

## AG FOCUS

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## GROWERS



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Mike Stanyard

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The annual NY Soybean Yield Contest is sponsored by the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association. There were some changes to the contest this year as we only had Group 1 and 2 soybeans eligible for entry. First, second and third places were awarded in each Group (1 and 2) in each of the five regions of NY (West, Finger Lakes, Central, North and East). **Congratulations to the 2024 NY Soybean Champion Lance Rovers from Clinton County with a winning yield of 92.68 bu/a. Second place went to Pit Farms in Wayne County at 87.89 bu/a, and third went Scott Swartz of Rensselaer at 87.58 bu/a.** Listed are the West and Finger Lakes regional soybean winners. The Central, North and East regional winners can be found on the NY Corn & Soybean Growers Association webpage at <https://nycornsoy.org/yield-contest/about-yield-contest>. All the contest awards were presented at the NY Corn and Soybean Growers Winter Expo in Syracuse on January 16.

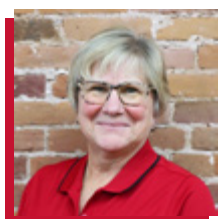
There was no NY Corn Yield Contest in 2024, so more growers entered the National Corn Contest. There were no National winners from NY this year but the results of the contest can be found here, <https://www.ncga.com/get-involved/national-corn-yield-contest>. David Hula from Charles City, VA was the nation's high yielder again at 490 bu/acre. A big yield for sure but much less than the world record he set last year at 623 bushels.

The National Corn Growers Association also breaks their contest down so that each state has their own contest. There were many NY growers who entered this year. **Dale McCollum from Niagara County had the highest NY yield at 308.43 bu/a which was tops in the Conventional Non-Irrigated class.** You can see how all our growers fared in each of the classes in the state breakdown section. I'm looking forward to another great season in 2025!

Cont. on page 3

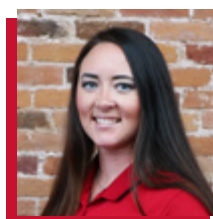


## NWNY STAFF



**Nancy Glazier**  
**Small Farms, Livestock**

Genesee County  
585.315.7746 (cell)  
nig3@cornell.edu



**Jodi Letham**  
**Field Crops & Soils**

Livingston County  
585.689.3423 (cell)  
jll347@cornell.edu



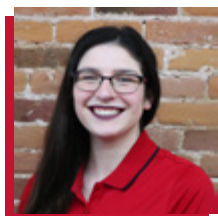
**John Hanchar**  
**Farm Business**

Livingston County  
585.991.5438 (office)  
585.233.9249 (cell)  
jjh6@cornell.edu



**Margaret Quaassdorff**  
**Dairy Management**

Genesee County  
585.343.3040 x 133 (office)  
585.405.2567 (cell)  
maq27@cornell.edu



**Ashley Fazio**  
**Administrative Assistant**

Genesee County  
585.343.3040 x 138 (office)  
585.549.0630 (cell)  
ak2367@cornell.edu



**Kaitlyn Lutz**  
**Bilingual Dairy Management**

Ontario County  
585.689.3114 (cell)  
kal263@cornell.edu



**Mike Stanyard**  
**Field Crops & IPM**

Wayne County  
315.331.8415 x 123 (office)  
585.764.8452 (cell)  
mjs88@cornell.edu

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## 2024 NY Soybean Yield Contest Winners Cont.

