

# AG FOCUS



Source: <https://www.farmprogress.com/sorghum/test-your-forage-prepare-your-fields-for-next-spring>

## This Issue

- **Balancing the Barn: Matching Forage Quality to Livestock Needs This Winter**  
By Jodi Letham 1 & 3
- **Is Southern Corn Rust Coming to Join Tar Spot in NY?**  
By Mike Stanyard 4
- **Learning Opportunities from Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development**  
By John Hanchar 7
- **Impact of Feed-Through Insecticides on Dung-Inhabiting Beneficial Insects**  
By Nancy Glazier 8
- **World Dairy Expo 2025: Dairy Tech and AI (not artificial insemination)**  
By Margaret Quaassdorff 11
- **UPCOMING EVENTS** 12

### Balancing the Barn: Matching Forage Quality to Livestock Needs This Winter

Jodi Letham

As Western New York farmers transition from harvest to herd management, November offers an important pause to assess forage inventories and feed quality heading into the winter months. The 2025 growing season brought a series of weather extremes—cold, wet conditions early on, followed by a stretch of hot, dry weather during mid to late summer. These challenges left many farms with lower forage yields, variable quality, and uneven moisture levels at harvest. Understanding how this year’s conditions shaped feed value is essential to keeping livestock healthy and productive through the months ahead.

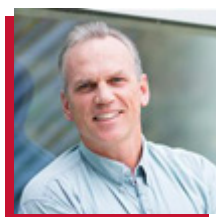
Spring began with prolonged wet weather and cool temperatures that slowed early forage growth and delayed first cutting. Many producers faced limited field access, and by late May, only about one-fifth of the region’s corn acres were planted, compared to a five-year average near half. These early delays not only compressed the harvest window but also created a greater risk for compaction in heavier soils. As the season shifted into mid-summer, the pendulum swung in the opposite direction. By August, drought conditions had spread across several Northwestern New York counties, leaving pastures and forages under drought stress. Later cuttings showed reduced fiber digestibility and lower yields, while silage fields exhibited inconsistent kernel development and dry down. The variable weather carried into harvest, where some fields were chopped wetter than ideal and others dried down too quickly, resulting in a patchwork of feed quality that will test management this winter.

After a year like this, visual assessment alone isn’t enough. Two hay bales that look identical can differ significantly in nutrient value. Forage testing is the most effective way to identify what nutrients your livestock are actually receiving and to plan supplementation efficiently.

*Cont. on page 3*

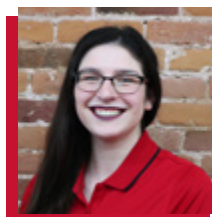


# NWNY STAFF



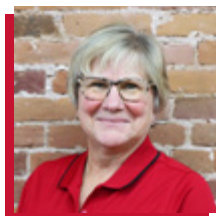
**David Bechtel**  
Field Support Specialist

865.951.9495  
db979@cornell.edu



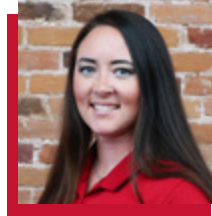
**Ashley Fazio**  
Administrative Assistant

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



**Nancy Glazier**  
Small Farms, Livestock

Genesee County  
585.315.7746 (cell)  
nig3@cornell.edu



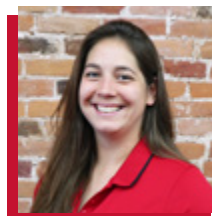
**Jodi Letham**  
Field Crops & Soils

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



**Mike Stanyard**  
Field Crops & IPM

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

**A partnership between Cornell University and the  
CCE Associations in these ten counties:**

Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans,  
Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming & Yates

**Postmaster:  
Send Address Changes to:**

NWNY Team, Attn: Ashley Fazio, 420 East Main St., Batavia, NY  
14020

Direct all inquiries on advertising space/rates to: Ashley Fazio at  
585-546-0630 or ak2367@cornell.edu

*To simplify information, brand names of products may be used in this publication. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not named. Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-to-date pesticide recommendations. Changes occur constantly & human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying pesticides. For more information click here.*

## Balancing the Barn: Matching Forage Quality to Livestock Needs This Winter

Key values to review include crude protein, neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and NDF digestibility—all indicators of energy and intake potential. Collaborating with a nutritionist or Extension specialist to interpret test results helps ensure that high-producing animals receive the best-quality forage, while lower-quality lots can be allocated to dry cows or beef cows in mid-gestation. This approach allows farmers to stretch limited feed resources while maintaining herd performance.

