



North Country Ag Advisor

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

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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.”

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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

Status of XtendiMax, Engenia, and Tavium herbicides

By Michael Hunter

On February 6, 2024, a federal court ruling vacated the registration of dicamba herbicides approved for use in dicamba tolerant or Xtend/XtendFlex soybeans in New York. The herbicides named in the decision were XtendiMax, Engenia, and Tavium. This effectively stops the approved sale and use of these three dicamba herbicides for the use on dicamba tolerant soybean in New York state.

On February 14, 2024, the EPA issued an existing stocks order, allowing the sale, distribution, and use of these three products. This means is that if an ag retail outlet had these products in their possession on February 6, they are allowed to distribute and sell these products. The last day to sell or distribute existing stock is May 31, 2024. Growers that have any of these three products on the farm will still be allowed to use them this spring. The end date for the use of existing stock is June 30, 2024.

Growers may ask, “I’ve already ordered my Xtend or XtendFlex soybean seed, what are my options if I don’t have any of these products on hand or cannot find any to purchase?”

For soybean growers that have resistant tall waterhemp and palmer amaranth in soybeans there are other effective herbicide options available. The postemergence control of resistant tall waterhemp and palmer amaranth in *all* soybeans, including conventional, can be achieved

by applying Reflex, Flexstar (fomesafen), Prefix (s-metolachlor + fomesafen), or Warrant Ultra (acetochlor + fomesafen) before the weeds reach 3 inches tall. If necessary, a late rescue treatment of Cobra (lactofen) can be applied.

For soybean growers that have multiple resistant marestail (Groups 2 and 9) in soybeans, effective herbicide programs will be more challenging. There are no effective postemergence herbicides to control multiple resistant marestail in glyphosate tolerant (Roundup Ready) or conventional soybeans. Postemergence applications of Reflex, Flexstar, and Cobra, will not control marestail. If you have XtendFlex soybeans, Liberty (glufosinate) would be the only postemergence herbicide option for controlling emerged multiple resistant marestail.

Anyone that will be applying XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium in 2024 will still be required to complete the mandatory annual dicamba training either online or in person. If you had already completed the annual dicamba training prior to February 6, your 2024 dicamba training certificate is still valid.

While the information contained in this article is valid at the time of writing February 16, 2024, it is important to keep up to date on any possible changes to this information. The most current updates on the status of these dicamba products can be found on the registrants’ (Bayer, BASF, and Syngenta) websites.



Photo credit: CCE NCRAT.

SAVE THE DATE

WHOLE-FARM EFFICIENCY WEBINAR SERIES



Join us for this series on enhancing farm efficiency. Explore innovative practices and cutting-edge technologies to optimize feeding and management.

 **REGISTER NOW**



**Tuesdays from 12pm-1pm EST
Jan 9th through March 12th, 2024**

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS:

- **Precision Feeding** - Betsy Hicks, Margaret Quaassdorff & Joe Lawrence
- **Labor Management** - Dr. Richard Stup
- **Feeding Management** - Dr. Barry Bradford
- **Successful Onboarding** - Mary Kate Mackenzie
- **Managing for High Milk Quality** - Dr. Paul Virkler
- **Maximizing Return on Colostrum** - Dr. Sabine Mann
- **Targeted Reproduction Programs** - Dr. Julio Giordano
- **Managing Repro Programs** - Dr. Matias Stangaferro
- **Managing Transition Cows** - Dr. Tom Overton
- **Managing Dairy Replacements** - Betsy Hicks & Margaret Quaassdorff



Cornell
CALS
College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Hands-on Dairy Animal Care Training

9:30am to 3:00pm

Offered in English & Spanish at each site

Featuring stations with mostly hands-on activities and demonstrations

Who should attend:

- ♦ Dairy farm owners or managers that want to learn more about the FARM Animal Care Program and receive continuing education credits.
- ♦ Dairy farm workers with animal care responsibilities that want to learn more, gain hands-on experience, and receive continuing education credits.

Topics covered:

- ♦ FARM Animal Care Program Version 5.0 updates
- ♦ Physical exam and non-ambulatory cow management
- ♦ Dairy stockmanship (heifers)
- ♦ Pre-weaned calf care
- ♦ Euthanasia
- ♦ Fitness for transport



Registration: \$15 per person (includes lunch)

For more information:

Lindsay Ferlito, CCE NCRAT; Lc636@cornell.edu; 607-592-0290

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Upstate Niagara Coop
Zoetis

2024 Dates & Locations:

Northern New York

Mar 11 | Butterville Farm, 11279
County Rd 75, Adams, NY

Mar 12 | Beller Farm, 10639 NY 126,
Carthage, NY

Register: [ncrat.cce.cornell.edu/
event.php?id=2314](https://ncrat.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2314)

South Central New York

Mar 13 | Glezen Farms, 1024
Caldwell Hill Rd, Lisle, NY

Mar 14 | Green Hill Dairy, 2288
Mosher Rd, Scipio Center, NY

Register: [scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/
events.php](https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php)

