

North Country Ag Advisor

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

CCE North Country Regional Ag Team

Kitty O'Neil, PhD
Field Crops & Soils
315-854-1218
kao32@cornell.edu

Michael Hunter
Field Crops & Soils
315-788-8450
meh27@cornell.edu

Lindsay Ferlito
Dairy Management
607-592-0290
lc636@cornell.edu

Tatum Langworthy
Sr. Admin Assistant
315-788-8450
tlm92@cornell.edu

Daniela Gonzalez
Dairy Management
315-749-3486
dg647@cornell.edu

CCE County Ag Educators

Kayla Gugin (St. Lawrence)
315-379-9192
krg75@cornell.edu

Carly Summers (Essex)
518-962-4810
cfs82@cornell.edu

Abigail Jantzi (Jefferson)
315-788-8450
aej48@cornell.edu

Justin Tucker (Franklin)
518-483-7403
jwt93@cornell.edu

Melissa Spence (Lewis)
315-376-5270
mms427@cornell.edu

North Country Ag Advisor

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"The North Country Regional Ag Team is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties."

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Our Mission

"The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically, and environmentally sustainable management practices, and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry."

Field Crops and Soils

Stay up to Date with New Pesticide Labels

By Michael Hunter

January is probably not the time of year when most pesticide applicators are reading pesticide labels; however, it would not be a bad time to start preparing for spring pesticide applications. It is also a good time to make sure you have the most current pesticide labels for the products that you are using.

We all know that the pesticide label is the law. If you plan on using or referencing an older or outdated pesticide label, you could potentially be preparing yourself to use the product in a manner not consistent with the new label. Pesticide applicators found to be out of compliance with a pesticide use because of an outdated label can be found in violation of the environmental conservation law and face monetary fines.

In recent years, the Environmental Protection Agency has begun to place a greater emphasis on addressing ecological risks as a measure to reduce risk and exposure to nontarget species. To reduce off field ecological risks, applicators may now find specific language on the pesticide label that addresses minimizing surface water runoff and reducing spray drift. For example, in January 2022, Enlist One herbicide label was updated with many significant changes. Most notably was a new section, Management of Runoff, that outlined mitigation measures to reduce the potential for runoff. It included land management practices that must be implemented by land

managers/users of this product (see Fig.1). If an applicator was using a label, prior to this update, they would not have this information to properly use the product.

According to the EPA, there are an increasing number of pesticide labels that require users to obtain an Endangered Species Protection Bulletin. When it is determined that a pesticide requires additional measures to protect a listed endangered species or its designated critical habitat, a geographically specific pesticide use limitation can be placed on a product without making these restrictions for all areas of use. This additional label requirement is usually going to be found under directions for use with a section titled Endangered Species (see the atrazine 4L example in Fig. 2).

If a label directs a user to consult the EPA Bulletins Live! Two website, the user must do this *prior to* the pesticide application. This has to be done even if the application will take place in an area without a designated pesticide use limitation area.

Products containing atrazine will also direct users to consult the Atrazine Watershed Information Center (AWIC) (see Acuron herbicide label example in Fig 3.) to determine if the

Continued on Page 4...

Mitigation Measures			Credits
Reduce number of applications - Reduced number of applications of Enlist products per year. Applications may be made at any time during crop development but must maintain a minimum 12-day retreatment interval.		3 applications	0
		2 applications	2
		1 application	4
Residue Tillage Management: no-till, strip-till, ridge-till, and mulch-till			4
Vegetative Filter Strips	30 ft off-field vegetative buffer on down slope	HSG A or B	2
		HSG C or D	0
	100 ft off-field vegetative buffer on down slope	HSG A or B	4
		HSG C or D	1
Field border: border with dense vegetative stands with a minimum width of 30 ft.			2
Cover Crop			2
Vegetative Barrier: Permanent strips of dense vegetation along the contours of the field with a minimum width of 3 ft.			2
Contour Buffer Strips or Terrace			2
Grassed Waterway			2
Water and Sediment Basin			1
Contour Farming or Contour Strip Cropping			1

*Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) definitions: A = Sand, loamy sand, or sandy loam; B = Sandy clay loam; C = Silt loam or loam; D = Clay loam, silty clay loam, sandy clay, silty clay or clay.