Given the uneven growing conditions this year, stretching feed supplies will be a focus on many farms. Strategic supplementation with grain or byproducts can help offset low protein or energy levels. Minimizing feed waste through proper storage and clean feeding areas will extend supplies even further. Monitoring body condition regularly allows for timely ration adjustments before animals lose condition. For farms with available ground, planting winter cereals such as rye or triticale following corn silage can help rebuild forage inventories for early spring harvest.

Looking ahead, the lessons of 2025 underscore the need for flexibility and soil resilience. Managing compaction, maintaining living cover, and improving organic matter will help buffer against the wet-dry extremes that are becoming more common in Western New York. This season's variability offers valuable insight into which fields and management strategies performed best under stress. Use this winter's forage assessment as both a management checkpoint and a planning tool for 2026.

After such a challenging year, one principle stands out clearly; you can't manage what you don't measure. A few hours spent inventorying and testing forages this fall can pay dividends all winter long, ensuring balanced rations, reduced waste, and healthier herds. The 2025 growing season may have tested patience and planning, but with careful feed management now, producers can turn those challenges into stronger systems for the future.



Forage testing is needed to assess quality, not visual evaluation.



### One Milk Sample Gives You All of This!

By booking a monthly visit with Dairy One's DHI Services, you can get a look at every cow's milk production level, and test for the following:

- True Protein
- Lactose
- Butterfat
- Somatic Cell Count
- Milk Urea Nitrogen
- Pregnancy

And much more! Contact Dairy One today to arrange a visit from a DHI Field Technician.



 Dairy One

Phone: 800-344-2697

Email: [dhiarecordservices@dairyone.com](mailto:dhiarecordservices@dairyone.com)

### 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/>



[@CCENWNY](https://www.instagram.com/CCENWNY)



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



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



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

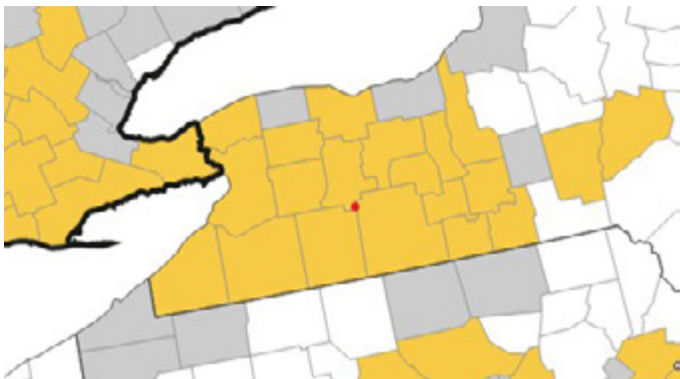


To sign up, employees can text their name and farm name to (585) 549-0630 on WhatsApp.

## Is Southern Corn Rust Coming to Join Tar Spot in NY?

Mike Stanyard

There have been lots of questions about what happened to tar spot this year. We had it in 23 counties in 2024 with lots of infected fields. Going into 2025, we knew we had lots of inoculum on corn residue that overwintered. Like most diseases, you have to have the right weather conditions to make the disease triangle all come together. We just did not have the right conditions early on to get things started. It then got so dry that no corn diseases got going. We did see the first tar spot lesion on July 26 in Livingston County but most of the county positives were not until mid-September into October. I know I looked in many fields that had it the previous year and I never saw a sign of it. We started to see more of it later as folks were out scouting corn for silage harvest. As of October 20, twenty counties are listed as positive and most of our corn is nearing maturity or has already been chopped. This trend is not just in NY. Tar spot has also been much lower across the Midwest states and into Canada this year. This is promising when looking at the amount of overwintering inoculum and the possible reduced risk to tar spot infection in 2026.

