



Ag Focus



Timing Harvest and Drying First Cut Silage

By: Bill Verbeten

A lot of silage will be made this month from winter small grains like triticale, along with alfalfa-grass mixtures, and spring planted oats across western NY. Timing the harvest and quickly drying the silage in the field are critical for putting up high quality forage.

Harvest Timing

Winter small grain silages will be the first spring forage crops that will be ready to harvest. The highest quality with reasonable tonnage will occur about 5 days after the flag leaf emerges at the flag leaf stage (Feekes 9.0, *Figure 1*). If we have a cool May we'll have 7-10 days until the crop reaches the boot stage (Feekes 10.0, *Figure 1*) and the forage quality will begin to decline. If May is warm, then small grains can move between these stages in as little as 3-5 days. Winter rye will be the first small grain to be ready for silage harvest, followed by winter triticale, and finally winter wheat. If the small grain received early spring nitrogen expect a 1% CP increase for every 18-20 lbs./acre of nitrogen applied. Yields of small grain silage are generally 1.5 to 3.5 ton DM/acre in our region. Taking a "second" harvest of winter small grain silage is not economical, yielding at most 0.5 ton DM/acre. This "regrowth" actually comes from the growth of later emerging tillers.

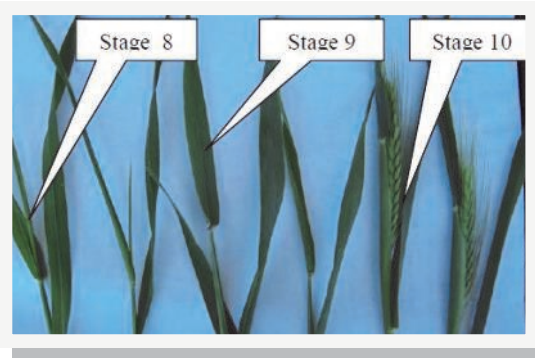


Figure 1: Small Grain Silage Growth Stages
Source: Cornell Agronomy Fact Sheet 56

The grass growth stage in haylage mixtures will be the determining factor for timing first cutting. At or just prior to grasses reaching the boot stage (seed head visible in the top of the stem) is when haylage should be cut because the grass forage quality declines quickly as the seed heads fully emerge.

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The NWNy Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops team will provide lifelong
education to the people of the agricultural community to assist them in
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NWNy Team seeks to build producers' capacities to:

- ◆ Enhance the profitability of their business
- ◆ Practice environmental stewardship
- ◆ Enhance employee & family well-being in a safe work environment
- ◆ Provide safe, healthful agricultural products
- ◆ Provide leadership for enhancing relationships between agricultural
sector, neighbors & the general public.

Continued from page 1

Kentucky bluegrass and orchardgrass will generally head out early, followed by smooth brome grass, tall fescue, meadow fescue, perennial ryegrass and reed canarygrass, with Timothy fields heading out towards the middle or end of May. However grass heading date varies a lot from variety to variety so scout your fields early in the month to keep an eye on their progression.

Spring planted small grains like oats as a nurse crop for haylage will generally be ready the end of May/early June and can be harvested either at the flag leaf stage for milking animals or at the soft dough stage and still make great heifer feed.

Drying Silage Quickly

Hopefully we will have a few stretches of 60-70 F days with decent winds to help dry our silage down this May. On our end we can lay the swaths wide, use conditioners for hay crops, ted/rake/invert/merge, and appropriately use a preservative or an inoculant to increase the drying rate and preserve forage quality.

First cut silages should be laid down in as wide of a swath as possible when cutting to increase the drying speed for the first 3-4 hours. The swaths should then be tilled/inverted after this initial drying time to expose the bottom and inside of the swaths to the sun and wind since only the outer $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of swath dries quickly.

Conditioners (roller crimpers or flail impellers) will not help silage crops dry down more quickly. When making hay, roller crimpers can help dry alfalfa and flail impellers can help dry down grasses if they are properly adjusted. Again don't waste the fuel and time conditioning small silage or haylage while cutting as it will not improve drying rates.

No measureable differences are apparent between sicklebar and disc mowers in terms of drying rate. Disc mowers are quicker to operate and are better for harvesting lodged silage crops.