Fig. 1. Table of recommended and credited runoff mitigations measures from the June 2022 Enlist One label.

product can be used in a particular watershed. Unlike, an EPA Bulletin that must be obtained no earlier than six months prior to using the product, the AWIC can be checked annually to ensure proper compliance with the label.

As you can see from these few examples that is important to ensure you have and follow the most current label for the pesticide you will be using. If you would like to view and print

a copy of the most recent pesticide label you can find them on the NYS DEC NYSPAD (web information portal). This website can be found by going to <https://on.ny.gov/3GSr27p> or by doing a Google search for "NYSPAD." Remember, the label is the law and the best way to accurately use a pesticide is to thoroughly read the label before each use.

Endangered Species: It is a Federal offense to use any pesticide in a manner that results in an unauthorized "take" (e.g., kill or otherwise harm) of an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act section 9. When using this product, you must follow the measures contained in the Endangered Species Protection Bulletin for the area in which you are applying the product. You must obtain a Bulletin no earlier than six months before using this product. To obtain Bulletins, consult <http://www.epa.gov/espp/>, call 1-844-447-3813, or email ESPP@epa.gov. You must use the Bulletin valid for the month in which you will apply the product.

Fig 2. Passage from the November 2022 Atrazine 4L label requiring applicators to consult current endangered species bulletins.

ANY USE OF THIS PRODUCT IN AN AREA WHERE USE IS PROHIBITED IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW. Before using this product, you must consult the Atrazine Watershed Information Center (AWIC) to determine whether the use of this product is prohibited in your watershed. AWIC can be accessed through www.atrazine-watershed.info or 1-866-365-3014. If use of this product is prohibited in your watershed, you may return this product to your point of purchase or contact Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC for a refund.

Fig. 3. Requirement in the April 2022 Acuron label requiring applicators to check current watershed prohibitions before use.

Beef x Dairy in New York State Survey

Who should take this survey?

- Dairy Farmers in New York using beef sires, or not
- Farmers growing beef x dairy cattle
- Farm advisors and consultants assisting farmers with beef x dairy decisions

Survey Link: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5yxP0lqJPncmb78

Photo courtesy of R. Holtz



Questions or Comments?

Margaret Quaassdorff
maq27@cornell.edu

Betsy Hicks
bjh246@cornell.edu

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- **Managing Transition Cows** - Dr. Tom Overton
- **Managing Dairy Replacements** - Betsy Hicks & Margaret Quaassdorff

What Should NYS Farms Know About PFAS?

By Kitty O'Neil and Elisabeth Hodgdon, Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Specialists

PFAS contamination of soils is an emerging problem for farms in a couple of areas in the Northeast and Midwest and many are taking notice. The North Country Regional Ag Team has worked with colleagues and experts at NYS DEC and in other Northeastern states to pull together a helpful factsheet summarizing what all NYS farms should know about PFAS chemicals and the problems they may cause for our farmlands, farms, and farm products. The factsheet is housed within Essex Cornell Cooperative Extension and may be downloaded [here](#). A copy may also be shared upon request to Carly Summers (cfs82@cornell.edu) or Elizabeth Lee (el677@cornell.edu) at the CCE Essex County office.