Mike Stanyard

### 2024 NY Soybean Yield Contest West & Finger Lakes Regional Winners

Rank	Entrant Name	Town	County	Brand	Number	Yield
Finger Lakes Regional Winners						
Group 1						
1st	Pit Farms	Clyde	Wayne	Pioneer	P18A73E	87.89
2nd	Matt Henderson	Penn Yan	Yates	Pioneer	P17A87E	85.66
3rd	Lott Farms	Seneca Falls	Seneca	Alloy	A12E33	79.36
Group 2						
1st	Bob Thompson	Interlaken	Seneca	Pioneer	P28Z30E	87.12
2nd	Pit Farms	Clyde	Wayne	Seedway	SG 2120E3	82.36
3rd	Jake Dates	Red Creek	Wayne	Pioneer	P24A49PR	78.10
West Regional Winners						
Group 1						
1st	Tom Greenwell	Hilton	Monroe	FS HiSOY	HS 12F30	84.08
2nd	Dalton Gerhardt	Alden	Erie	FS HiSOY	HS 19E20	74.43
3rd	Andy McIlroy	Pavilion	Wyoming	Asgrow	AG14X2F4	73.11
Group 2						
1st	Triple H Farms	Leicester	Livingston	Seedway	SG 2852XTF	84.16
2nd	Todd Roberts	Medina	Orleans	Pioneer	P23Z82E	80.46
3rd	Swede Farms	Pavilion	Wyoming	Asgrow	AG24XF4	80.20

## Check Out The NWNY Team Blog!

Features Crop Alerts, Dairy Alerts, Bilingual (Spanish) Resources, Upcoming Events: and more from our team members.

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/nwny-dairy-livestock-field-crops/>



<https://www.facebook.com/NWNYTEam>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashley-fazio-36a71526a/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@CCENWNY>

To sign up, employees can text their name and farm name to (585) 689-3114 on WhatsApp.



## Ask Extension: How Did I Lose a Goat to Liver Flukes?

Nancy Glazier

*"I dissected the goat's liver and found flukes. Just found out there are other farmers in this area with losses this year due to liver fluke who have never previously had it. Not sure why it's happening, warm and wet conditions maybe."*

This is a scenario that arises every few years, particularly in wet seasons. This quote was from a colleague from Northern NY. Liver flukes have specific requirements to develop. In years where everything lines up, populations can build and cause death in otherwise healthy small ruminants.

There are a few species that are found in the Northeast, with similar life cycles. Eggs are passed in the feces with little development occurring until temperatures are over 50 degrees F. Hatching occurs in water with the first stage moving quickly (within 3 hours) into lymnaeid snails. Asexual reproduction leads to buildup of the cercariae stage in 6-7 weeks. These emerge from the snails and encyst on aquatic vegetation where they become metacercariae and remain viable for several months, unless they get dried out.

Ungulates (hoofed animals) are the definitive hosts, though humans can become infected with some of the same species. Livestock or white-tailed deer become infected when they graze forages with metacercariae (encysted stage). This occurs usually late summer to early fall but can occur in the spring as well. The metacercariae enter the stomach, travel to the intestine where they move through the intestinal wall. They eventually work their way to the liver, where the damage is done. The animal's immune response causes the flukes to become surrounded by fluid (pseudocyst) where they reproduce and lay eggs.

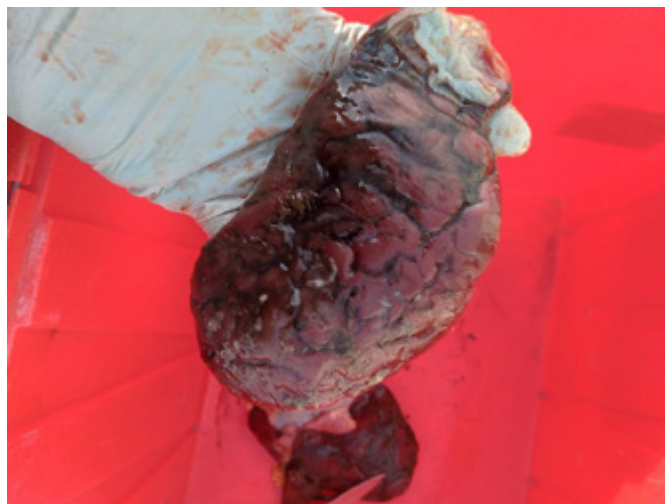
Symptoms include anemia, bottle jaw, and distended abdomen. Sudden death can occur quickly in acute cases 2-6 weeks after ingestion in heavily infested areas. Chronic infections can occur from extended infections at lower populations. Cattle are more likely to survive chronic infections. These infections can weaken the immune systems to allow

other infections to occur. Diagnosis can be difficult, unless a necropsy is performed. Fecal samples do not always lend themselves to identification the way nematodes can; this depends on mammal species and fluke species and loads. Treatments are available using dewormers at much higher rates than products are labelled. Check with your veterinarian for assistance.