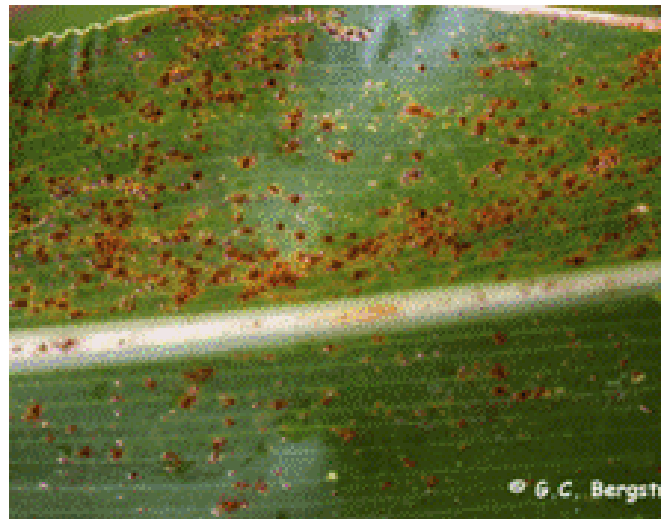


2025 positive counties for tar spot, <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/maps/tar-spot-of-corn>

It's great to hopefully have less of one potentially yield reducing disease next year but another corn disease really came on strong and surprised a lot of states with some unexpected yield losses.

Southern corn rust is not a new corn disease for much of the corn belt. Ideal warm and humid conditions in the Midwest really favored its development and I saw reports of it taking 30 bushels off growers yields where the rust developed early on susceptible varieties.

It has not officially been identified in NY and I'm not sure we have ever looked for it. We are familiar with common rust which we see each year. However, we don't consider common rust to be yield limiting. It is really hard to tell the difference between the two rust species. Southern rust pustules are bright orange to light brown and can be found on both the upper and lower sides of the leaf. Common rust is dark red-brown and found on the upper leaf surface. Neither rust species will overwinter here in the north and spores blow up on storms each year from the south. What makes southern rust worse? It is much more aggressive than common rust and can reduce the photosynthetic leaf area much faster.



Common rust on corn leaf. Credit: G. Bergstrom, Cornell



Positive counties in 2025 for Southern rust, <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/maps/southern-corn-rust>

Our new field crop plant pathologist Camilo Parada Rojas will be at the 2026 Corn Congress on January 14 in Henrietta to introduce himself and talk a little further about southern corn rust. To learn more about tar spot and southern corn rust go to the Crop Protection Network webpage. <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/>

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Presents:

## OPTIMIZING THE ECONOMIC RETURN OF PASTURE-RAISED SLOW-GROWTH AND CONVENTIONAL BROILERS

Thursday, November 13, 2025

6pm - 8pm via Zoom

Over the past three years, Cornell Cooperative Extension has worked with nearly 40 small farmers across NYS to gather information on the true costs of raising broilers (meat chickens) on pasture. This presentation is a summary of the findings of this research project.

### We will share:

Statewide averages and benchmarks for both raising and selling meat chickens  
The performance metrics for Cornish Cross and Slow Growth broilers raised on pasture  
Common pitfalls when it comes to being profitable  
Evidence-based suggestions to improve both performance and profitability

This webinar is FREE and registration is required.

A recording will be sent to all registrants.



Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/PastureRaisedBroilers>

For registering or questions reach out to Amy Barkley at [amb544@cornell.edu](mailto:amb544@cornell.edu) or 716-640-0844

Cornell is an equal opportunity employer. For more information visit [hr.cornell.edu/eeee](http://hr.cornell.edu/eeee).

## PARTNERING WITH LOCAL CORN GROWERS SINCE 2007 TO PRODUCE CLEAN RENEWABLE FUEL AND HIGH PURITY ALCOHOL

- Competitive bids for old & new crop corn - payment within 2 days
- High protein (32%+), low fat distillers grain
- Bulk commodity and grain transportation services



4141 Bates Road • Medina, New York  
[wnyenergy.com](http://wnyenergy.com) • 585-798-9693



# CALEDONIA DIESEL, LLC

2905 Simpson Road • Caledonia, NY 14423

**585-538-4395** [www.caledoniadiesel.com](http://www.caledoniadiesel.com)

**OVER 325 TRUCKS AND OVER 150 PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT**

\$\$\$\$\$ WE BUY MACK, FREIGHTLINER, PETE, KENWORTH, ETC. TRUCKS and CAT, KOMATSU, CASE, HYUNDAI, IR, ETC. CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT for \$\$\$\$\$

\$\$\$\$\$ WE BUY MACK, FREIGHTLINER, PETE, KENWORTH, ETC. TRUCKS and CAT, KOMATSU, CASE, HYUNDAI, IR, ETC. CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT for \$\$\$\$\$



**Nice Toy Hauler**  
2016 INTERNATIONAL 4300 TOY HAULER CREW CAB; Cummins 325 HP; Allison Auto. Trans.; 14' Flatbed Set Up For Towing; Single Axle; 25,999# GVW; 226" WB; P/W; PDL; P/M; Hands-Free Capable Bluetooth Radio; 60,351 Miles; Stk. # 6941 - **\$65,250**



