breeds of cattle can be infected, but Bos Taurus breeds (i.e. Holstein) are more susceptible than Bos Indicus breeds (i.e. Brahma). Generally, the disease affects older animals, with many calves showing no clinical signs, youngstock up to 2-3 years of age showing mild to moderate signs, and cattle over 2-3 years old having severe signs with higher death losses.

*A. marginale* attacks red blood cells causing anemia. Signs to look out for include fever, jaundice, going off-feed, pale membranes, rapid breathing, weakness and agression in some cases. You may see abortions in cows and a period of infertility in bulls.

Treatments such as tetracyclines are available to save clinically affected animals; however, the animal will remain a disease carrier. Carrier animals act as reservoirs to transmit the disease to others within the herd via the routes mentioned above. Some treatments are available to completely clear the infection but they are not approved for general use in food producing animals in the US and they are cost-prohibitive for most commercial operations.

**What is Theileriosis?**

Theileriosis refers to disease caused by a family of parasites, with the most common one to affect cattle in the US being the *Theileria orientalis* group. This group has been found sporadically in the US cattle population since the 1950s, but was benign, never causing disease. However, with the introduction of the Asian Longhorn Tick (ALT) to the US in 2017, this is likely to change.

So far, the ALT has been found in 19 states, including NY. Theileriosis is dose-dependent, meaning the more parasite transmitted, the worse the disease is and ALT is known to be an efficient transmitter of *T. orientalis* in other countries. So the concern is that now that we have an efficient vector to transmit this disease in the US, the previously low level of benign disease we saw will get more serious.

So what does theileria look like? The specific disease we worry ALT is transmitting is *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda, which causes symptoms similar to anaplasmosis including fever, weakness, and jaundice. The parasite primarily infects lymphoid cells, but with time affects red blood cells, causing severe anemia. Naïve cattle will generally show signs within 3 weeks of being exposed to the tick (i.e. put on pasture).

There is no approved treatment for theileriosis and severely affected animals are generally given supportive therapy. I treated a few cases of theileriosis as a veterinarian in New Zealand, with the mainstay of treatment being blood transfusion from a healthy herdmate. Treated animals, like with anaplasmosis, become carriers with the ability to transmit disease to herdmates.

**Prevention**

If possible, maintain a closed herd to eliminate the risk of buying in carrier animals. If buying in animals from a high-risk area, discuss screening protocols with your veterinarian prior to purchase.

Tick control is going to be an increasing priority for animals with access to pasture in the northern US, including NY state. University of Tennessee’s School of Veterinary Medicine has a...
New Invaders: Tick Borne Diseases Moving North Cont.

A good review of *Theileria orientalis Ikeda* and tick control measures. The main points include:

1. Use two separate tick-control methods such as ear-tags, back dusters or permethrin pour-ons as well as pasture maintenance.
2. Keep cattle out of wooded areas and keep pasture mowed as long pasture provides a great environment for ticks.

**Reporting**

If you do find ticks on your cattle, remove them promptly if possible and bring them to your local extension office, veterinary office or email a picture to Cornell's Integrated Pest Management at nysipm@cornell.edu for identification. Talk to your veterinarian about your herd’s risk factors as well as any animals fitting the above descriptions. Although we think of mostly beef herds on pasture, pastured dairy herds as well as outdoor housed heifers that become carriers can put your herd at risk for Theileriosis and Anaplasmosis.

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**American Dog Tick/Wood Tick. Photo credit: Center for Disease Control**

**Asian Longhorn Tick: nymph and adult female. Photo credit: Center for Disease Control**

**Jaundice in a cow with T. orientalis in Kentucky. Photo credit: Dr. Katie Flynn.**
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RULES-2023 New York Grain Corn and Soybean Yield Contest

SOYBEANS
Eligibility: Designated field must be at least 5 acres of the same variety with a minimum of 2 acres harvested as the contest entry. The harvested area must be squared off (e.g. 180 x 484 = 2 acres). No odd shaped! For convenience, the test area may be measured after harvest by the contest supervisor. The harvested area must be exclusive of headlands and outside rows and include more than one combine pass.

Participants must use non-irrigated soybeans, but are not restricted as to variety, fertilization, spacing or other cultural practices. There will be four classes of beans based upon maturity group (0, 1, 2, & 3).