Prevention is the best control. Keeping grazing livestock out of wet areas is critical. Reducing deer populations is helpful but not practical.



*Liver fluke found during a goat necropsy.*



*Goat liver infected by liver flukes that caused fatal damage.*

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**Location:** Ontario Produce Auction, 4860 Yautzy Road,  
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**Cost:** \$15 if registered by 3/25/25, \$20 for walk-ins (cash  
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**To register,** please call Yates County Soil & Water  
Conservation District at (315)536-5188. Make checks  
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Presents

# Parasite Issues and Management

## For Small Ruminants

March 5, 2025 @ 6:30 pm

Featuring guest speaker Jessica Waltemyer  
ProLivestock Small Ruminant Extension Specialist



- Common parasite signs and lifecycles
- Five point check
- Treatments and management
- Resources

### To Register:

<https://cornell.zoom.us/join/7f-Ty0jVRCiBPYCEDRXzqQ>

Presentation to be recorded for future viewing

Questions? Contact Rachel Moody at [ram72@cornell.edu](mailto:ram72@cornell.edu), (518) 272-4210



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## Annual Farm Business Summary, and Analysis Season Underway

John Hanchar

### Summary

- Sound financial planning and control are keys to successfully managing a farm business.
- The next months present good opportunities to evaluate financial management practices.
- The NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program has the capacity to work with a variety of producers as they seek to improve their business' financial management practices.

### Background

Last fall's AG FOCUS article on the topic of farm business summary, and analysis notes that, "Winter months present farm business owners with opportunities to undertake planning efforts for the purpose of improving results." Analysis is always valuable, but some weeks, months during the year are much less feasible for summary, and analysis given other demands on farm business owners' time. Annual farm business summary, and analysis season is underway. The calendar indicates that adequate time exists over the next months to evaluate your farm business' results for 2024.

### Characteristics of Effective Farm Financial Management

Research suggests that financial management practices, including annual farm business summary and analysis, better position a business for success. Effective farm financial management emphasizes sound financial planning and control.

Financial planning is using financial information to answer the following questions.

1. "Where is the business now?" Include, "How is the farm business positioned to handle financial adversity, risks, uncertainties?"
2. "Where do you want it to be?"
3. "How will you get the business to where you want it to be?"

Financial planning practices include

- generating financial statements (balance sheet, cash flow statement, and income statement)
- using results to identify strengths and weaknesses, including identifying strategies to mitigate financial, marketing, and other risks
- developing projections, including those associated

with proposed changes to the farm business

Financial control involves measuring financial condition, and performance over time to determine whether or not the business is achieving desired results. If not, then ask, "Why not?" to identify and implement needed changes.

As a farm business owner, you have financial objectives and goals. These direct your efforts. Do you measure the financial condition of your farm business using the balance sheet? Do you measure financial performance using the cash flow statement and income statement? If you don't measure financial condition and performance, then achieving desired financial results is less likely. The statement "If you can't, or don't measure it, then you can't manage it," with its emphasis on measuring outcomes, underlies the value, and need for sound financial management.

### Cornell University's Dairy Farm Business Summary (DFBS) Program

- Objectives of the DFBS Program include: provide producers with opportunities to analyze the business' production and financial situation, set future goals, and make sound financial decisions; help managers to better understand the business' ability to handle risks and uncertainties.
- The DFBS also allows producers to compare their business performance to that of other dairy producers.
- The summary, and analysis for each farm includes profitability analysis, balance sheet analysis, analyses of annual cash flows and repayment ability, capital and labor efficiency, as well as analyses of the cropping and dairy aspects of the business.

The DFBS program is a preferred financial management tool for summary and analysis for dairy farm businesses of all kinds.