PFAS and PFOS are acronyms referring to a large group of small synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of a wide range of consumer goods. Technically, this acronym stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances with one or two fluorinated carbon atoms that give persistent non-stick, water-, grease-, heat-, and stain-proof properties to packaging, coatings, fabrics, and other materials. PFAS chemicals have also been an ingredient in cosmetics and fire-fighting foams. PFAS is even found in 'compostable' plates and tableware. These unique and persistent properties of PFAS are also what cause these chemicals to be so problematic in our environment and in our bodies. They are degraded very slowly in the environment, which is why they are commonly called "forever chemicals." Some PFAS chemicals have a half-life in water of more than 92 years. They readily move through the environment with water, in soil, and into plants and animals and, ultimately, into our bodies. The CDC recently estimated that 97% of Americans have some PFAS chemicals in their bodies. Once in our bodies, PFAS molecules can cause a range of health issues for humans and animals including cancer, kidney and thyroid diseases, birth defects, autoimmune diseases, high cholesterol, and ulcerative colitis.

Because these chemicals are used in the manufacture of a considerable number of consumer goods, they end up in our landfills and then can leach into our surface and groundwater sources, soils, and food plants and animals. In Maine, these chemicals entered the farmscape through paper manufacturing biosolids, high in PFAS, used as soil amendments for many years - as far back as the 1980s. In Michigan, the contamination appears to have been through manufacturing waste entering waterways and aquifers. Blood testing of farmers and homeowners with contaminated wells in Maine revealed very high levels of PFAS in some instances. These cases have received national attention and have caused significant economic and personal harm to the farms,

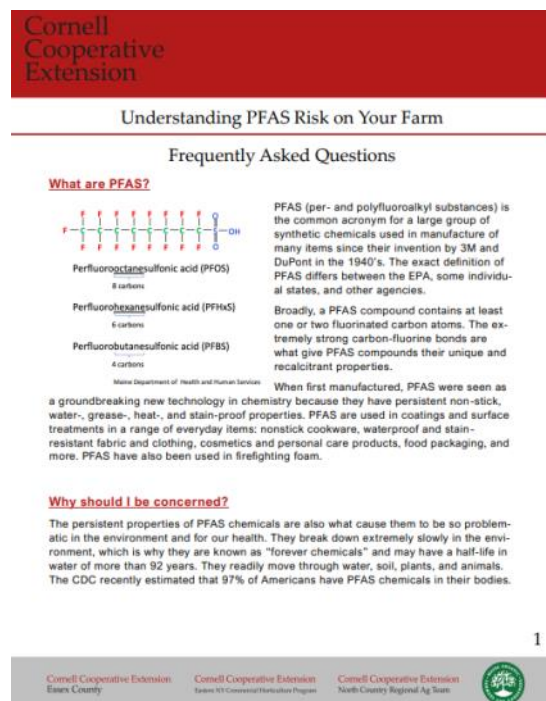


Figure 1. First page of CCE PFAS factsheet.

farmers, and adjacent landowners. Once in soils and waters, PFAS molecules are taken up by plants and tend to be higher in leaves and stems than in fruits and seeds. Animals consuming forages and grains that contain PFAS can have these chemicals in their milk and muscle tissues. In NYS, because we do not have the same types of manufacturing using PFAS, the DEC does not expect to find 'hotspots' of PFAS contamination like those found in Maine and Michigan, however it can be found at low levels in many wells and waterways. DEC monitors both functioning and decommissioned landfills for PFAS and other contaminants and has implemented interim standards and regulations for safely recycling biosolids from wastewater treatment while the EPA develops broader and more permanent limits. At the moment, no highly contaminated soils have been found on NYS farms, but we also have not yet tested very many farm fields or wells.

Many farms will want to learn about risks specific to their fields, wells, and farm products and figure out how to minimize them. Farms without high PFAS levels in soils or water can maintain these low levels by avoiding application of municipal or industrial biosolids on fields or by at least testing or confirming no or low PFAS before applying. NYS DEC will begin requiring testing of biosolids before land application very soon. Many synthetic pesticides and fertilizer materials

Continued on Page 6...

and containers contain PFAS compounds, so check ingredients and look for PFAS-free inputs for use on your farm and fields. Consider past land use history. Because PFAS are ‘forever chemicals,’ it is important to consider use of materials for the past several decades, which may prove challenging if your farm has had other owners over that timeframe. Farms may consider testing water or soils to determine risk to themselves, their families, and farm products, but they should remember that they may find PFAS at least at low background levels.

