



# Ag Focus



## Planting Tips for Winter Wheat

By: Mike Stanyard

What an up and down growing season for winter wheat. The variability of rainfall totals across the region really determined what yields ended up in the bin. WNY definitely had better growing conditions for their wheat crop than the Finger Lakes region. Overall, it took a while for wheat to get down to an appropriate percent moisture but harvest seemed to move quickly once it got there. We still had some problems with Fusarium Head Scab mainly where there were more rain events. Unfortunately, some fields were above the 2 ppm limit and some tested as high as 6 ppm. Those who sprayed a fungicide at flowering seemed to have good success in keeping vomitoxin levels down.

Winter wheat production for New York is forecasted at 7.43 million bushels, up 24 percent from the 2014 crop. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 118 thousand acres, up 23 thousand from last year. Yields are expected to average 63 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year (Blair Smith, State Statistician of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York Field Office on 8/17).

**Planting Dates.** Ideally, September 15 has been a good starting point for Western NY. This has been traditionally based on the timing of the average first frost that would eliminate any Hessian flies. Fly-free dates can vary based on feet above sea level and



distance south of Lake Ontario. Starting dates can range as early as September 6th at 1500 ft. in Seneca County to September 17<sup>th</sup> at 400 ft. in Niagara County.

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sector, neighbors & the general public.



**Variety Selection.** Cornell has released the yield results of the 2015 red and white winter wheat trials from across the region (Monroe and Livingston counties locally). These results can be viewed at our team web site, [www.nwnyteam.org](http://www.nwnyteam.org), or send me an email and I'll forward a copy to you.

**Seeding Rates.** Seeding rates should increase as the season gets later and should also be adjusted based on soil conditions (See chart). Seeds should be drilled 1-1.5 inches deep for good emergence. See examples below on how to calculate million/pounds of seed per acre.

Soil Condition	Seeding Rate (million seeds/acre)				
	Sept. 15	Sept. 25	Oct. 5	Oct. 15	Oct. 25
Good	1.33	1.45	1.57	1.69	1.8
Average	1.45	1.57	1.69	1.8	1.93
Poor	1.57	1.69	1.8	1.93	2.06

Live seed % = Recommended rate / Percentage of live seed = Rate/acre

**Example:** 1,350,000 seeds / .90 live seeds = 1.48 million seeds/acre

To figure out how many pounds per acre, use the following formula.

Seeds per acre / # seeds/lb. = lb./acre

**Example:** 1,450,000 / 13,000 = 111.5 lb./acre

**Starter Fertilizer.** I still remember Peter Johnson's presentation at Soybean and Small Grains Congress which emphasized that if you are not using a starter fertilizer, then you are leaving 8 bushels on the table. He stressed that phosphorus was most important for wheat. He used the example that while soybeans only need 1 pound of P and corn 5 pounds for strong seedling establishment, wheat needs 15 pounds. Follow your soil sample recommendations and remember wheat grows best at a pH around 6.3. I have seen an increase in the number wheat growers putting a starter down with great end results!

**Broadleaf and Grass Weed Management.** Winter annual weeds are the most prevalent weed competitors for our winter wheat. Chickweed, purple

dead nettle, shepherd's purse, corn chamomile and others in the mustard family emerge right along with the wheat crop in the fall and can really pull down yields. Many producers spray with Buctril or Harmony Extra in the fall so they are starting clean in the spring. This is also the best option if you plan to underseed your wheat with clover in the spring. Annual and roughstalk bluegrass and cheat populations continue to increase across the region. These grasses also emerge in the fall right along with the wheat. Russ Hahn did some field research last year with Osprey and preliminary results show better control when applied in early spring versus the fall.

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# Getting started in farming

By: Nancy Glazier

I spent a day recently visiting four farms with a Cornell student looking to get some beef cattle after he graduates. He had attended a beef discussion group the week before and wanted to get out on the farms of some of the members. This group has had many discussions around the topic of getting young people involved in farming. I generally get questions from folks a little bit older on getting started with the biggest difference being land ownership. Here are some points that were highlighted which apply to nearly all beginners.