**18K Front 44K Rears**  
2014 MACK GRANITE; Dump truck with 19" steel body w/ 70' sides, tarp, Mack MP7-345C engine with 345 HP engine brake, 18K front 44K rears, (2) 12K steerable lift axles, Allison automatic transmission, Camelback suspension, 266" wb, 175" C-T, 18'6" of frame behind the cab, 417,724 miles; Stk. # 7101 - **\$73,900**



**20K Front 44K Rears**  
2014 MACK GU813; Double frame cab & chassis with Mack MP7 345HP, camelback suspension, 20K front 44K rears, 13K steerable lift axle, Allison automatic transmission, 25" of frame behind the cab, 210" C-T, 276" wb, PTO with controls, no tank, 168,908 miles; Stk. # 7118 - **\$66,500**



**Heavy Spec 24 ft. + Frame**  
2013 PETERBILT 365 CAB & CHASSIS; Double Frame; 425 HP Cummins ISX12; 8LL Manual Trans.; 18.740# F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Air Trac Susp.; Steerable 20K Lift Axle; 322" WB; 24" Frame Behind Cab; 236" CT; PTO w/Controls; Frame Sandblasted and Painted; 205,052 Miles; Stk. # 6942 - **\$61,350**



**18K Front 44K Rears**  
2015 MACK TITAN T0713; Mack MP10-605C 605 HP full 18 speed transmission, headache rack, 18K front 44K rears with diff. lock, air ride suspension, 222" wb, dual exhaust air cleaners, wet line, 400,130 miles; Stk. # 7082 - **\$73,500**



**Auto 46'S**  
2018 VOLVO VHD; Volvo D13-500M 500 HP Volvo automatic transmission with crawler gear, PTO, headache rack, 16,500 lb. front 46K full locking rears, 11K steerable lift axle, T-Ride suspension, 224" wb, 140" C-T, 16'6" frame behind the cab, 255,736 miles; Stk. # 7092 - **\$64,500**



**Kuhn Knight Allison Auto**  
2012 KENWORTH T470; Kuhn Knight Profeed 70110 delivery body, Paccar PX-8 350 HP, Allison 3000RDS automatic transmission, 13,200 lb. front 46K full locking rears, Hendrickson HN suspension, dual steer boxes, 246" wb, 176" C-T, 20' of frame behind the cab, and 7.17 ratio; Stk. # 7098 - **\$59,500**



**C15 46'S**  
2007 PETERBILT 378; Day cab tractor with CAT C15 475hp, 18 speed manual, 12K front axle, 46K full locking rears, 203" wheelbase, Air-trac suspension, wet line, dual air cleaners and exhaust, 539,130 miles; Stk. # 7079 - **\$59,250**



**Low Miles Clean Chassis**  
2006 KENWORTH T800 CHASSIS; Heavy Single Frame; 390 HP CAT C13; 13-Spd. Manual; 16K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Air Ride Susp.; 22'6" Frame Behind Cab; 168" CT; 85,554 Miles; Stk. # 6785 - **\$49,900**



**Allison Auto**  
2007 INTERNATIONAL WORKSTAR 7400; Feed mixer Supreme International 7007 mixer w/ scales, left & right side discharge conveyors, 2-speed aux. trans, Allison 3500 RDS auto trans, International D1570 engine w/ 285 HP, 13.220 lb. front 40K rears w/ Hendrickson Haulmax suspension, diff lock, 240" wb, 160" C-T, 18' of frame behind cab, PTO, 5.86 ratio, 96,635 miles; Stk. # 7095 - **\$38,300**



**44 Camelback**  
2007 MACK GRANITE CV713; Cab & chassis w/ 20K front axle, 44K rears on camelback suspension, Mack AMI-370 engine with 370 HP Maxtorque 10-speed transmission, 266" wb, 188" C-T, 24'5" of frame behind the cab, 294,678 miles; Stk. # 7117 - **\$44,500**



**Allison Auto 46 Rears**  
2007 INTERNATIONAL PAYSTAR 5900i; Cat C13 engine with 430 HP engine brake, 20K front 46K full locking rears, Hendrickson air ride suspension, Allison 4500 RDS automatic transmission, 208" wb, 4.56 ratio, wet line, 136,447 miles, 7,260 engine hours, 136,447 miles; Stk. # 7115 - **\$61,500**