What will you do if you discover a high concentration of PFAS on your farm? You may decide to produce different crops or you may then wish to test specific farm products. It will be important to think through how you will use the information before testing. Guidance on how to sample soils, wells, and farm products is available when you are ready to collect and submit samples. Laboratory testing is fairly expensive because the lab will need to analyze each sample for up to 20 to 40 individual chemicals that fall under the PFAS umbrella.

Consult the ‘Understanding PFAS Risk on Your Farm’ factsheet [here](#) and stay up-to-date on DEC progress with PFAS monitoring and recommendations in your own region. PFAS use in food packaging is already restricted in NYS as is the use of fire fighting foams containing PFAS. Remedial efforts are underway in a few municipalities where higher than acceptable levels of PFAS chemicals have been found in drinking water sources.



Photo credit: L. Ferlito.

CCE NCRAT Congratulates Daniela Gonzalez Carranza on New Role with the CCE CNY Dairy, Livestock Field Crops Program. Thank you for your time in the North Country, Daniela!

PRESS RELEASE
CCE Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Dear CNYDLFC producers and industry stakeholders!

I am pleased to announce on behalf of Director Turner the appointment of Daniela Gonzalez Carranza to the Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Dairy Management Specialist position. Daniela brings with her a passion and experience working with a variety of different dairy operations, a veterinarian background, experience working with regional and statewide extension dairy teams, participation in the Cornell Dairy Summer Institute and completing her Ag Business MPS at Cornell University this past spring. We are excited to have Daniela start in her new role January 1.

Peter Landre
Assistant Director for CCE Regional Teams
Cornell University



Dairy Shop Meetings: Transition Cow Management & Crops

Wednesday, January 24th, 12:30-2PM

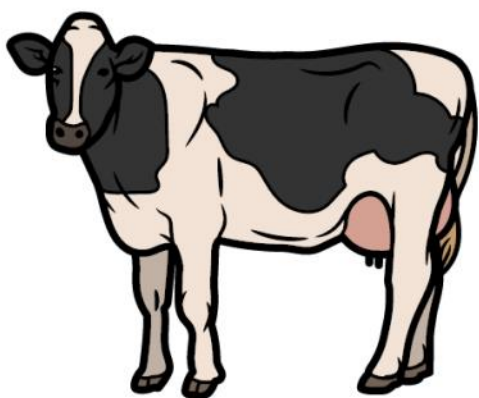
Topic: Transition Cow Management

Sheland Farms: 12043 County Route 79, Adams, NY

Wednesday, February 28th, 12:30-2PM

Topic: Managing Spring Workload for Forage Success

Grimshaw Farm: 9922 County Route 152, Adams, NY



Please let Abbey Jantzi know via email (aej48@cornell.edu) or phone (315-788-8450) if you plan on attending one or both meetings.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

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Guide to Addressing Dystocia in Dairy Cows

By Daniela Gonzalez Carranza

** This article was previously published by Calf Corner Blog from Calf-Tel, November 2023.*

Dystocia is not desirable, but it is an inevitable situation that managers will have to face from time to time, and repercussions for cows and calves are complex. For example, even slight assistance can have an impact on production and fertility, not to mention on calf morbidity and mortality. Regardless of your calving management system, it is crucial to understand the process and stages of parturition.

What should we know about calving?

Cows go through three stages of calving, and it starts days before calving when the calf's cortisol (stress hormone) triggers hormonal changes in the cow that initiates parturition.

The first stage refers to dilation of the cervix and can last between 4-24 hours, depending on parity. As hormones dilate the cervix, other signs begin to show. For example, the first one can be isolation, and as the time to calve comes closer, the cow displays other signs such as raising the tail, increasing laying bouts, and paying attention to the abdomen. Once the cow is dilated and the calf is in the delivery position, **stage 2**, which is delivery of the calf, starts. It is considered that stage 2 starts once the cow has frequent abdominal contractions (ideally 2-3 per minute) and the "water bag" (amniotic sac) is observed. The normal duration of this second stage can last from 30 minutes to 2 hours for multiparous cows and 3-4 hours for primiparous cows. Stage 2 ends when the calf is born. **The third stage** is the expulsion of the placenta.