- **What's the end product?** Some people want to get animals, but don't know what they want to sell. If you market a product it's what separates the hobbyist from the small farmer. Even those looking to start a dairy need to think about this. What will you market, how, and where? Who is the target customer? It could be a live animal or individual cuts of meat or milk.
- **What's your plan?** This is a point I stress time and time again. A banker or lender will require a business plan if you are looking to borrow money. If you aren't motivated enough, or haven't planned your operation out, then maybe you are not serious enough about the venture. There are lots of online resources to get you started. Plans are also evolving, but a starting point for the operation with projections are necessary.
- **Equity.** Generally, you can't start a farm without any capital. Lending institutions have gotten stricter so an amount is needed even if it is a small percentage. There has to be capacity to build or grow capital even if it is in the form of animals.
- **Run it like a business.** Many small farms are part-time operations, but they should be self-supporting. Livestock should be managed efficiently
- **Set chores up to be done by one person.** Feeding, milking, and other daily chores need to be set up so one person can perform them. This



Visiting Steve Olson's farm with Cornell student Dennis Atiyeh, left.

will allow you to get chores done quickly before work or done by someone else when you try to get away from your operation for a period of time.

- **Mentorships.** Many getting into animal agriculture have no experience. Are you open to shadowing?
- **Form a discussion group.** A very successful example of this is the Seneca beef group. It was formed many years ago with the only requirement being to bring a dish to pass. It meets roughly every month, on-farm in nice weather and in a central meeting place through the cold months.

What are you doing to encourage new farmers? Are you open to visitors interested in farming? It takes time away from other obligations to talk to beginners, but there is no better way for them to hear about the challenges than from an experienced person. With the average age of principal operators of 57 in New York, beginners need to be encouraged and mentored for success!

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*Presented by:*

Dan McFarland, Penn State Extension  
<http://extension.pdu.edu/animals/dairy/courses/technology-Tuesday-series>

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# Dairy Margin Protection Options

By Joan Sinclair Petzen

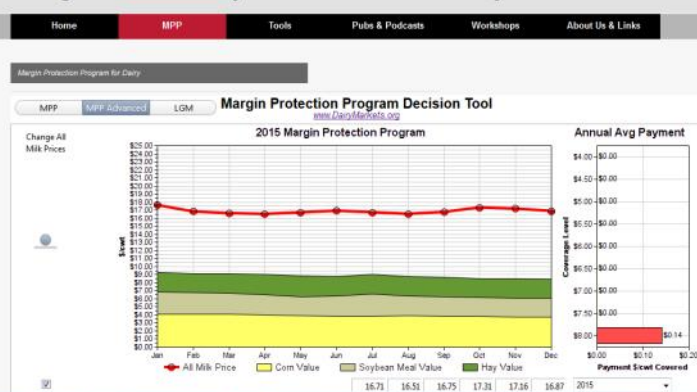
With the end of the registration period for the Margin Protection Program–Dairy (MPP-Dairy) drawing near it is a good time to take a look at dairy risk management options for 2016. USDA Risk Management Agency announced, in July, the allocation of an additional \$1 million to the Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy (LGM-Dairy) Insurance Program for the remainder of the 2015 fiscal year. With forecasts for continued low milk prices and rising feed price predictions, dairy margins, predicted by the futures markets, are projected to remain thin at least through the first half of 2016.

Both public tools and private tools remain available. The public tools are the USDA's MPP-Dairy, available through USDA Farm Service Agency, and LGM-Dairy, purchased from crop insurance agents. On the private side, advance contracts with handlers and cooperatives, and the futures and options markets continue to be available. Marketing is an important aspect of dairy farm business management. In today's volatile price environment looking ahead and putting together a strategy for "selling" your milk and "buying" your feed is not to be overlooked.