Tedding, raking, inverting and merging silage will expose a difference portion of the swath to the sun and will increase drying rates, but careful field operations are needed to keep the ash content low

and to not wreck the equipment—especially with small grain silage or a very high yield first cut haylage crop. When tedding or raking be sure to not have the tines digging into the dirt. Some farmers use a tedder right behind the mower to create a wide swath, while others wait 3-4 hours after cutting or until the following morning.

While not common in NY, some farmers use desiccants to reduce the dry down time for hay. Potassium - or sodium carbonate products are mixed with lots of water and applied at cutting during the summer months. They should not be applied to our silage crops at first cutting.

Europeans often apply formic acid for directly chopped silages, but safety concerns along with the ability to dry the silage in the field have discouraged its use in the US. Propionic acid is used as a hay preservative. It will not decrease drying time, but it can help increase aerobic stability during feed-out.

Inoculants will not increase silage dry down, but they can increase silage quality. Homolactic bacteria ferment sugars to lactic acid which improves initial fermentation by quickly dropping pH. *Enterococcus faecium* and several *Pediococci* species have been shown to be effective in modifying initial fermentation. Heterolactic bacteria convert moderate amounts of lactic acid to acetic acid after initial fermentation and improve aerobic stability during feedout. *Lactobacillus plantarum* (once thought to be a homolactic bacterium) and *Lactobacillus buchneri* (commonly applied to corn silage) are the only heterolactic bacteria consistently shown to increase the aerobic stability of silage during feed out.



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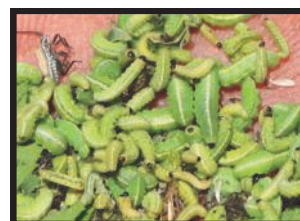
May's "Most Wanted" Insect Pests

By: Mike Stanyard

It was a long cold winter but our local resident insect pests are pretty tough! As crops are going into the ground, emerging and growing in May, many pests could be dining on your field crops. Below is a list of the culprits you should be wary of and what their feeding damage looks like. May is a very important month to get out in your fields, scout, identify, and manage insect pests before they become a serious problem! We will be providing additional timely scouting information on these insects in our weekly Crop Alert email as the season progresses.

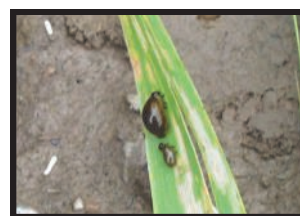
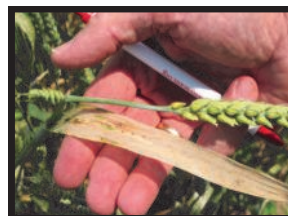
Alfalfa: Alfalfa Weevil

- Larvae emerge in late April
- Look for shot-hole feeding in upper leaves
- Threshold: 40% of plants have feeding injury



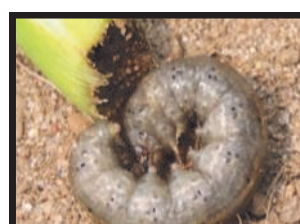
Oats and Wheat: Cereal Leaf Beetle

- Black slimy slug-like larvae
- Strip green tissue off leaves
- Threshold: 3 or more eggs + larvae per stem



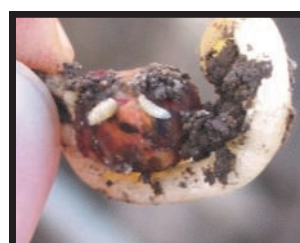
Corn: Black Cutworm

- Eggs laid in April on grasses and weeds
- Larvae cut corn plants up to V6 stage
- Threshold: 5% of plants cut



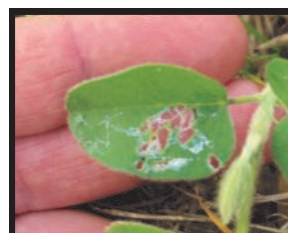
Corn & Soybeans: Seedcorn Maggot

- Look for uneven emergence, stunting
- Small maggots feed on large seeds
- Controlled with insecticide seed treatments



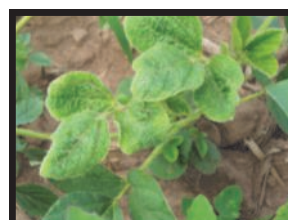
Soybeans: Slugs

- Look for holes in leaves, slime trail
- More prominent in no-till
- Can be controlled with tillage and baits



Soybeans: Soybean Aphid

- First found around mid-May
- Look on newest emerging trifoliate
- Threshold: 250 per plant



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Equine Botulism

By: Gerald R. Bertoldo, DVM

This article was created upon request of Extension and Ag & Markets personnel in the aftermath of numerous horse deaths from botulism in Eastern New York. There are a considerable number of horses on dairy and beef farms that might have access to botulinum contaminated hay and hay silage. We decided this would be a worthwhile addition to the newsletter even though equines are not a focus of the NWNY Team!