When do I need to check?

Assisting calvings can be challenging since each cow is different, and the process can be affected by various factors, including environmental conditions. However, here are some practical tips that can help determine whether intervention is necessary:

1. Once you recognize the cow is in stage 2, check progress every 30 minutes. If you don't know when the cow started stage 2, be patient and give time to monitor.
2. If the cow is in stage 2 and there is no progress in 30 minutes, you could proceed to do a vaginal exam.
3. If the cow is in stage 1 and there is no progress in 2-4 hours, you could proceed to do a vaginal exam.
4. Keep in mind if the cow is still having uterine



Image 1. Cow in Stage 2, notice the attention to abdomen and amniotic sac is shown.

contractions (2-3 per minute).

How to do a vaginal exam?

When doing a vaginal exam, always remember these golden rules:

- ⇒ Cleanliness: Prepare and clean the vaginal area of the cow to reduce the risk of infections.
- ⇒ Lubrication: Lubrication helps with friction, less force is needed, and decreases the risk of injuries to the cow and calf.

The first step is to evaluate the cervix dilation. No progress will be made if the cow is not dilated enough for the calf to go through. The next step is to evaluate the calf's position or the reason for slow progress.

- ⇒ What is the calf position, anterior (head first) or posterior (tail first)?
- ⇒ Is the calf too big? Is the calf alive?
- ⇒ Is there any obstruction?
- ⇒ Is the water bag broken?

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Some tips:

- ⇒ When identifying the front legs from the hind legs, two joints will flex in the same direction for the front legs. On the contrary, the two joints will flex in opposite directions for the hind legs.

Continued tips:

- ⇒ Always pull only when the cow is having a contraction.
- ⇒ When using chains, two loops per leg (one above and one below the fetlock) will reduce the risk of injury for the calf.
- ⇒ Rotation of the calf (90°) can help avoid hip lock.
- ⇒ When manipulating a leg inside the cow's uterus, protect the calf's hooves with your hand to avoid lacerations to the uterus.

There is no secret recipe for how to intervene in each dystocia. Every case is different and there may be difficult scenarios where you will need professional assistance from your veterinarian. Nonetheless, intervening calmly and precisely is crucial for a smooth transition into lactation, reducing injuries, and prioritizing the welfare of cows and calves.



Image 2. Calving workshops delivered by Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist using a cow-calf model.

Guía Para Abordar la Distocia

Por Daniela González Carranza

*** Este artículo fue previamente publicado por el Calf Corner Blog de Calf-Tel en Noviembre 2023.**

Los partos distócicos no son deseables, pero es una situación inevitable a la que tendremos que enfrentarnos de vez en cuando, y las repercusiones para vacas y becerros son complejas. Por ejemplo, una asistencia mínima puede tener un impacto en la producción y la fertilidad de la vaca, sin mencionar la morbilidad y mortalidad de los becerros. Independientemente de su sistema de manejo del parto, es fundamental comprender el proceso y las etapas del parto.

¿Qué debemos saber sobre el parto?

Las vacas pasan por tres etapas cuando paren, y todo comienza días antes cuando el cortisol (hormona del estrés) del becerro desencadena cambios hormonales en la vaca que inician el parto.