Central New York

Mar 15 | SUNY Cobleskill, 120
Saratoga ave, Cobleskill, NY

Mar 22 | SUNY Morrisville Dairy, Co
Hwy 103, Morrisville, NY

Register: [cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/
event.php?id=2344](https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2344)

Northwest New York

Mar 18 | Orleans Poverty Hill Dairy,
13646 West County House Rd, Albion,
NY

Mar 19 | Lake Country Holstein,
4602 Yautzy Rd, Stanley, NY

Register: [nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/
events.php](https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/events.php)

Southwest New York

Mar 20 | R&D Adams Dairy Farms,
4435 Walker Rd, Randolph, NY

Mar 21 | Alfred State College Farm,
1254 SR 244, Alfred Station, NY

Register: [swnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/
events.php](https://swnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php)

Time for Feed Inventory, TMR Audits, & Mixer Maintenance!

By Betsy Hicks, CCE South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team

The new year is a great time to focus on three main areas for your dairy's feeding operation that can set your farm up for profitability through the year.

Completing a Feed Inventory

Completing a forage inventory is not only advisable from a farm business standpoint, but a great idea to have from a feeding standpoint too. This past growing season saw lots of variability in quantities harvested that may have been different from past years. Nothing is more frustrating from a nutritionist standpoint, or a cow standpoint, to run out of a feed before you planned and have to make drastic diet changes. Along with an inventory assessment, doing a projection for feeding out each forage at current rates will allow you to pinpoint how long each forage will last, or how quickly you need a forage to be fed so that room is made for the coming growing season's crops. To do an accurate inventory, knowing the density of the crop in storage is key. Dairy One's Master Forage Probe Density Chart (Table 2) shows the Average, Range, and Standard Deviation for density of both Hay Crop Silage and Corn Silage. I prefer calculating inventory using dry matter (DM) density, which shows an average of about 14.5 lb/cubic foot. Poorly packed silage will struggle to reach 10-12 lb/cubic foot, while really well packed silage can achieve up to 20 lb/cubic foot. If unknown, it is best to guess on the low side to avoid over-estimation.

Table 2. Summary of Core Samples from 168 Bunk Silos

	Hay Crop Silage (n=87)			Corn Silage (n=81)		
	Average	Range	Std. Dev.	Average	Range	Std. Dev.
% DM	42.0	24-67	9.5	34.0	25-46	4.8
Wet Density (lb/ft ³)	37.0	13-61	10.9	43.0	23-60	8.3
DM Density (lb/ft ³)	14.8	6.6-27.1	3.8	14.5	7.8-23.6	2.9

TMR Audits

If you haven't completed a TMR audit on your diets lately, now is a great time to have one completed on diets of varying bulkiness to ensure TMR mixers are performing as needed. Your extension dairy specialist can come out to shake out a batch of freshly delivered TMR and work with your feeding staff to troubleshoot any problems noted with feed consistency. When TMR isn't consistent from one end of delivery to the other, cow production can be impacted. Anecdotally, groups that were historically fed inconsistent mixes gained 2-5 pounds of milk after the TMR mix was made more consistent from start of load to end, in addition to gains in butterfat and fewer cases of indigestion. The top ten areas

to troubleshoot include equipment wear, mix time after last ingredient, load size, levelness of mixer during loading, loading position in the mixer box, hay/straw quality and processing, loading sequence, liquid distribution, vertical mixer auger speed, and hay restrictor plate settings in vertical mixers (Bill Stone, Diamond V). Different density TMRs should also be analyzed (eg. lactating vs dry cow TMRs) as mixer wagon performance could be drastically different between these two diets.

Mixer Performance & Maintenance

Other mixer issues to watch for include: the mixer running hard or being unusually noisy, any added long stem hay or straw is processed too short (<0.5 inch), any added long stem hay or straw is too long (>1.5 inch), hay or straw "nests" easily visible and not mixed in the TMR, clumps of haylage not broken up and visible on top of the TMR or fall to feed passage, visible grain stripes along the TMR after feed out, visible moisture or liquid feed stripes in the TMR after feed out, clumps or balls of grain and liquid feed not mixed in and rolling out of the TMR, excessive bounce or play on the weigh box readout during mixing and loading, and a large negative or positive number on the read out box after discharging the full TMR load (Tony Hall, Lallemand). Any one of these areas being off can be an opportunity to correct for better TMR consistency and higher cow performance.



Photo credit: L. Ferlito.

The new year is the best time to get feeding staff on the same page for mixer maintenance. Each feeder should know what the schedule is for greasing and lubricating, checking chassis and gear box oil levels, as well as monitoring scale performance. Additional points for monitoring include knife performance and replacement, kicker blade wear or paddle and scraper wear, as well as auger discharge wear. Not frequently discussed among feeding crews are the "Plan Bs", aka what to do when main mixers go down, weather or equipment aren't cooperative, or someone is sick for the day. Getting crews on the same page for having a consistent daily feeding strategy is key for cow performance!