**Allison 46 Rears**  
2006 PETERBILT 357; Double frame & chassis with Cummins ISM 335hp, Allison automatic, 250" wb, 21" 10" of frame, 160" C-T (muffler takes 1" of these measurements) 20K front, 46K locking rears, rear engine PTO (REPTO) 187,683 miles; Stk. # 7085 - **\$52,900**



**84,000 Miles**  
2016 INTERNATIONAL WORKSTAR 7400 DOUBLE FRAMED DELIVERY TRUCK with Roto-Mix 1102-23 RDB (Ration Delivery Box); Cummins 350 HP; Allison Auto; Trans.; 20K F/A; 46K R/A; Haulmax Susp.; 250" WB; 182" CT; 26" Frame Behind Cab; 10'8" High/12" High w/Extensions; Stk. # 7032 - **\$65,800**



**Allison 44'S**  
2006 MACK GRANITE CV713; Day cab Mack REMACK AI-375 engine (March 2015), 12,350 lb. front, 46K rears, camelback suspension, Allison auto trans, 216" wb, 136" C-T, 15'5" of frame behind the cab, wet-line. \*\*HP is currently set at 375, but can be increased to 400 HP w/ software upgrade. Engine brake can be installed for \$30,500, 235,285 miles; Stk. # 7111 - **\$69,900**



**Allison Auto 46 Rears**  
2016 WESTERN STAR 4900; Clean Day Cab w/Cummins ISX15 Engine; 525 HP Eaton-Fuller 18 Spd. Trans.; 13,220 lb. F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears, AirLine Susp.; 215" WB; Headache Rack Dual Exhaust & Air Cleaners; 3.91 Ratio; Wet-line just installed. 371,242 Miles; Stk. # 6791 - **\$69,900**



**44,000# Rears Qty. (3)**  
2007 MACK CHN613 DAY CAB TRACTOR; Low Mileage; 390/410 HP Mack AC; 13-Spd. Manual; 14K F/A; 44K Rears On Camelback Susp.; 210" WB; Wetline, 63K/45K/53K Miles; Stk. # 6873/6872/6895 - **\$38,500**



**24 Ft. Box**  
2003 MACK RD688S; Double Frame Grain Truck w/24' Schien Equipment Aluminum Body; 6' Sides; Hoist; Roll Tarp; Barn Doors; 2 Chutes; 350 HP; 18K F/A; 44K R/A; (2) Non-steerable Lift Axles; Camelback Susp.; 315/80R22.5 Front Tires 315/80R22.5 Drive Tires; 262" WB; 178" C-T, 23'6" Frame Behind Cab; 711,782 Miles; Stk. # 7069 - **\$43,000**



**Long Heavy Spec**  
2009 MACK GRANITE GU813 CAB & CHASSIS; Double Frame; Mack 395 HP; Allison Auto.; 20K F/A; 46K R/A; Air Ride Susp.; 280" WB; 20'6" Frame Behind Muffler; 174" Frame Behind Muffler To Center of Trunnion; 169,543 Miles; Stk. # 6550 - **\$58,900**



**Recon ISX New Brakes & Drums**  
2005 INTERNATIONAL 5900; Double frame log truck 20K front, 46K full locking rears, Haulmax suspension, Prentice 120 extended boom loader 23' bunks, rear lift axle, CUMMINS ISX 500hp RECON ENGINE 11/2016, 18spd manual, new brakes and drums, 197,381 miles; Stk. # 7078 - **\$69,500**



**Heavy Spec Chassis Crane w/ Remote**  
2005 INTERNATIONAL PAYSTAR 5000; Heavy spec, double frame 6x2 24' 6"x80" alum flatbed, Fassi F330 crane w/ remote, Cummins ISM, 8LL manual, 21K front 46K rears, Hendrickson HN susp, 445/65R22.5 front tires & 12R24.5 rear tires, 288" wheelbase, 288" C1 30' of frame, & 5.38 ratio, Frame height 50'1/2". Crane can be removed, 282,851 miles; Stk. # 7113 - **\$56,500**



**Long Heavy Spec Chassis**  
2014 PETERBILT 365 CAB & CHASSIS; TRI-DRIVE; 450 HP Cummins ISX; 18-Spd. Transmission; 20K F/A; 64K Triple Locking Rears; Air Trac Susp.; 445/65R22.5 Front, 11R24.5 Rear Tires; 278" WB; 334" Bridge; 24" Frame Behind Cab, PTO, 168,725 Miles; Stk. # 7020 - **\$57,000 EACH**