La **primera etapa** es la dilatación del cuello uterino o cervix y puede durar entre 4 y 24 horas, dependiendo del número de lactancia de la vaca. A medida que las hormonas dilatan el cuello uterino, comienzan a aparecer otros signos, por ejemplo, el primero puede ser el aislamiento, y a medida que se

acerca el momento del parto, la vaca muestra otros signos como levantar la cola, aumentar las veces que se echa y presta atención al abdomen. Una vez que la vaca está dilatada y el becerro está en posición de parto, comienza la etapa 2, que es la expulsión del becerro. Se considera que la **segunda etapa** comienza una vez que la vaca presenta contracciones abdominales frecuentes (idealmente 2-3 por minuto) y se muestra la "bolsa de agua" (saco amniótico). La duración normal de esta segunda etapa puede oscilar entre 30 minutos y 2 horas para vacas multíparas y entre 3 y 4 horas para vacas primíparas. La etapa 2 termina cuando nace la cría. La **tercera etapa** es la expulsión de la placenta.

¿Cuándo necesito intervenir?

Intervenir en los partos puede ser un desafío ya que cada vaca es diferente y el proceso puede verse afectado por varios factores, incluidas las condiciones ambientales. Sin embargo, a continuación se ofrecen algunos consejos prácticos que pueden ayudar a determinar si es necesaria una intervención.

1. Una vez que reconozca que la vaca está en la etapa 2, verifique el progreso cada 30 minutos. Si no sabe cuándo la vaca comenzó con la etapa 2, tenga paciencia y dé tiempo para monitorearla.

2. Si la vaca está en etapa 2 y no hay avances en 30 minutos, se podría proceder a hacerle un examen vaginal.
3. Si la vaca está en etapa 1 y no hay avances en 2-4 horas, se podría proceder a hacer un examen vaginal.
4. Tenga en cuenta si la vaca todavía tiene contracciones uterinas (2-3 por minuto).



Imagen 1. Vaca en Etapa 2, observe que se muestra la atención al abdomen y el saco amniótico.

Algunos consejos

- ⇒ Al identificar las patas delanteras de las traseras, dos articulaciones se flexionarán en la misma dirección para las patas delanteras. Por el contrario, las dos articulaciones se flexionarán en direcciones opuestas en las patas traseras.
- ⇒ Siempre jale cuando la vaca esté teniendo una contracción.
- ⇒ Cuando utilice cadenas, dos vueltas (una encima y otra debajo de la articulación del metacarpo o menudillo) reducirán el riesgo de lesiones para el becerro.
- ⇒ La rotación de la becerro (90 grados) puede ayudar a evitar el bloqueo de la cadera.
- ⇒ Al manipular una pata dentro del útero, proteger las pezuñas del becerro con la mano evitara laceraciones en el útero.

No existe una receta secreta sobre cómo intervenir en cada distocia, cada caso es diferente y puede haber escenarios difíciles en los que necesitarás asistencia profesional de tu veterinario. No obstante, intervenir con calma y precisión es crucial para una buena transición a la lactancia, reducir las lesiones y priorizar el bienestar de las vacas y los terneros.

¿Cómo hacer un examen vaginal?

Siempre recuerde estas reglas de oro al realizar un examen vaginal.

- ⇒ Limpieza: Preparar y limpiar la zona vaginal de la vaca para reducir el riesgo de infecciones.
- ⇒ Lubricación: La lubricación ayuda con la fricción, se necesita menos fuerza y disminuye el riesgo de lesiones a la vaca y al ternero.

El primer paso del examen es evaluar la dilatación del cuello uterino o cervix. No se logrará ningún progreso si la vaca no está lo suficientemente dilatada para que pueda pasar el becerro. El siguiente paso es evaluar la posición del becerro o el motivo del progreso lento.

- ⇒ ¿Cuál es la posición del becerro, anterior (la cabeza primero) o posterior (la cola primero)?
- ⇒ ¿El becerro es demasiado grande? ¿Está vivo?
- ⇒ ¿Hay alguna obstrucción?
- ⇒ ¿Está rota la bolsa de agua?