Botulism is sometimes referred to as “forage poisoning” in adult horses or “shaker foal syndrome” in foals 1 to 2 months old. It is a progressive, paralyzing disease that is 80-100 percent fatal in affected horses. Horses are extremely sensitive to botulism compared to all other domestic animals. This explains why it is common to find no other livestock on the farm affected even when multiple cases are diagnosed in horses.

Clinical signs of the disease include the loss of facial expression, a sleepy appearance, saliva drooling from the corner of the mouth, loss of tongue control and loss of tail tone. Early in the disease a horse’s appetite remains good. There is, however, a great deal of difficulty in chewing food. Unproductive “playing” in feed and water buckets will be noted as the horse’s hunger and thirst are not being satisfied. Nerve impulses to the horse’s muscles are blocked by the botulinum toxin binding to the nerve endings. This severely weakens signals to the muscles resulting in poor tone and varying degrees of paralysis. As weakness becomes more profound, the horse will experience muscle trembling, generalized sweating and labored breathing. A weakened, shuffling gait may develop. Eventually, the horse goes down and death results due to paralysis of the respiratory muscles.

Botulism is caused by a potent toxin (poison) produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* that can produce several different toxins - Type A, B, C and D. Type B is responsible for 85 percent of horse cases in the United States.

The botulism bacteria live in the soil as well as the

intestinal tract of many birds and mammals, including the horse. It produces dormant spores (long lived and extremely tough forms) found in 18.5 percent of soil samples tested in the United States.

Treatment is difficult and expensive even with early detection when the horse is only showing mild signs. Antibiotics are usually not very useful. Expensive botulinum anti-serum, intravenous fluids and tube feeding are necessary if there is any chance of survival. Down horses have grave prognoses. Euthanasia should be considered.

Botulism can be initiated in one of three ways:

- ◆ In the case of “forage poisoning,” the horse ingests pre-formed toxins that have contaminated grain or hay, most often due to putrefied carcasses of birds or rodents. Ensiled hay crop silage and baleage with a pH of 5.5 or higher as well as round bales left on dirt or pasture can be common sources of the toxins. Moldy conditions are often associated with the presence of the botulinum toxin.
- ◆ The bacteria itself can enter a horse’s body via contamination of a wound, especially a deep puncture. A good example is “shaker foal syndrome,” which is most frequently caused by the bacteria entering the newborn foal’s body through its moist navel.
- ◆ The third method by which the disease can be initiated is by ingestion of the spores in the soil. Hay should not be fed on wet and muddy ground especially where it can be trampled. The ingested spores activate in the horse’s intestinal tract where they produce potent toxins that are then absorbed.

Botulism is not contagious from horse to horse. Humans are not in danger from contact with affected animals



The disease is difficult to diagnose because it resembles several other medical conditions and diseases. Blood samples rarely contain toxin. Because the bacteria often occur naturally in the horse's intestinal tract, isolation of the organism from the sick horse's intestine is not diagnostic. A PCR test is available through the University of Pennsylvania which can be used on feed, manure and large intestine content to identify the toxin.

Prevention through vaccination is critical. A Type-B toxoid vaccine available through Neogen, BotVaxB®, is 85% effective in preventing the disease. In areas where the disease is prevalent, pregnant mares should be initially vaccinated at the eighth, ninth and 10th month of gestation and thereafter at the 10th month of each pregnancy. This provides excellent protection against shaker foal syndrome. After an initial series of three shots, yearly vaccination of adults in areas where the disease frequently occurs is also recommended.

Consult your veterinarian for help in disease control and assessing the risk of botulism on your farm.

Upcoming Webinars:

Technology Tuesday Webinar Series: Feet & Floors

May 12, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Presented by:

Dan McFarland, Penn State Extension Dairy Team
<http://extension.psu.edu/events/course/technology-tuesday-webinar-series>

Automated Calf Feeders on US Farms: How do They Work?

May 19, 1:00 p.m.