**Low Hours**  
2019 JOHN DEERE 5090R; 3 Available, MFWD tractor 90hp, with low hours, new tires, 16F/16R power shuttle transmission, suspension cab, rider seat, full cab w/ heat/AC, 3 remotes. Some remaining factory warranty; 900-1200 Hrs. Stk. # 370 - **\$54,500**



**ISX Allison Auto**  
2013 PETERBILT 367 DAYCAB; Very Clean; 390 HP Cummins ISX; Allison Auto. Trans.; 212" WB; 20K F/A; 46K Full Locking Rears; Wetline; Air Trac Susp.; 18,400 lb. Chassis Weight; 15" Frame Behind Cab; 130" CT; 213,229 Miles; Stk. # 6768 - **\$68,250**

## Learning Opportunities from Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development

John Hanchar

*Farm business owners work in an environment characterized by risk – production, price, financial, human resources, and legal. In many areas of NYS, 2025 planting, and growing conditions have been unfavorable. Unplanted acres, stressed plants, and other situations create setbacks. Setbacks test the management capacities of farm business owners/operators to successfully carry out planning, implementation, and control functions of management [problem solving, informed decision making]. Modern management theory, emphasizes that management functions are carried out by the efforts of oneself, and other people, and for the benefit of oneself, and others. Management capacity can be improved upon. Management skills that emphasize people aspects are learned, and can be improved upon. The likelihood of success in the presence of setbacks increases as management capacity increases. Recently, Richard Stup, Ph.D., Agricultural Workforce Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension, shared the following press release regarding an upcoming learning opportunity. Please consider this opportunity to strengthen your farm business' management capacity as a way to realize success in response to setbacks, and as a way to increase the likelihood of achieving economic, environmental, and community objectives given available resources. Visit <<https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/programsevents/>> to learn about other learning opportunities.*

**Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development Registration Now Open for Labor Roadshow IX**  
October 1, 2025 – Immigration, unions, overtime, employee housing, and technology, workforce issues continue to demand farm employers' attention. Every farmer employing people in New York should attend the Labor Roadshow. The Agricultural Workforce Development Council (AWDC) is thrilled to announce that registration is now open for Labor Roadshow IX, a pivotal event dedicated to educating and supporting farm employers. This year's Roadshow will feature a series of insightful discussions led by top experts in the field addressing critical agricultural issues.

In-Person events will be held in four locations:

- **December 9** – Elks Lodge, Greenwich, NY
- **December 10** – Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown, NY
- **December 17** – Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, NY
- **December 18** – Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY

Online sessions will be held via Zoom on topics that are different from, and in addition to, the in-person events:

- December 1** from noon to 2:00PM
- December 22** from noon to 2:00PM

Labor Roadshow IX will cover a range of pressing topics, including:

- Immigration and Farm/Family Preparedness
- Compliance Updates
- Unionization Updates from PERB and attorneys
- Employee Engagement and Improving Culture
- Employee Housing Operational Costs
- Pest Management in Employee Housing
- Legality of Employee Monitoring Using Cameras and Technology
- How to Interact with Regulators and the Public about Labor Issues

With one registration, participants gain access to one in-person event, a recording of an in-person session, and all online sessions on December 1 and 22. Whether attending in person or virtually, this is a unique opportunity to engage with industry leaders and peers.

**Registration Details:** Registration is open. To secure your spot, please visit: <https://forms.gle/HheZLetKwyi8J3t6A>. Early registration is encouraged as spaces may be limited.

### Event cost: \$75 per person

Cash, check, and advance online payments will be accepted. Each registration includes onsite programming for one event date, access to two webinars, coffee, refreshments, and lunch provided.

For the latest updates on expert speakers, session topics, and additional information, please continue to check the AWDC Labor Roadshow webpage <<https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/labor-roadshow/>>.

### Questions?

About program: [cu-agworkforce@cornell.edu](mailto:cu-agworkforce@cornell.edu)

About registration/payment: [office@nedpa.org](mailto:office@nedpa.org)

About AWDC: The Agricultural Workforce Development Council (AWDC) is dedicated to enhancing the agricultural workforce through education, advocacy, and support. By providing resources and training, AWDC helps farm employers navigate labor challenges effectively.