### Financial Statements for Agriculture (FISA) Program

- FISA is a computer based spreadsheet program that can be used by all types of farm businesses to achieve an objective similar to the one above for the DFBS Program.
- In practice, FISA's ability to provide peer to peer comparisons is limited.
- The summary, and analysis for each farm includes profitability analysis, balance sheet analysis, analyses of annual cash flows and repayment ability, as well as some capital efficiency measures and analysis. The program does not summarize, and analyze production aspects of the business.

Cont. on page 8



## **Farm Business Summary and Analysis with the NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program**

If you are interested in improving your business' ability to practice sound financial management, then please contact us to learn more about some of the tools available and their value and/or to discuss plans for completing a farm business summary and analysis for 2024. Owners of all types of farm businesses are encouraged to contact us. The NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program has the capacity, using the above tools, to develop valuable farm business summary, and analysis. The NWNY team has the capacity, and desire to work with a variety of farm businesses -- dairy (small, medium, and large; conventional; organic; grazing; and others), field crop, livestock, and others.



### **Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension & NYS DEC are proud to offer a Pre-Exam Training and Test to Become a Certified Pesticide Applicator**



**Agriculture Specialist Mike Stanyard from the NWNY Team, Janet van Zoeren of the Lake Ontario Fruit Team, and Josh Bowman Ag Economic Development Educator with CCE Wayne will review core concepts and commodity-specific items in preparation for the Pesticide Applicator exam. \*This is not a 30-hour course, NO DEC RECERTIFICATION CREDITS\***

#### **Training Classes**

**When: March 13 & 17, 2025**

**Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

**\*arrive by 12:45pm on the 13th to check in\***

**Where:**

**Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Ext.  
1581 NY-88, Newark, NY 14513**

**Cost: \$50 for both days**

**Questions: Contact,  
Josh Bowman 315-331-8415 ext 125  
or by email [cjb394@cornell.edu](mailto:cjb394@cornell.edu)**

#### **The Certification Exam**

The exam will be conducted on March 20th by the DEC for Qualified Applicants. Registration opens at 1 PM, with the exam beginning at 1:30 PM. The fee for the exam is \$100, and please bring a check made out to NYSDEC on the day of the test. You are welcome to bring your lunch; however, please ensure that no food or fingerprints come into contact with the test forms.

**\*Remember, you must register with the DEC to participate in the exam.\***

**To register for the exam  
or if you have questions regarding the Certification Process, please contact:**

**Justin Schoff at the Bath DEC office @607-776-2165**

**\*All participants must have experience working on their own farm, or through employment on another farm. Participants must register directly with DEC to take the Exam and if you have any questions on exam eligibility they must be answered by DEC representatives.\***



## Ruminations Regarding Rotary Parlors

Kaitlyn Lutz

I worked in my first rotary parlor in 2015 as a vet in the Canterbury plains of New Zealand, which I often describe as having a similar dairy climate to the Western United States. Larger farms driven by high efficiency in Western NY are certainly seeing a shift in this direction and along with it many more rotary parlors. If you are considering a shift to a rotary parlor or have been operating one for years, I hope this article stimulates some new ideas that serve you well.

**A collectivist culture working in isolation.** I recently read an article that highlighted how lonely it could be working in a rotary parlor. I hadn't thought of it that way before, but it's worth considering when it comes to employee satisfaction. In a rotary parlor there is limited contact with your colleagues if you're doing your job correctly. Ideally, we have each person standing on a mat to perform their part of the routine and allow for optimum stimulation time. If your milking crew is from Mexico or Guatemala, their national cultures thrive on collaboration and collectivism rather than strong individualism like the United States. Therefore, working alone with limited opportunity to share a joke or a snack break with a colleague is difficult. Consider ways to improve the work environment like organizing the work schedule so that breaks are taken in pairs and allow for music (at a reasonable volume) to be played in the parlor.