PRESS RELEASE

Grasstravaganza Returns, Again!

Kit Pharo from Colorado as Keynote Speaker

Morrisville, NY – Since the early 2000's, Grasstravaganza has developed a name recognition that makes it one of the most well-known grazing conferences in the Northeast. Unfortunately, when it was planned for July of 2023 it had to be cancelled - but it has been rescheduled as a 1-day conference!

Grasstravaganza 2024: Plant Graze – Growing Resilient Grazing Systems will be held Saturday, March 9th at the SUNY Morrisville campus from 8 am to 4:30 pm, starting in the Student Activity building.

The day will kick off with presentations by Colorado rancher Kit Pharo of Pharo Cattle Company. Kit is well-known for his breeding program of low maintenance grass fed seedstock cows and bulls. He's also known for his down-to-earth and no-nonsense perspective on what it takes to make a successful farming or ranching business that can be passed on to the next generation. For a taste of Kit's philosophies, you can sign up for his weekly newsletter at <https://pharocattle.com/>. It's truly exciting to have Kit on our agenda!

Attendees will have the chance to delve into other aspects of how to keep our farms resilient to future changes, with sessions on soil health, climate impacts, diversification through agritourism, pasture ecosystems, virtual fencing technologies, and more. Capping off the conference will be Allison Morrill Chatrchyan from Cornell's Climate Smart Farming Program and the USDA Climate Hub to give us a long-term look at what we can expect in future weather and climate patterns.

Registration is \$40 per person and includes lunch – registration is due by March 2nd. More details can be found by visiting <https://grasstravaganza.morrisville.edu/> or follow the conference on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/grasstravaganza2024>. To receive a paper copy of the registration form please call 315-684-6993 and we will mail it to you or register you over the phone. A trade show will also be held, and vendors can register on the website as well.

The conference is sponsored by USDA-NRCS and SUNY Morrisville, with support from Cornell Cooperative Extension and NOFA-NY.

-30 -

Your Participation is Requested: Beef x Dairy in New York State Survey

By Betsy Hicks, CCE South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team, and Margaret Quaassdorff, CCE Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team

Attention Dairy Producers and Beef Farmers in NYS, and those advisors who work with them!

Your insight is requested to help maintain the viability of the Beef x Dairy Industry in New York State. Take our new survey here: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5yxP0IqJPncmb78

A lot has changed in the beef x dairy industry in NYS since our last survey in 2021. Your responses to this survey will help Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Dairy Specialists, Margaret Quaassdorff and Betsy Hicks, to better understand the management practices of, and resources needed by NY farmers in this growing market.

Who should take this survey?

- Dairy Farmers in New York using (and not using) beef sires in their dairy herd
- Farmers purchasing and growing beef x dairy cattle
- Farm advisors and consultants assisting farmers with beef x dairy cattle decisions

Survey link: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5yxP0IqJPncmb78

For questions, or a paper copy of the survey, please contact Margaret Quaassdorff (maq27@cornell.edu); 585-405-2567 or Betsy Hicks (bjh246@cornell.edu); 607-391-2673 – Regional Dairy Specialists with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

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_5yxP0IqJPncmb78

Photo courtesy of R. Holtz

Questions or Comments?
Margaret Quaassdorff
maq27@cornell.edu
Betsy Hicks
bjh246@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension



DAIRY OF DISTINCTION

New York Application

DairyofDistinctionAwards.com

Purpose of Program

Attractive dairy farms give the consumer greater confidence in the wholesomeness of milk and stimulate milk sales which encourages public support of the dairy industry. The award gives recognition to the dairy farmer for maintaining a well-kept farmstead.

Eligibility

All Northeast dairy farms producing milk for sale are invited to submit an application for the award. Applicant farms must receive a score of 90 or higher to receive an 18"x24" Dairy of Distinction sign. The sign is to be displayed in front of the farm. Winners need not reapply but will be re-judged each year.

Application

Name _____ Farm Name _____

Mailing address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Milk Cooperative or Handler _____

Location (driving directions for judging team) _____

County where farm is located _____

I hereby apply to the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Committee to have my dairy scored in accordance with the rules of the program for the purpose of obtaining a Dairy of Distinction sign to be displayed on my premises (No producer will be charged for scoring or sign expense).

_____ Date _____

Signature of owner/operator

____ Please check if farm is rented or leased

Application must be received by April 15, 2024

Email: dairyofdistinction@gmail.com

or mail to:

NY Dairy of Distinction Program

c/o Marylynn Collins

121 Second St Oriskany, NY 13424

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

What's Happening in the Ag Community

Whole-Farm Efficiency Webinar Series, see page 4 for more information.

Hands-On Dairy Animal Care Training Program, see page 5 for more information.

Grasstravaganza, see page 7 for more information.

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