LGM-Dairy recently received an infusion of cash in July. USDA Risk Management Agency announced that an additional \$1 million has been shifted from other livestock margin insurance programs to the dairy program. This will allow dairy producers to take advantage of premium subsidies on this insurance product. It is important to note that any farm who has participated in MPP-Dairy must continue to participate in that program through 2018. LGM-Dairy is only available to farms who have never participated in MPP-Dairy. LGM-Dairy is offered for sale on the last business Friday of each month and must be purchased before 8:00 pm Central Time the next day.

The 2016 registration period for MPP-Dairy is slated to close on September 30, 2015 as of this writing. Producers who participated in 2015 will automatically be registered at the Catastrophic

## Program on Dairy Markets and Policy



Coverage Level of \$4.00 per hundredweight with a registration fee of \$100 regardless of their 2015 coverage level. If participation above the Catastrophic level is desired, the producer must elect that coverage level before September 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, producers who participated in 2015 will have their historical production level increased by 2.61% for 2016.

The Dairy Markets and Policy web site tools continue to be available at: <http://dairymarkets.org/MPP/>. In addition to the MPP forecasting and LGM tools that were available in 2015, a new advanced MPP tool is available. It allows producers to enter their own prices and adjust them for milk and feed yielding a rough estimate of their own Income Over Feed Cost. It is important to note that even though a producer can use their own prices, the advanced tool still uses the national formula for blending corn, meal and hay to arrive at a margin.



The first aspect of the Advance Tool is the ability of producers to enter their own prices. Secondly, the advanced tool allows the user to adjust milk, corn, soybean meal and hay prices separately to learn how a change in just one price aspect will affect their projected income over feed costs. The third aspect of the advance tool, the “stress test,” allows producers to enter some descriptor information about their operation, including both physical and financial data, and get some approximations on measures of profitability, liquidity and solvency. According to Dairy Policy and Markets team member Dr. Andrew Novakovic at Cornell University, “The concept of the stress test tool is that each farm can explore to what extent MPP can help them financially given their particular financial condition. It gives outputs that show how much your liquidity position, say, would be helped (or hurt) if you bought different levels of MPP.”

Take some time before harvest gets into full swing and explore your dairy margin protection options. September will pass quickly and you want to be ready to make decisions about your marketing

strategy in an informed manner. Take advantage of the new opportunities the Advanced MPP-Dairy tool makes available to evaluate price impacts and participation levels. Talk with your advisors and make sound decisions about using the tools available for protecting your dairy margins.



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# Pricing Corn Silage -- Fall 2015

By: John J. Hanchar

## Summary

- ✓ Price analysis suggests corn silage price depends on corn silage quantities, the price of alfalfa hay, the price received by farmers for milk, and the price of corn grain.
- ✓ Analysis suggests that estimated corn silage price is most sensitive to alfalfa hay price and corn grain price.
- ✓ Price estimates combined with understanding of relevant supply and demand factors from an individual farm business owner's perspective can aid decision - making regarding corn silage price. Given most recently available alfalfa hay and corn grain prices (June, October, and November 2015, respectively), price analysis suggests an estimated corn silage price of about \$50 per ton.

## Determining Corn Silage Price

A farm business owner can examine how much corn silage he/she would be willing to supply to a market at a given price. Analysis of the farm business' cost structure for corn silage production combined with consideration of other factors help to define the supply relationship. A seller can develop a target based upon the above, but actual market conditions provide no guarantee that a buyer will purchase quantities desired at a price that achieves the producer's cost target.

Some farm business owners might approach the problem of determining corn silage price from a value in production, or input demand perspective. The amounts of corn grain and corn stover in a ton of corn silage, relevant prices, and corn silage's place in the milk production process are key variables. A buyer can develop a price target based upon the



above, but actual market conditions provide no guarantee that a producer will sell the quantity desired at a price that matches the buyer's willingness to pay.

For more information regarding the two approaches mentioned above, visit the team's website at [www.nwnyteam.org](http://www.nwnyteam.org) and click on the "Forages" tab.

Although factors in price determination, the two approaches described above, by themselves, in isolation don't completely determine market price and quantity. Supply and demand relationships work simultaneously in markets to determine price and quantity. Empirical price analysis brings supply and demand relationships together to determine price.