**Take advantage of parlor platforms.** An interesting management tool used widely in rotary parlors in NZ is the "vet platform". This stand, pictured here, is used for a variety of tasks that we generally lock cows up for here in the US such as checking for metritis, breeding, administering Ov-Synch shots or monitoring body condition score. In NZ, this system is particularly helpful because in their seasonal system large groups of cows will need the same treatment at the same time. However, I see some utility to this system here as we try to decrease time away from pen and lock up time. A few ideas are to administer Ov-Synch shots, treat hospital cows and trim tails at the far side of the rotary after detachment.

**We were born to roam.** It's hard to keep employees from drifting during the milking shift. Often this happens when a difficult cow comes in and the milkers get behind. It's important to delineate the specific areas for pre-dipping and stripping and attachment with visual boundaries such as mats or painted lines on the floor. The milking crew also needs to understand why it's important to stay in their zone and how it affects the animals and their workday (i.e. poor stimulation time,

more mastitis, more work treating animals/lose quality bonus). Lastly, make sure that the expectation is reasonable. If you can't keep up with the wheel and do a quality job, maybe the wheel speed needs to be decreased, or different employees need to be moved into the milking parlor. Shorter employees can also struggle, just like in a parlor, so consider having multiple rubber mats available to stack which will increase both work satisfaction, efficiency and efficacy.

**Turning on a dime.** Cows exiting a rotary must back out and swivel on their left or right hind leg, depending on the rotation direction of the rotary. It may seem insignificant, but loading the same claw three times daily in this way can lead to increased claw lesions. Look out for this pattern! Make sure that the footing is forgiving, such as rubber matting, and that cows aren't routinely rushing out of the exit, causing more torque on that limb.

To delve more into the topic of rotary parlor management, join us for this year's NWN Dairy Day where a panel of producers and industry reps will be discussing the transition to a rotary parlor. Visit <https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2441> to view the full agenda and to register.



Image 1. A permanent platform in Ireland. Photo credit: Houlihan Engineering.



Image 2. A mobile platform in New Zealand. Photo credit: Kopu Engineering.

## Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County 2025 Pesticide Training and Recertification Series

Thursdays March 6, 13, 20, 2025, 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Exam Thursday, March 27, 2025

Noon – 4:00 pm

Romulus Fire Hall

2010 Cayuga Street, Romulus, NY 14541

### PROGRAM SERIES

#### Class 1 – Pesticide Laws & the Environment

Presenter: Russell Welser, CCE Ontario

Highlights:

Toxicity of pesticides, pesticide residue & tolerance

Environmental considerations

Pesticides and ground water

Pesticides and wildlife

Types & formulations of pesticides

#### Class 2 – Pesticide Safety

Presenter: Russell Welser, CCE Ontario

Highlights:

Personal & environmental safety; Selection & use of personal protective equipment; Symptoms of pesticide poisoning; Pesticide storage & disposal; Understanding the pesticide label.

#### Class 3 - Pesticide Mixing, Equipment, and Calibrations

Presenter: Russell Welser, CCE Ontario

Highlights: Procedure for mixing and filling; Calculations for mixing pesticides; Equipment calibration.

Types of pumps, nozzles, sprayers

**Pesticide Certification Exam Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025**

### AUDIENCE/REGISTRATION

**Cost \$190.00:** includes training manuals and attendance at all four classes. Check made payable to CCE Ontario. No confirmation will be sent. Sign up on registration form on next page | Pesticide Certification Training.

**\$100.00 DEC exam fee**, due the day of the exam. Check for the exam, made payable to NYSDEC.

Certified applicators, private or commercial, seeking recertification credits will receive 2.5 core credits per class. Sign up on registration form | Recertification Credits. **Cost: \$40.00/person/class**

**This is NOT a 30-hour credit course that is required for those who do not meet DEC eligibility requirements for commercial certification.**

**Private Certification:** This is for the person who will be applying restricted pesticides to their own or employer's property or rented property.

**Commercial Certification:** This is for the person who will be applying pesticides for hire.

If you have any questions contact: Cornell Cooperative Extension Seneca County (315) 539-9251 or the instructor.