Imagen 2. Talleres de asistencia al parto impartidos por el especialista de Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Cornell Cow Convos

A New Podcast Series Offered by PRO-DAIRY and Cornell Cooperative Extension

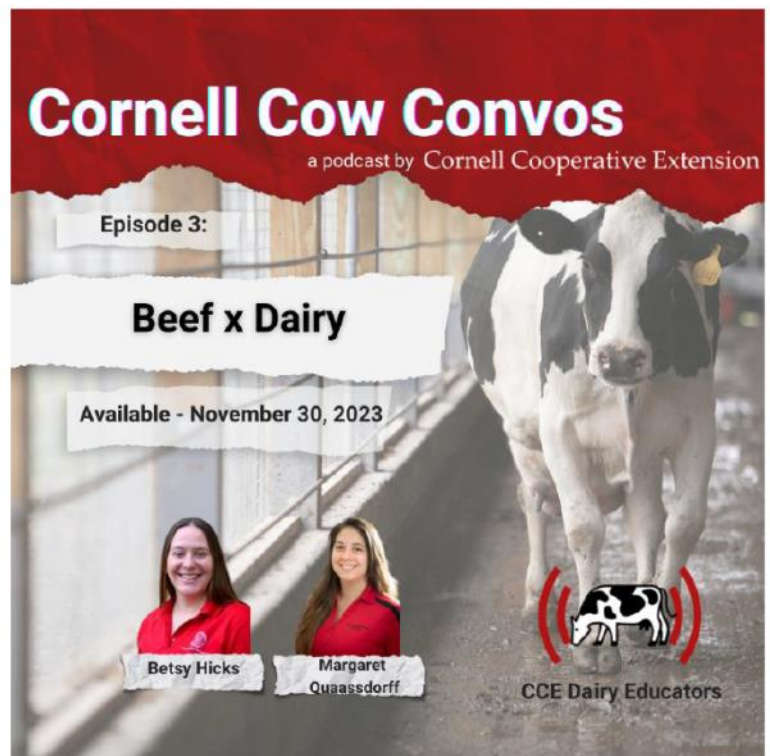
This monthly podcast series led by PRO-DAIRY and CCE Dairy Specialists features current, new, and emerging topics of interest to the dairy industry right now. New episodes are released on the last Thursday of the month. Our first few episodes include discussions on preventative healthcare for cows, the trend of beef on dairy, what to look forward to in the new year for dairy, and socially grouping or pair-housing calves. This series also features specially selected interviews with dairy farmers and industry experts and invites suggestions from our listeners for future topics.

Check out the podcast on the [PRO-DAIRY website](#) or [Soundcloud](#) where each episode, additional resources, and speaker contact information will be posted. You can also listen to this and prior podcasts via SoundCloud on the *CCE Dairy Educators* channel. For more information, contact PRO-DAIRY's Kathy Barrett (kfb3@cornell.edu) or your CCE Regional Dairy Specialist.

[Submit a topic suggestion here.](#)

Check out the podcast series here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-301921459-118136586/sets/cornell-dairy-convos>



Unlocking the Potential to Finding and Keeping GOOD Employees

Two Part Series
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Classes will be held 12-1pm

January 18th

"Writing a good job descriptions with recruitment and retention in mind."



January 25th

"The Importance of SOP's"

These two sessions will be presented by Richard Stup. Richard is a Senior Extension Associate, Agricultural Workforce Specialist, With Cornell CALS and The Cornell Workforce Development Team.



Annie's Mission

"To empower women in agriculture to be successful through education, networks, and resources."



To Register

Follow the link below to register
[Register by January 17th](https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=2311)

https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=2311

For
Questions
Contact

Mary E. Franklin

mf566@cornell.edu



Cornell Cooperative Extension

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

What's Happening in the Ag Community

Beef x Dairy New York State Survey, see page 4 for more information.

Dairy Whole Farm Efficiency Webinar Series, see page 5 for more information.

Dairy Shop Meetings: Transition Cow Management & Crops, see page 8 for more information.

Cornell Cow Convos monthly podcast series, see page 12 for more information.

Unlocking the Potential to Finding and Keeping GOOD Employees, see page 13 for more information.

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