## Corn Silage Price Analysis

Empirical price analysis suggests that corn silage price is a function of corn silage quantities, alfalfa hay price, the price received by farmers for milk sold, and corn grain price. Ordinary least squares regression provided an estimate of corn silage price as a linear function of the above variables. The analysis is somewhat rough, elementary. However, readers of the original August 2012 article describing this work and readers of annual update articles have noted that the analysis and estimates generated should be helpful to farm business owners looking to price corn silage.





## Corn Silage Price Estimates – Fall 2015

Corn silage price estimates can be generated using the ordinary least squares regression model reported in August 2012, updated here to reflect additional data available to date. Estimated corn silage price is a function of alfalfa hay price and corn grain price, other factors (corn silage quantity and milk price) fixed at average levels.

- ✓ estimated corn silage price (\$/ton) =  $1.488 + (0.162 \times \text{price of alfalfa hay } (\$/\text{ton})) + (3.561 \times \text{price of corn } (\$/\text{bushel}))$

Consider the following as current market conditions.

- alfalfa hay price is \$220 per ton, June 2015. (USDA/NASS. Agricultural Prices. Washington, DC: National Agricultural Statistics Service. July 30, 2015.), and
- the price of corn grain is \$3.70 per bushel (Western NY Energy. “Corn Bids.” August 5, 2015. Approximate value based upon reported bids for Fall 2015.)

Using the estimating equation and the above prices for alfalfa hay and corn grain, estimated corn silage price is about \$50 per ton.

Corn silage price estimates combined with understanding of relevant supply and demand factors from the individual farm business owner’s perspective can aid decision making regarding corn silage price.

For more information please contact John Hanchar at: (585) 233-9249 or [jjh6@cornell.edu](mailto:jjh6@cornell.edu)



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# The Udder Truth

By: Libby Eiholzer

We're all sick of hearing negative stories and comments about the dairy industry in the news. "They just don't get it!" "If they only knew!" and "I wish I had the chance to set that person straight" are all thoughts that have come to my mind when hearing the latest anti-animal agriculture headline. While we see negative press in the paper and on TV, it's just as bad, if not worse, on social media. Stories, pictures and videos are shared instantaneously and widely and have the potential to reach unimaginable numbers of consumers. When the message being shared about dairy farming is incorrect and negative, it's bad news for the dairy industry.

That's why Dairy Management Inc. (DMI) has decided to present what they're calling "a behind-the-scenes look at what really happens on America's dairy farms" through a social media campaign entitled "The Udder Truth". According to an article on [www.agweb.com](http://www.agweb.com), the campaign was launched in July, 2015 with the purpose of telling the real story of modern dairy farming. It is specifically geared towards millennials, the group most active on social media.

Three short videos have already been released, focusing on topics such as antibiotic use, factory farms and animal care. Each video begins by showing quotes of common myths about dairy farming, like the excessive use of antibiotics and cruelty to animals, and then switches to footage of