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# How to Implement On-Farm Research and Why It's Important

Jodi Letham

On-farm research is an essential tool for farmers seeking to improve productivity, sustainability, and profitability. It allows producers to test new ideas, technologies, or practices under the unique conditions of their own operations. This article outlines the steps to successfully implement on-farm research and highlights its importance for modern agriculture.

## Why Conduct On-Farm Research?

On-farm research bridges the gap between experimental trials conducted in controlled settings and real-world farming conditions. The benefits include:

1. **Tailored Solutions:** Provides insights specific to your farm's soil, climate, and management practices.
2. **Risk Management:** Enables informed decision-making by testing new methods on a small scale before full adoption.
3. **Data-Driven Decisions:** Empowers farmers to rely on evidence rather than anecdotal information.
4. **Collaboration:** Strengthens relationships with Extension services, agronomists, and industry partners.

## Steps to Implement On-Farm Research

### 1. Define the Objective

- Clearly identify the question or problem you want to address. For example, "Does a multi-species cover crop mix improve soil health compared to a single species cover crop?"

### 2. Plan the Experiment

- Work with experts to design a research protocol. Key considerations include:
  - **Treatments:** What will you compare (e.g., product A vs. product B)?
  - **Replications:** Ensure treatments are repeated across multiple plots for reliability.
  - **Randomization:** Randomly assign treatments to minimize bias.
  - **Plot Size:** Choose sizes that are practical for your equipment while providing meaningful data.

### 3. Set Up the Trial

- Mark plots clearly and document the layout. Ensure consistency in planting, fertilization, irrigation, and other practices across all plots.

### 4. Collect Data

- Determine what to measure and how often. Common metrics include yield, soil moisture, pest pressure, and input costs. Use consistent methods and tools to ensure accuracy.

### 5. Analyze the Results

- Compile and compare data across treatments. Statistical analysis may be needed to identify significant differences.

### 6. Interpret and Apply Findings

- Review the results to determine whether the tested practice or product is beneficial. Consider sharing findings with peers or local Extension programs.

### 7. Document and Communicate

- Keep detailed records of methods, results, and conclusions. Sharing outcomes can help advance knowledge within the farming community.

## Best Practices for Success

- **Start Small:** Begin with one or two simple trials before scaling up.
- **Seek Support:** Partner with Extension agents, agronomists, or local universities for guidance.
- **Be Consistent:** Follow the research plan meticulously to avoid confounding variables.
- **Evaluate Costs:** Balance the potential benefits of a practice against the costs of implementation.

## Conclusion

On-farm research is a powerful way to drive innovation and improve farming operations. By testing practices under real-world conditions, farmers can make informed decisions that enhance productivity and sustainability. Implementing on-farm research may seem daunting at first, but with careful planning and support, it can yield valuable insights tailored to your specific operation. For additional resources or assistance, contact Jodi Letham, Field Crops Specialist NWN Program.

Adapted From: On-Farm Research Agronomy Fact Sheet 68 <http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/publications/factsheets/factsheet68.pdf>

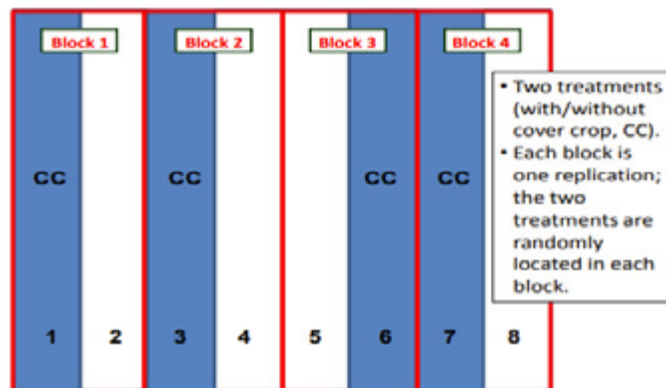


Figure 1: Example of a randomized complete block design for on-farm strip trials comparing the use of a cover crop in a corn rotation.

Photo Source: Cornell University Nutrient Management Spear Program Agronomy Fact Sheet #68.