Presented by:

Dr. Marcia Endres, University of Minnesota
<http://www.extension.org/pages/29156/upcoming-dairy-cattle-webinars#.VSv9ith0yUI>



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Resources for Safety Training

By: Libby Eiholzer

We all know that safety is an important topic on farms of all kinds, yet when it comes to providing training on the topic, many farm managers get uncomfortable. They worry about their ability to speak on the topic, not to mention the time that it will take away from everything else that they and their employees need to accomplish in a day. Well, I'm here to tell you that safety training is nothing to be afraid of! There are many FREE resources available to farms that make safety training easy.

The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) is a great place to start. I have been collaborating with NYCAMH to provide training to farms in our team's 10 county region for the past year and a half. This training is free to the farm (NYCAMH receives grant funding that covers the cost). Visit NYCAMH's website for more information on the types of training that NYCAMH offers: <http://www.nycamh.com/programs/farmsafetytrainings/>. They also have Spanish/English safety posters that you can download from their website, and offer PPE and retrofit PRO shields for sale: all good resources for keeping your employees safe and healthy. It's a great idea to schedule annual training - you can contact Libby or NYCAMH directly to set this up.

An annual training is a good place to start, but what about the other 11 months of the year? Providing continuing education on safety will keep it in the forefront of your employees' minds. This type of training doesn't have to be time-consuming or boring. It can take as little as 10-20 minutes to conduct a training session on how to use a fire extinguisher or an emergency eye wash station. The Ohio State University offers many Agricultural Tailgate Training Safety Modules in Spanish and English.

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/atts/modules.html>.

Bobcat also offers several training videos on skid steer safety. These videos are available on YouTube in both English and Spanish. All you need is a computer and internet!


<https://www.youtube.com/user/BobcatCompany>



Providing on-farm safety training in collaboration with NYCAMH.


But don't think that you need to use outside resources or spend lots of time to prepare for safety training. YOU are often the most aware of the safety hazards specific to your farm, and just taking the time to discuss these hazards with your employees can go a long way. Offering coffee and donuts or pizza and wings along with a sit-down safety training will also make your employees actually look forward to trainings!

* Important Note for Farms Subject to OSHA Regulation* (Farms with 11 or more non-family employees): Whenever you train your employees on safety, make sure to document it. For every training, prepare a sheet with the names of the attendees and the person who conducted the training, the date, time, and topics covered. Save these sheets in a folder or notebook in order to maintain a record of all your trainings.



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60,000#
Rears

21 ft.
Box

2012 MACK GRANITE GU713, 395 HP Mack MP7 Diesel, 8LL Q/D, Engine Brake, Walking Beam Susp., 21'6" Body, 12.00 x 24 Tires, Spoke Wheels, 252" WB, Tandem Axle, 18,460# F/A, 60,000# R/A, 82,325 Miles, Stk. #4652 - \$39,900



2002 PETERBILT 379 DAYCAB, 450 HP Cummins, Jake Brake, 10-Spd. Manual Trans., 12,000# F/A, 46,000# Rears, 796,500 Miles, As Clean As Photo - \$38,900



92,000 Miles
22' Deck
Crane

2002 KENWORTH T800, 335 HP CAT C10 Diesel, 10-Spd, Engine Brake, 22' Deck And Manitow MLL 1047 3-Stage 10-Ton Crane, Hendrickson Susp., 5.25 Ratio, 262" WB, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tri-Axle, 20,000# F/A, 44,000# R/A, 92,000 Miles, Very Clean Low Mile Truck, D/F, 90"-W Rubber, W/8 Separate Crane/Bed From Chassis, 25' Of Frame Behind Cab, 186" CT, Stk. #4619 - \$33,900



475 HP
46K Rears
270K Miles

2007 PETERBILT 379, 475 HP Cummins ISX Diesel, 13-Spd, Engine Brake, Air Trac Susp., 22.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 14,600# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 271,113 Miles, Stk. #4779 - \$59,900



Engine Work
w/Paperwork

2004 PETERBILT 357, 430 HP CAT C-12 Diesel, 8LL Trans., Engine Brake, Air Ride Susp., 19' Length Body, 4.33 Ratio, 22.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, 256" WB, Tri-Axle, 20,000# F/A, 599,792 Miles, Stk. #4721 - \$57,900