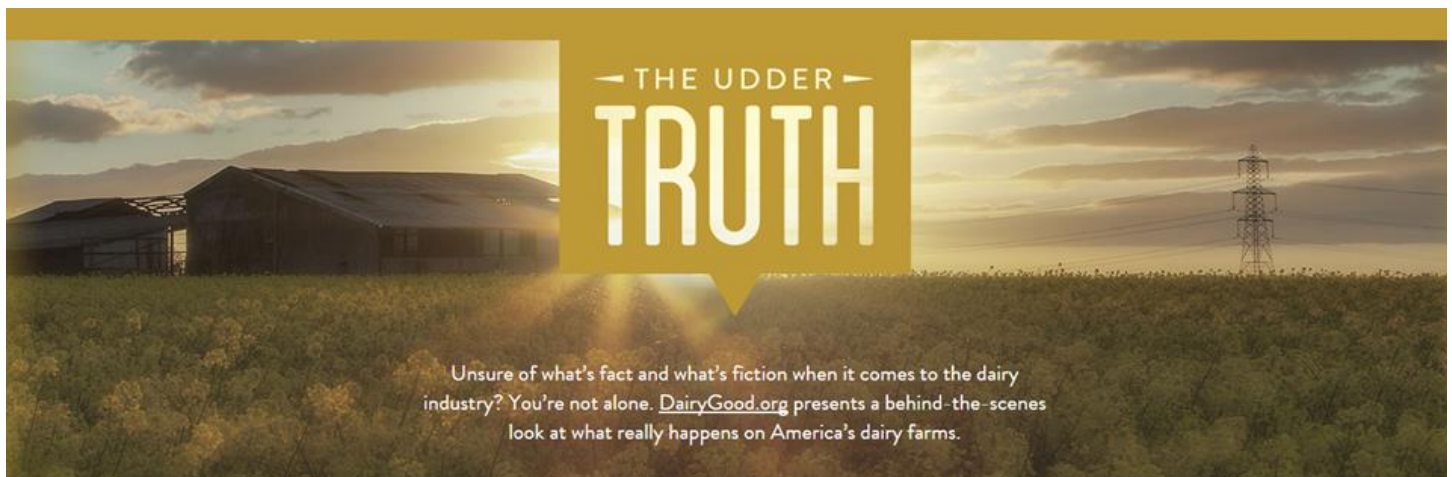


dairy farmers explaining their farming practices.

Another part of the Udder Truth campaign is a partnership between DMI and The Onion, a satirical news site whose outlandish "news" articles are widely shared through social media. Writers for the Onion are including content that pokes fun at the ridiculousness of myths about dairy farming, and then offering a link to [www.uddertruth.org](http://www.uddertruth.org) to direct people towards sound information. A few examples of titles that are meant to be inflammatory...or maybe just confusing enough to draw people in include "Are Your Cows Getting Enough Ken Burns?" and "Radioactive Panda Tears in Your Milk?"

Join the conversation! To learn more, visit [www.dairygood.org](http://www.dairygood.org) and [www.uddertruth.org](http://www.uddertruth.org). You can help DMI's mission of setting the record straight about dairy farming practices by sharing Udder Truth content through your social media accounts.

Source: "Checkoff Launches The Udder Truth to Address Common Myths". July 20, 2015. [www.agweb.com](http://www.agweb.com)





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**1999 KENWORTH W900B**, 425 HP CAT 3406E Diesel, 18-Spd, Engine Brake, 8-Bag Air Ride Susp., 3.90 Ratio, 200" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum. Wheels, Tandem Axle, 12,000# F/A, 44,000# R/A, 619,902 Miles, Very Clean Daycab w/Headache Rack, Dual Exhaust & Intakes, 17,540 lb. Chassis Weight, Stk. #4802 - CALL



**2007 WESTERN STAR 4900FA**, 515 HP Detroit 14L Diesel, 18-Spd, Engine Brake, Rubber Block Susp., 286" WB, 24.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, Tri-Axle, 20,000# F/A, 46,000# Full Locking R/A, 380,730 Miles, Clean, Low Mile Tractor w/Double Frame, Jula 35-10 Winch, Tail Roller, 20" Frame Behind Cab, 185" CT, Stk. #4892 - \$55,900



**2003 INTERNATIONAL 7400**, 210 6P DT466 Int'l Diesel, 8LL Trans., 10" Steel Dump, Spring Susp., 160" WB, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Single Axle, 14,000# F/A, 23,000# R/A, 227,922 Miles, Clean, Good Running, Dump Truck w/Flow & Sander Controls, Electric Tarp & Rear Hitch, Stk. #4883 - \$24,900



**2004 PETERBILT 357 DAYCAB**, 430 HP CAT C13, 8LL Trans., Hendrickson Haulmaxx, HMX460 Susp., 221" WB, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 14,060# F/A, Full Locking R/A, 45,000# R/A, 343,316 Miles, 16,286# Empty Weight, Stk. #4814 - \$44,900