Judging and Prizes: The NYCSGA Yield Contest Committee will determine the winners for each maturity group based on soybean yields at 13% moisture. First place in each maturity group (0, 1, 2, 3) in each of the five regions (West, Finger Lakes, Central, East & North) will receive special recognition, plaques at the 2023 Corn & Soybean Expo and a one year NYCSGA membership. Grand Champion (across all maturity groups) will win a trip for two to the 2024 Commodity Classic in Houston, TX (no substitutions, includes registration, travel & hotel, not to exceed $2500). Overall 2nd & 3rd place winners will be awarded $500 & $250 respectively.

CORN
Eligibility: Designated fields must be at least 5 acres of the same hybrid number with 1.25 continuous acres harvested from each field and accurately weighed in the presence of a contest supervisor. Irrigated fields are not eligible. The harvested area must be exclusive of headlands and outside rows, and include more than one combine pass.

Judging and Prizes: The NYCSGA Yield Contest Committee will determine winners for each region based on corn grain yields at 15% moisture. Any plots that yield more than 200 bushels per acre of grain must have a second contiguous 1.25 acres harvested and weighed. The second 1.25 acres must adjoin the first harvest area. The average of the two yields from the two harvested areas will be considered the final yield.

First, second & third place winners in each of the five regions will receive special recognition, plaques, and a one year NYCSGA membership at the 2024 Corn & Soybean Expo. The overall Grand Champion will win a trip for two to the 2024 Commodity Classic in Houston, TX (no substitutions, includes registration, travel & hotel, not to exceed $2500). The 2nd & 3rd place overall winners will receive $500 & $250 respectively.

NYCSGA Yield Contest: Entrants in the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Corn Yield Contest who are also entrants in the NYCSGA Yield Contest may use the NCGA Harvest Report Form to determine the contest yield. Failing the NCGA Harvest Report Form, the NYCSGA Rules and procedures will apply in determining the final yield. Entrants must enter and pay the fee for both contests to be eligible for this.

2023 New York Grain Corn and Soybean Yield Contests
Entry Form and Field Designation
Entries must be RECEIVED and PAID by August 30, 2023

Name__________________________________________________________________________Farm Name___________________________
*Only one person per farm may enter and no more than two entries each for corn and soybean*
Address_____________________________________________________________________________
Town________________________State______ Zip_________County__________________________

Email_________________________Home Phone_________________________Work/Cell Phone________________________
Sponsor(if sponsored)________________________

Grain Corn Entry #1Grain Corn Entry #2
Hybrid___________________________Hybrid___________________________
Company________________________Company________________________
County__________________________County__________________________

Soybean Entry #1Soybean Entry #2
Variety___________________________Variety___________________________
Company________________________Company________________________
Maturity group (circle one): 0 1 2 3
County__________________________County__________________________

I hereby agree that all the contest information provided by me pursuant to this contest shall be the property of the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association and can be used and distributed at the sole discretion of the Association.
Signature of the Entrant_________________________Date____________________

Number of grain corn entries (limit 2 per farm) _____ x $30/entry Total _______
Number of soybeans entries (limit 2 per farm) _____ x $30/entry Total _______
New NYCSGA membership Renew NYCSGA ($99/year membership not required to enter state contest) Total Enclosed _______

Method of Payment (check one):
☐ Bill my seed provider-name/phone#: ___________________ (contest only)
☐ Cash ☐ Check (payable to NYCSGA) ☐ Credit card

Credit card number_________________________Sec Code________________________Billing Zip Code________________________

Expiration date__________________________Signature__________________________

Email to: Ashley Knapp, ak2367@cornell.edu after filling form COMPLETELY or mail to 420 E. Main Street, Batavia NY 14020
Questions? Contact Mike Stanyard at Email: mjs88@cornell.edu Phone: 585-761-8452

If this form is properly submitted, you will receive the appropriate Harvest Report Forms in the mail or email if provided.
UPCOMING EVENTS

POSTPONED
Managing for Quality Milk
Wyoming County
More Info & Registration: Postponed

August 3rd
Intro to Value-Added Processing for Dairy Farmers
7PM : Zoom : Free
More Info & Registration: https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2146

August 10th
Summer Crop Tour
Rodman Lott & Sons Farms
More Info & Registration: https://tinyurl.com/CropTour

August 16th
Farm Equipment Maintenance, Operation and Safety
12PM - 4PM : El-Vi Farms : $35
More Info: https://tinyurl.com/FarmEquipment0816

August 21st
Agritourism Workshops Monthly
12PM - 1PM : Zoom : Free
More Info & Registration: https://tinyurl.com/AugustAgritourism

SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 2023
Robotic Milking Management on Grass-Based Systems and Grazing Technology Update
Registration: Coming Soon