108,000
Miles

2000 MACK RD688S, E7 Mack 350 HP Diesel, 8LL Trans., Camelback Susp., 202" WB, 24.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 20,000# F/A, 44,000# R/A, 108,544 Miles, Very Clean, Double Frame Truck, 19'6" Of Frame Behind Cab, 190" CT, Auto-Lube System, Stk. #4647cc - \$35,900



Heavy Duty
Hauler

(2) 2006 WESTERN STAR 4900SA, 515 HP Detroit 14L Diesel, Engine Brake, Reynolds 21" x 7" H x 102" W Steel Heated Body, Hendrickson Susp., 220" WB, 12.00x24 Tires, Spoke Wheels, Tandem Axle, 16,740# F/A, 65,000# R/A, Off Road Tires @ 85% Low Miles, Stk. #4699 - \$34,900



49K Rears
380K Miles

2006 PETERBILT 378, CAT C15 475 HP, 18-Spd, Engine Brake, Air Ride Susp., 172" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum. W/Whs, Tandem Axle, 12,000# F/A, 40,000# R/A, 380,024 Miles, Very Clean, Low Mile Daycab, Full Locking Rears, Stk. #4553 - \$48,900



44,000#
Rears

460 HP

1998 PETERBILT 379, 460 HP Cummins N14 Select Diesel, 938,450 Miles, 13-Spd. Trans., Air Ride Susp., 4.11 Ratio, 22.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, 208" WB, 12,000# F/A, 44,000# R/A, Clean, Good Running Daycab w/Wetline System, Stk. #4563 - \$26,900



46K Rears
500 HP
380K Miles

2009 KENWORTH T800, 500 HP Cummins ISX Diesel, 8LL Trans., Engine Brake, Air Ride Susp., 220" WB, 24.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 14,300# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 380,758 Miles, Very Clean, Low Mile, Heavy Spec Day Cab w/2-Line Wetline & Air Ride 5th Wheel, Drive Tires 95W, Steers 50W, Stk. #4495 - \$39,900



Qty. (3)
18 ft. Body
400 HP

QTY. (3) 1999 VOLVO ACL64, 400 HP Detroit 12.7L Diesel, 8LL Trans., Engine Brake, 18" Alum. Body, Hendrickson Susp., 24.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 18,000# F/A, 44,000# R/A, 533,510 Miles, (3) Good Running Quad Axle Dump Trucks, #4787 - 823K Miles, #4788 - 659K Miles, Stk. #4786, 4787, 4788 - \$29,900 EACH



44K Rears
From
The South

2001 MACK RD688S, 350 HP Mack Diesel, 9-Spd., 24' Body, Air Ride Susp., 244" WB, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 16,000# F/A, 44,000# R/A, 461,707 Miles, Very Clean Southern Trucks, Double Frame, Air Ride Cab, Good Rubber, Stk. #4783 - \$29,900



Clean
Classic

1999 Freightliner FLD120SD Classic XL, 500 HP Cummins N14 Red Top Diesel, 10-Spd, Engine Brake, Air Ride Susp., 262" WB, 72" Condo Sleeper, 22.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 12,000# F/A, 40,000# R/A, Clean, Good Running Classic Double Bunk Sleeper, Ready To Go, Recent Engine Work, Stk. #4763 - \$17,750



Double
Frame

20K/46K
Auto.

2004 MACK MR600, 300 HP Mack Diesel Engine, 248,000 Miles, Auto. Trans., Haulmax Susp., 315/80R22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, 214" WB, Tandem Axle, 20,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, Stk. #4655 - \$39,900



Qty. 5

6x6

QTY. (5) 2005 DSHKOSH F2346, 330 HP Cummins ISM Diesel, Allison Auto., Chalmers Susp., 4.89 Ratio, 212" WB, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 23,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 67,597 Miles, Clear, Low Mile GWS Cab & Chassis, 27' Frame Behind Cab, 152" CT, Full Locking Rears, Stk. #4559 4666 - \$45,900



46,000#
Lockers

2006 WESTERN STAR 4900EX, 515 HP Detroit 14L Diesel, 18-Spd, Engine Brake, Air Ride Susp., 222" WB, 24.5 Tires, Alum. Wheels, Tandem Axle, 12,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 528,344 Miles, Very Clean Heavy Spec Truck With FULL LOCKING 46,000# Rears And Wetline, Stk. #4702 - \$49,500