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<p><b>14K/46K Rears</b></p>	<p><b>Low Mile Mixer</b></p>	<p><b>Allison Auto.</b></p>	<p><b>20K/46K Rears</b></p>
<p><b>Low Miles</b></p>	<p><b>Clean Chassis</b></p>	<p><b>46K Lockers</b></p>	<p><b>Long</b></p>
<p><b>44,000# Rears</b></p>	<p><b>Qty. (3)</b></p>	<p><b>Long Heavy Spec</b></p>	<p><b>24 ft. Alum. Box</b></p>
<p><b>45,000 Miles</b></p>	<p><b>Low Mile/Hr. Packer</b></p>	<p><b>THE BEAST. SIZE DOES MATTER!</b></p>	<p><b>18K/46K Rear Lockers</b></p>
<p><b>Heavy Spec Chassis</b></p>	<p><b>NO RUST</b></p>	<p><b>605 HP</b></p>	<p><b>605 HP</b></p>

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TRUCK 'N TRAILER - 'TNT' - September 6, 2024 - PAGE 3



# BUTCHER WASTE & MORTALITY COMPOSTING



## DATE & TIME

**Friday, February 28, 2025**  
**1-3 pm**

## LOCATION

**Timberline Meats, LLC**  
**4342 John Green Rd**  
**Dundee, NY 14837**



## SPEAKERS

**Jean Bonhotal**, Cornell Waste  
Management Institute

**Jonathan Hunt**, Greener  
Pastures Composting

Disposal of offal and butcher waste is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive as renderers close. Mortality composting is cost effective, environmentally sound, compassionate, easy to do, and can be done at any time of the year.

This training will cover what composting is, site preparation, and how to compost livestock on farms; including the regulations in New York State.

## REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 26

**To register, call Nancy Glazier,**  
**585-315-7746**

**<https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2525>**

Event is free but pre-registration is requested.

## Cornell Cooperative Extension

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

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## The Power of Scales: A Smart Investment for Your Herd's Health and Profitability

Margaret Quaassdorff

In the world of dairy farming, efficiency and cost-effectiveness are critical factors that can make or break profitability. One of the most valuable tools that can help save money, improve herd management, and enhance the overall health and growth of cattle is a set of scales. While scales may seem like a simple piece of equipment, their benefits extend far beyond just tracking body weight; they can transform how you manage your herd and make decisions about nutrition, medication, breeding, and more.

### Why Invest in Scales?

Investing in scales and the time needed to track body weights from birth may seem like an extra expense at first glance, but the advantages are substantial. Weighing cows is not just a tool for nutritionists to fine-tune feeding programs—it's a cornerstone of comprehensive herd management. A basic set of scales typically costs around \$1,500, and for a smaller operation with 100 cows, this may be all you need. However, for larger dairy farms with 500 or more cows, investing in several sets of scales in different locations makes perfect sense. The data collected by these scales can be implemented into management practices, creating efficiencies that easily justify the initial cost.

### Using Scales to Improve Herd Management

**1. Breeding and Heifer Management** One of the key goals in dairy farming is to have heifers calve in at 85% of their mature body weight. To achieve this, you must first know the mature body weight of the cows in your herd. Scales allow you to track the growth of your heifers from a young age, helping you identify when they are ready for breeding and ensuring they are developing properly. By monitoring their body weight at various stages—such as breeding age and six months old—you can adjust nutrition, feeding strategies, and management practices accordingly to reach your herd's goals. Tracking body weight early on helps you make important management decisions like identifying underperforming heifers—those that may not be growing at the expected rate or may not be meeting target weight goals. Early detection of these heifers allows you to make decisions about whether to cull them from the herd, saving on the cost of raising animals that won't be productive in the long term.

**2. Monitoring Weight Fluctuations Due to Health Issues** Cows that are sick often lose weight due to decreased feed intake, metabolic issues, dehydration, or other complications. Regular weight measurements (easiest in robotic milking systems with floor scales) can help you quickly identify such cows and take action before the issue becomes severe. Weight tracking (via aut feeder setup) is especially useful for managing calf health, as they dehydrate quickly when sick, and that difference in body weight can help flag a calf in need of extra care.