**2005 KENWORTH T800**, 410 HP CAT C13 Diesel, 10-Spd, Engine Brake, Neway Susp., 5.29 Ratio, 200" WB, 36" Flat Top Sleeper, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 12,000# F/A, 44,000# R/A, 93,255 Miles, Very Clean Truck w/2-Line Wetline & Good Rubber, 17,540 lb. Chassis Weight, Stk. #4839 - \$35,250



**1995 MACK CL713**, 500 HP Mack E9 Diesel, 18-Spd, Engine Brake, Walking Beam Susp., 17" Dump Body, 12.00 x 24 Tires, Spoke Wheels, 215" WB, Tandem Axle, 20,000# F/A, 65,000# R/A, 293,953 Miles, Stk. #4904 - \$34,900



**2008 FREIGHTLINER BUSINESS CLASS M2 106**, 330 HP Cummins ISC, Allison Auto. Trans., Engine Brake, T-Ride Susp., 6.14 Ratio, 226" WB, 22.5 Tires, All Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 18,000# F/A, 46,000# Full Locking R/A, 249,570 Miles, Very Clean, Low Mile Cab & Chassis w/Double Frame, 17+ ft. Frame Behind Cab, 161" CT, Stk. #4919 - \$44,900



**2006 FREIGHTLINER FLD120SD**, 515 HP Detroit 14L Diesel, 8LL Trans., Engine Brake, Air Ride Susp., 191" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 14,600# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 426,230 Miles, Clean, Tandem Axle Daycab w/Full Locking Rears & Challenger Vacuum Pump, Dual Exhaust & Air Cleaners, Stk. #4801 - \$40,500



**QTY. (3) 2005 PETERBILT 357**, 305 HP CAT C11 Diesel, Automatic, Haulmaxx Susp., 216" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum. Wheels, Tandem Axle, 22,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 133,852 Miles, Good Running, Low Mile Truck w/Mellus 10.5 Cu. Yd. Mixer, We Will Separate Mixer From Chassis, 17" Frame Behind Cab, 140" CT, Stk. #4893-4894 - \$56,500



**2008 KALMAR OTTAWA 4x2 DOT**, Cummins Diesel, All Steel Wheels, Single Axle, Spring Susp., 198" WB, 22.5 Tires, Good Running Spotter Truck w/Hyd. Lift 5th Wheel & Allison Automatic Trans., 4x2, 76,023 Miles, Stk. #Kalmar - \$29,900



**1998 MACK R86BBS**, 350 HP Mack E7 Diesel, 18-Spd, Engine Brake, 20"6" Alum. Dump, Camelback Susp., 250" WB, Tri-Axle, 20,000# F/A, 44,000# R/A, Nice Dump Truck w/Pintle Hookup, Stk. #4821 - \$33,000



**2007 VOLVO VHD54F200**, 465 HP Volvo VED12 Diesel, 13-Spd, Engine Brake, T-Ride Susp., 3.91 Ratio, 224" WB, 22.5 Tires (75%), Alum. Wheels, Tandem Axle, 20,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 253,887 Miles, Low Mile, Heavy Spec Day Cab w/Heavy Frame, Air Slide 5th Wheel, 2-Line Wetline, 17" Frame Behind Cab, Stk. #4856 - \$41,900



**2005 PETERBILT 378**, 475 HP CAT C15 Diesel, 18 Spd. Trans., Engine Brake, 205" Alum. Box, Air Trac Susp., 204" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum. Wheels, Tri Axle, 20,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 688,321 Miles, Very Clean, Double Frame Dump Truck w/Dual Intakes & Exhaust, 205" Frame Behind Cab, 157" CT, Stk. #4835 - \$45,900



**2006 PETERBILT 335**, 240 HP Cummins ISC Diesel, 8LL Trans., Air Ride Susp., 4.30 Ratio, 190" WB, 22.5 Tires (95%), All Steel Wheels, Single Axle, 141,155 Miles, Low Mile Service Truck w/14" General Tool/Utility Body, Air Compressor, Work Lights, Lift Gate, Locking Rear Axle, Stk. #4878 - \$34,900