34K ECM
Miles

2004 Freightliner Business Class M2 106, Mercedes MBE-900 280 HP, 31,007 Miles, 8LL Eng. Brake, Air Ride Susp., 3.90 Ratio, 22.5 Tires, Alum./Steel W/Whs., 228" WB, T/A, 16,000# F/A, 40,000# R/A, 17' Length Stk. #4641 - \$49,900



Low Priced
Dump

1999 FREIGHTLINER FL70, 245 HP CAT 3126 Diesel, 159,657 Miles, 6-Spd. Trans., Air Ride Susp., 10' Dump Body, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, 151" WB, Single Axle, 29,000# GVW, Rear Hitch & Air Hookups, Stk. #4581 - \$17,900



Low Mile
Heavy Crane
On Chassis

1999 FREIGHTLINER FL112, 400 HP Cummins ISM Diesel 13 Spd., 22' Deck, Air Ride Susp., 277" WB, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 18,000# F/A, 40,000# R/A, 166,195 Miles, Good Running, Low Mile Crane/Boom Truck/Atlas 350 1.3 Stage Crane, Double Frame, Full Locking Rears, Pintle Hitch, Air & Electric Hookups, W/8 Separate Crane & Deck From Chassis, 308" CT, 27' Frame Behind Cab, Good Rubber, Stk. #4545 - \$36,900



200,000
Miles

16 Ft.
Steel

2006 VOLVO VHD42B200, 395 HP Volvo VED12D Diesel, 200,337 Miles, 8LL Trans., Engine Brake, TuffTrac Susp., 16' Steel Body, 4.89 Ratio, 24.5 Tires, 232" WB, Tandem Axle, 20,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, Good Running, Clean Dump Truck w/Electric Tarp, Stk. #4006 - \$57,500



550 HP

25 Ft.
Frame

2000 WESTERN STAR 4964SX, 550 HP CAT 3406E Diesel, 18-Spd, Engine Brake, 25'x96", Air Ride Susp., 286" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum. Wheels, Tandem Axle, 16,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 437,798 Miles, Clean, Good Running Flatbed Truck w/37' Shingle Conveyor, Double Frame, Full Locking Rears, Will Separate Conveyor & Flatbed From Chassis, 25' Frame Behind Cab, 190" CT, Stk. #4758 - \$34,900



21' Alum. Box

2003 Sterling LT9500, CAT C12 335 HP, 455,969 Miles, 8LL, Eng. Brake, Haulmax Susp., 21' Length, 24.5 Tires, All Steel W/Whs., 272" WB, 5-Axle, 18,000# F/A, 40,000# R/A, Alum. Composition Stk. #4539 - \$55,900



19 ft.
Steel Box

1999 MACK R883S, 400 HP Mack E7 Diesel, 501,176 Miles, 8LL Trans., Engine Brake, Rubber Block Susp., 19' Steel Dump Body, D/F, 22.5 Tires, Spoke Wheels, 240" WB, Tri-Axle, 20,000# F/A, 18,000# R/A, 46,000# R/A, Tarp, Rear Hitch w/Air & Electric Hookups, Stk. #4760 - \$24,900

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Strategic Planning 101 – Part 4

By Timothy X. Terry

Dairy Strategic Planning Specialist

Implementation

So...now you've formulated the strategy and you've made the decisions necessary to move forward, therefore, the next logical step is to actually implement the plan. As the strategy answers the question "What?" the implementation asks the question "How?"

- How do we translate the plan into specific results?
- How do we consistently monitor performance and results?
- How do we make sure our activities deliver the desired results?
- How do we attract and retain the people necessary to execute the plan?

Successful implementation carries the company's mission, vision and strategy through to execution. It requires discipline, involvement of the leadership, and consistency with the organization's culture. The take home message is simple:

- Successful implementation = strategy + people + operations

Successful Checklist

If the implementation is to be successful then the following should be true:

- ✓ Management is focused on and making decisions based on the strategy, not tactics. (What? vs. How?)
- ✓ Management recognizes that the strategy is only the plan for getting there, implementation is necessary to actually get there. (No 20-yardline victory dances)
- ✓ There is an actual plan for and a commitment to a time line for achieving the goals. (When will things get done?)
- ✓ Goals (or objectives) are specifically assigned. (Who will get them done?)