Please Visit:



<<https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/programsevents/>>

## Impact of Feed-Through Insecticides on Dung-Inhabiting Beneficial Insects

Nancy Glazier

It was just over a year ago when the second year of dung-inhabiting beetle sampling project wrapped up. Much has been learned with the data collected from 2022 and 24, and a research paper was recently published detailing the results. In 2022, 10 farms were sampled across the state with three in the NWNY region, five used feedthroughs and five did not. Last year we sampled manure from seven farms that used feed-through insecticides as well as 12 farms that did not use feed-through products, with four farms in the region and a total of 19 farms across the state. True dung beetles and important dung-inhabiting species were identified and counted. Horn, face, and stable flies were counted on 10 animals each visit.

These feed-through products fed in feed or minerals contain insecticides, either insect growth regulators (IGR) or organophosphates (OP) that pass through the cattle and control horn and face fly larvae in the manure where they live. Recent research by Brewer et al. estimated the loss from horn flies alone on cattle to be \$2.3 billion annually, due to their multiple piercings for blood meals. Cattle become agitated and weight gain declines. Stable flies feed on blood but lay their eggs in decomposing organic matter. Face flies consume fluids from eyes and saliva and can transmit diseases such as pinkeye.

Fly control can consist of insecticides applied topically (often synthetic pyrethroids) as sprays or pour-ons. These products can become deposited in manure and negatively impact other insects, such as dung beetles. The IGR feed-through insecticides can reduce larval development of horn and face flies by over 80%. The impact of IGR and feed-through OP on beneficial insects has been unknown.

It was observed that horn fly and face fly populations begin to increase early in the season in May and continue building in late summer, with populations declining into September. This can provide guidance on time of feed-through use. Both IGR and OP controlled horn fly and face fly populations but not a statistical difference for face flies. Also, horn fly populations did not exceed the IPM economic threshold of 100 flies per side on the cattle in either year. If horn fly populations are below the threshold their use may not be necessary. In 2022 and 2024 face fly populations exceeded the economic threshold of 10 flies per face, which implies the insecticides were not working.

Both IGR and organophosphate feed-through insecticides had adverse effects on dung-inhabiting insect populations. In 2022 populations of true dung beetles, hister beetles, and water scavenger beetles were significantly lower on farms using feed-through OP insecticide when compared to farms with no treatment. Abundance of Staphylinidae (rove beetles) was significantly lower on farms using IGR feed-throughs than farms with no treatments.

In 2024 the total number of true dung beetles and the number of species were significantly lower on farms that were using feed-through IGR insecticides compared to farms that were not. Rove beetle numbers were significantly lower on farms using feed-through IGR insecticides compared to farms that were not.

Weather impacted dung-inhabiting populations. Increase in temperature led to increased activity. There was less true dung beetles trapped on rainy days. There were also fewer flies on rainy days.

An interesting observation was made that dung-inhabiting beetles were more abundant in continuously grazed pastures. Horn fly populations were higher on these farms.

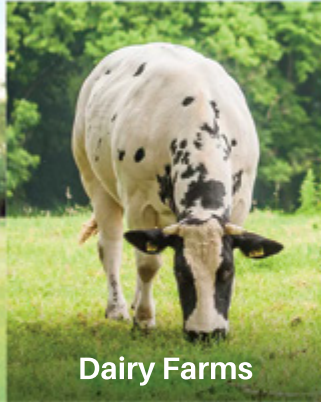
More research needs to be done on dung-inhabiting insects and the use of feed-through insecticides. Some of the findings contrasts with recent previous work.

For a visual guide to dung beetles check out this link. <https://cals.cornell.edu/integrated-pest-management/eco-resilience/beneficial-insects/visual-guide-dung-beetles>.

<b>Dwellers</b>	
Genus	Species
<i>Calamosternus</i>	<i>granarius</i>
<i>Aphodius</i>	<i>fimetarius/pedellus</i>
<i>Otophorus</i>	<i>haemorrhoidalis</i>
<i>Oscarinus</i>	<i>rusicola</i>
<i>Teuchestes</i>	<i>fossor</i>
<i>Alloblackburneus</i>	<i>rubeolus</i>
<i>Labarrus</i>	<i>pseudolividus/lividus</i>
<i>Blackburneus</i>	<i>stercorosus</i>
<i>Dialytellus</i>	<i>dialytoides</i>
<b>Tunnellers</b>	
<i>Onthophagus</i>	<i>taurus</i>
<i>Colobopterus</i>	<i>erraticus</i>
<b>Predators</b>	
<i>Histeridae</i> (hister or clown beetles)	
<i>Hydrophilidae</i> (water scavenger beetles)	
<i>Staphylinidae</i> (rove beetles)	

Dung beetles found in NYS.