**3. Accurate Medication Dosing** Treatments, especially antibiotics, are typically dosed based on body weight. However, veterinarians and nutritionists often don't have access to precise weight measurements, which can lead to over- or underdosing. Overdosing can result in higher costs, longer withholding times, and unnecessary antibiotic use, which runs counter to the industry's growing emphasis on antibiotic stewardship. On the other hand, underdosing may lead to treatment failure, risking animal health and contributing to antibiotic resistance. Having accurate body weights helps ensure that medications are administered precisely, saving money on unnecessary drug use while ensuring the health of your animals.

**4. Optimizing Diets and Nutrition** The body weight of cows is integral to calculating their dietary needs and intake levels. For instance, diets are often designed based on the average body weight of cows in a pen. Weighing cows allows you to adjust batch feeding and nutrition plans according to the actual needs of the herd, improving feed efficiency and reducing waste.

### Integration with Other Technologies

The future of herd management lies in integrating data from multiple sources. By combining scale data with other tech such as cameras, automated feeders, automated milking systems, and health monitoring systems, dairy farmers can optimize every aspect of their operations, from feeding to health management to breeding.



Scales are more than just a tool for weighing cows—they are a crucial part of efficient herd management that can save money, improve animal health, and boost farm profitability. From tracking the growth and

health of heifers to ensuring precise medication dosing and optimizing diets, the data you collect from scales can lead to better decision-making and more effective management strategies.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County  
NWNy Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 6

#### 2025 NWNy Dairy Day

9:30AM - 2PM : The Chalet at East  
Hill Creamery, Perry NY : TBD

Registration:  
[https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/  
event.php?id=2441](https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2441)

### February 12

#### 2025 Soybean and Small Grains Congress

Registration starts 8:30AM  
Meeting at 10AM - 3:30PM :  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Henrietta  
NY :

\$60 non-enrollee  
\$45 enrollee

Registration:  
<https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2448>

### February 28

#### Butcher Waste & Mortality Composting

1PM - 3PM : Timberline Meats, LLC  
4342 John Green Rd : Free

Registration:  
[https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/  
event.php?id=2525](https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2525)

### March 5

#### Parasite Issues and Management for Small Ruminants Webinar

6:30PM : ZOOM : Free

Registration:  
[https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/  
event.php?id=2513](https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2513)

### March 18

#### Calf Transition Workshop #1

10AM - 3PM : TBD : \$50

Registration:  
[https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/  
event.php?id=2513](https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2513)

### March 19

#### Calf Transition Workshop #2

10AM - 3PM : TBD : \$50

Registration:  
[https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/  
event.php?id=2513](https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2513)

### March 28

#### Soil Health & Nutrient Management Workshop

*Featuring the Manure Roadshow*  
8:30AM - 3PM : Ontario Produce  
Auction, 4860 Yautzy Road, Stanley  
: \$15 for pre-registration/\$20 at the  
door

Registration:  
please call Yates County Soil & Water  
Conservation District at (315)536-5188.

## January 21st - March 5th

### Webinar

#### To Keep or Not to Keep: Dairy Welfare and Profitability Considerations

12PM - 1PM : ZOOM : Free

Registration:  
[https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3V8B\\_M-eTUam2K96o3Vj6Q#/registration](https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3V8B_M-eTUam2K96o3Vj6Q#/registration)

### Topics:

- January 21 **Longevity** Dr. Kaitlyn Briggs
- January 28 **Economics and Data for Culling** Dr. Miel Hostens
- February 4 **Transport Issues for Calves** Dr. Catie Cramer
- February 11 **Calf and Heifer Welfare at Culling** Margaret Quaassdorff
- February 18 **Cow Welfare at Culling** Dr. Julia Herman and Lindsay Ferlito
- February 25 **Managing Euthanasia** Drs. Jennifer Walker and Kaitlyn Lutz
- March 4 **Maximizing Harvest Value** Dr. Julia Herman

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