- ✓ There are rewards or consequences for achieving or failing to achieve the goals. (If this does / doesn't get done then this will happen.)
- ✓ Preventative protocols are in place to keep the implementation on-track. (Checkpoints, feedback, communication)
- ✓ Priorities are set (Given limited time and/or resources how will they be allocated?)
- ✓ Mission Critical activities trump day-to-day "fires" that may erupt (Following the strategy is job #1)
- ✓ Management leads by example
- ✓ The risk and the reward is balanced. (Most effort is placed on the greatest return. Not "tripping over a dime to save a nickel.")

Conclusion

Your mission, through foresight and advanced planning, is to avoid or circumvent problems before they arise. The strategy should be formulated, communicated, allocated, and inculcated (committed to memory) because...

...when you're up to your armpits in alligators it's difficult to remember your initial objective was to drain the swamp!



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Wyoming County's 5th Annual Agri-Palooza will be hosted this year by BROUGHTON FARM, owned and operated by the Broughton Family. Set in the picturesque rolling hills of Gainesville, this is a unique and efficient dairy and corn farming operation. The Broughtons are also celebrating 100 years on their family farm located at 5622 Broughton Road., Silver Springs.

Scheduled for Sunday, June 7, from Noon till 4 PM, this popular event invites the public to discover, experience, and enjoy a working Wyoming County farm. Attended last year by more than 2000 people, Agri-Palooza is designed to bring about an understanding of agriculture to the Wyoming County community and beyond; it is also an event with countless opportunities for those interested to get involved. A variety of Wyoming County farm products will be on display. Organizers encourage volunteers to participate; opportunities include everything from planning and advertising to leading tours, giving demonstrations, and parking cars.



For more information see Agri-Palooza on Facebook at facebook.com/agripalooza.

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State Veterinarian Reminds NY Poultry Industry: *Always Practice Good Biosecurity Measures*

Editor's note: with HPAI on New York's doorstep, poultry operations need to be aware of flock health risk.

New York State Veterinarian Dr. David Smith today reminded New York's poultry industry to practice good biosecurity to keep their birds free from avian influenza and other diseases. In the Northwestern and Central parts of the United States, animal health officials have detected a few new strains of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) among poultry flocks. None have been found in the northeast yet, but animal health officials are concerned as birds continue to migrate back to the U.S. as spring approaches. HPAI infections in poultry result in significant illness and death of infected birds. No human infections have been reported with any of these detections, either in the United States or abroad.

"HPAI has not been detected in New York State in many years and we want to make sure it stays that way," said Dr. Smith. "Migratory waterfowl are one way in which HPAI is spread to domestic poultry,

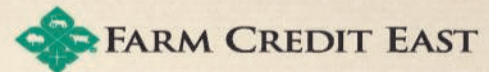
but the disease can also spread by the movement of materials and people. There are some simple steps that industry can take that have been proven to prevent avian influenza from entering a flock."

Dr. Smith advises:

- Cages and equipment should be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Clean clothes and shoes should be worn at all times when caring for birds and hands should be washed thoroughly prior to entering the area in which birds are kept.
- Visitors should not be allowed near birds and equipment should not be shared among poultry owners.
- Poultry should not be allowed to have any contact with wild birds.

For the whole article please go to:

<http://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=480&crumb=livestock|10>



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Ask Extension...

How do I feed my pigs?

By: Nancy Glazier

I was recently asked this question. Swine nutrition is a bit different than ruminants. It is more like ours since pigs do not have rumens. An easy answer is, buy a formulated feed at the feed store. Many small operations buy feed in 50 lb bags and follow the feeding instructions on the bag. Another option would be to buy from feed mills a formulation from standard nutrition tables to meet the requirements of your pigs. With this you will need bulk storage and a way to measure and feed it. This article provides some background information for nutrition needs of pigs.

Proper feeding is critical since feed accounts for 70-80% of costs associated with producing hogs farrow to finish. A pig fed to 200 lb will require about 700 lb of feed. All pigs need to be fed to their stage of growth. Growing pigs need to develop their bones and muscle prior to laying down fat. This growth stage requires more protein in the feeds. This is necessary to build bone and muscle.

Pigs require energy, amino acids, minerals and vitamins, all in proper quantities. Fat is required for fatty acids but is adequate in most balanced diets. Added fat for caloric intake may be needed in hot weather. Water is needed, but should always be provided separately and always available. Lysine is the limiting factor of the essential amino acids.