# New York Farm Insurance Specialists Your livelihood. Covered.



Dairy Farms



Grain Farms



Fruit & Veg Farms



Crop Insurance



Call (585) 624-2474  
www.nyfarminsurance.com

19 W. Main St., PO Box 192 | Honeyoye Falls, NY 14472 | jjoseph@mitchelljoseph.com



## DISCOVER AN ENTIRE ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR YOUR SUCCESS.



Nobody serves your ag credit needs like Farm Credit East.

Farm Credit East was made in agriculture. It's all we do. So every product, every service and every person is dedicated to meeting your financial needs and growing your success. We know agriculture, we understand your business needs, and work to achieve your goals.

Discover the difference at Farm Credit East.

[farmcrediteast.com](http://farmcrediteast.com) | 800.562.2235

- Loans & Leases
- Financial Record-Keeping
- Payroll Services
- Profitability Consulting
- Tax Preparation & Planning
- Appraisals
- Estate Planning
- Beginning Farmer Programs
- Crop Insurance





# THE BEEF IS ON



**Hosted by the OMAFA Beef Team**

**Join us this October and November for the annual The Beef is ON Fall Webinar Series!**

**This year's sessions will discuss:**

- **Bale Grazing**
- **Soil Fertility**
- **Bull Selection**
- **Marketing options for your calves**



### **Webinar Schedule**

**All Sessions run from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM via Zoom (Scan QR Code to Register)**

<p><b>Tuesday, October 28</b></p>	<p><b>Bale Grazing for Extended Grazing and Pasture Rejuvenation</b>            Producer Panel with Christine O'Reilly, Forage and Grazing Specialist, OMAFA</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, November 4</b></p>	<p><b>Building Soil Fertility on My Pasture</b>            Colin Elgie, Soil Fertility Specialist, OMAFA</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, November 11</b></p>	<p><b>Building the Herd Through Superior Bull Selection</b>            Scott Cornish, Regional Coordinator, Eastgen</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, November 18</b></p>	<p><b>Marketing My Calves - Sell Now or Retain? My Choices?</b>            Steve Duff, Chief Economist, OMAFA</p>

## World Dairy Expo 2025: Dairy Tech and AI (not artificial insemination)

Margaret Quaassdorff

This year's World Dairy Expo (Madison, WI Sept. 30–Oct. 3) put technology front and center, giving farmers a tour of tools built for barn and business that save labor and time, hone herd health insight and raise margins. Amongst the hundreds of exhibitors, several Expo learning sessions and virtual farm tours highlighted how farms are already blending implements, technology and software to make daily dairy farm performance easier. Many companies are racing to be the ones with the best software to compile the data that is already generated on your dairy to create actionable insights.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming more mainstream in the dairy industry and is being applied on farms now in practical ways. AI powers robotic milkers and parlors to optimize milking schedules and flag early drops in yield; machine-vision systems monitor activity and lameness; and sensor networks plus cloud analytics predict mastitis risk, heat stress and even feed efficiency so managers can intervene before problems escalate. Benefits such as lower health costs for, better productivity, and clearer records and communication, and ease of employee scheduling are becoming easier to access for dairies that can take advantage of their data.

Looking ahead, we can expect AI to move from single-task helpers into integrated farm decision systems. Advanced computer-vision and multi-camera tracking now in research provide a non-physical way (fewer collars, ear tags, boluses) to follow individual cows across barns for behavior patterns, reproductive and calving cues, and other health indicators. With time for more advanced machine learning, these technologies could lead to more proactive herd management.

Overall, the industry vibe at Expo this year seemed to be to choose a system that cater to your specific dairy that can be paired with clear, actionable data insights unique to your cows and your business. In this way, your technology and data are supporting your farm team to make faster, more confident and effective decisions that make incremental positive steps towards your dairy business goals in a way that increases profitability, efficiency, animal health,

and the job satisfaction of you and your farm employees.



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County  
NWN Y Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team  
3 Murray Hill Drive  
Mount Morris, NY 14510

**Postmaster:**  
**Dated Material**  
**Please Expedite**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **November 13**

Optimizing the Economic Return  
of Pasture-Raised Slow-Growth  
and Conventional Broilers

6 PM - 8 PM : ZOOM : Free

Registration:  
[https://tinyurl.com/PastureRaised-  
Broilers](https://tinyurl.com/PastureRaised-Broilers)