A farm-mixed will need to be ground or rolled to improve its feed efficiency. Corn is commonly fed as the base for swine diets. It is high in energy and palatable. Wheat, barley, triticale or oats may be used. Soybean meal provides an excellent source of protein. Some other sources are cottonseed meal, linseed meal, peanut meal and fish meal; some of these are more readily available than others.

Simplified rations using corn and soybean meal fortified with minerals and vitamins generally give the same results as the complex rations where many different ingredients are added. These simplified rations are usually easier to formulate and balance.

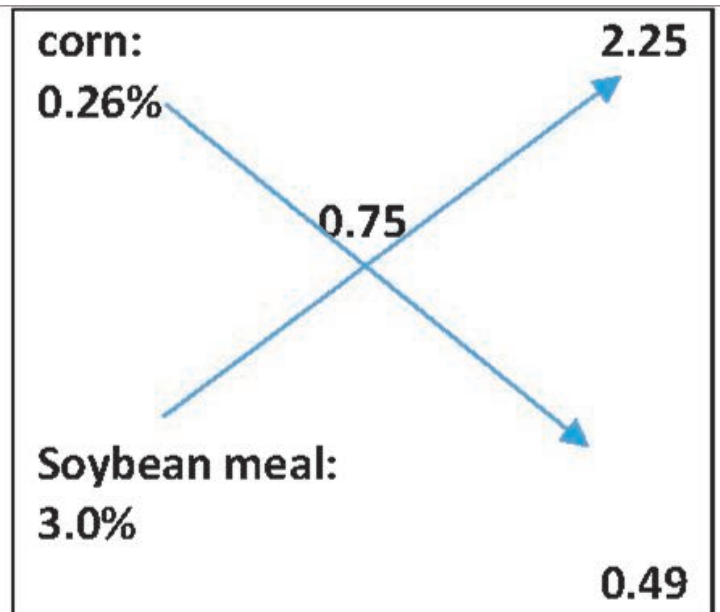


Figure 1: Balancing the ration to Lysine requirements with corn and soybean meal.

The 'square' is a great way to calculate the ration, to make sure lysine needs are met by corn and soybean meal. Ideally, these numbers are found on the grain analysis report. Book values are available for ballpark numbers. If developing a ration for 75-110 lb pigs, lysine requirement is 0.75%. Book values of corn is 0.26% and soybean meal is 3.0%. Place the amounts in the left hand corners of the square, see figure 1. Place 0.75 in the center; that is the target amount. Diagonally subtract the smaller number from the larger number: $(3.0 - 0.75 = 2.25)$; $(0.75 - 0.26 = 0.49)$. These numbers are written on the right side. Add them up: $(2.25 + 0.49 = 2.74)$. Calculate these into percentages to get the amount of corn and soybean meal needed: $(0.49 / 2.74 = 18\%)$; $(2.25 / 2.74 = 82\%)$. For a 100 lb feed mix you would need 18 lb soybean meal and 82 lb corn. Make sense? At this quantity, make sure you add needed vitamins and minerals. This can be done to balance for protein. You can do the calculations using book values of 9% for corn and soybean meal at 48%.

Don't know the weight of your pigs? Try using a heart girth measurement with a measuring tape. The formula to calculate weight is $(10.1709 \times \text{heart girth}) - 205.7492$. Take an average of the heart girth by measuring three times or so to ensure accuracy. For example a pig with a heart girth of 25" would weigh 49 lb.

General guideline for boars, gilts and sows are to limit feed 4 to 6 lb feed at 14-16% crude protein per day fed in 2 meals.

By-products are sometimes fed to pigs. This is challenging if the source and composition varies load to load.

Pasture-raised pigs can add a wrinkle to feeding. Depending on the time of year pastures can supply high levels of protein so they may need additional energy supplementation in their feed while on pasture. I would generally supply them the same ration while on pasture. They may eat less, depending on the pasture stage of growth. You will need to have a pasture rotation system or they will destroy the pasture.

Contact Nancy if you would like more information on nutrient requirements for weight classes of growing and finishing pigs. Due to space limitations of this article they are not included here.

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- 7 **Agri-Palooza**, Noon - 4:00 p.m., Broughton Farm Operations, LLC, 5622 Broughton Road, Silver Springs.
- 9 **Prepping Cattle for Market to Optimize Value**, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Ellis Farm, 9423 W. Centerville Rd., Houghton. For more information contact: Lynn Bliven at lao3@cornell.edu or 585-268-7644 ext. 18.

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