**2006 KENWORTH T800**, 470 HP CAT C13 ACERT Diesel, 18-Spd, Engine Brake, Air Ride Susp., 4.10 Ratio, 239" WB, 24.5 Tires (95%), Alum./Steel Wheels, Tandem Axle, 20,000# F/A, 46,000# Full Locking R/A, 103,302 Miles, Very Clean, Low Mile Cab & Chassis w/PTO & Pump, 21" Frame Behind Cab, 164" CT, Stk. #4859 - \$60,000



**QTY. (2) 2004 PETERBILT 357**, 300 HP CAT C10 Diesel, 8LL Trans., Haulmaxx Susp., 220" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum. Wheels, Tandem Axle, 22,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 142,997 Miles, Good Running Truck w/Low Miles, 10.5 Cu. Yd. Mellus Mixer, We Will Separate Mixer From Chassis, 16.5" Frame Behind Cab, 147" CT, #4836 has 157K Miles, Stk. #4836-4836 - \$49,900



**2004 KENWORTH T800**, 330 HP Cummins ISM Diesel, 8LL Trans., Engine Brake, Hendrickson Susp., 17" Goodwin Steel Body, 4.88 Ratio, 270" WB, 22.5 Tires, Alum./Steel Wheels, Tri Axle, 18,000# F/A, 46,000# R/A, 338,479 Miles, Good Running, Very Clean Dump Truck w/Double Frame, Tarp 75% Rubber, 205" Frame Behind Cab, 157" CT, Stk. #4835 - \$45,900

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# Composting Refresher

By: Timothy X. Terry

Dairy Strategic Planning Specialist

Over the past few months I have completed a number of farmstead surveys for planning purposes, and as I trudged back and forth taking survey shots I have come across a number of mortality composting piles. The management level on these piles seems to run the full spectrum from well managed to, “I’d forgotten that was even back there.” and everything in between. Since I don’t want to name names or deal with the DEC, and most just need a little tweaking of their technique, I thought a little refresher might be in order.



## Site Selection –

At least I can say good site selection seems to be the rule and not the exception. Most of the composting piles I’ve seen are in an area that is high and dry, do not receive drainage or drain into a critical area, are out of sight, away from property lines, and are far (>200’, 500’ better) from wells, streams, ditches, wetlands, or any other concentrated flows or waterbodies. Most are also keeping it far away from any livestock, especially youngstock, facilities and/or residences. The off-gassing elements of a prematurely turned stage-1 pile could sicken people, pets, or livestock.

## Methods –

The passively aerated static pile or windrow seems to

be the method of choice, and probably for good reason -- it is the least labor and management intensive. Unfortunately, this is where things usually break-down – no pun intended. It may be minimal in management, but “set it and forget it” is not necessarily the way to go, either.

In order for the system to work properly you need to start with a good foundation. Wood chips or coarse sawdust work best, but if these are in short supply they can be mixed with some finished compost containing the bones to make it go farther. These will provide enough structure to make sure there is enough pore space to allow for passive aeration, and yet be absorbent enough to soak up any leachate. The thickness of this base layer is dependent upon the absorbency of the material and the size of the mortalities being composted, but 2’ thick is usually a good rule of thumb. If liquids leach out then increase the thickness in future piles or look for more absorbent materials.

Place the mortality on this foundation. Medium-sized animals like calves, pigs, or sheep can be placed in a single layer spaced just a few inches apart. Larger animals like heifers and cows will need to be placed 18” – 24” apart. In either case these should not be stacked on top of one another nor placed within 2’ of the edge of the pile or windrow. After placing and before covering, the carcass should be lanced or splayed to prevent the buildup of gases. **WARNING** – if it has been unusually hot and the animal has been dead more than 12 hours the rumen may be under considerable pressure, so be careful not to be directly down-range from where you puncture the flesh.





Once placed and poked, cover the carcass with another 2' of carbon source – wood chips, sawdust, old silage, etc. If you've been paying attention you've no doubt noticed that the 2' comes up pretty often. In fact, you could probably say it's the Rule of 2's: 2' of chips below, 2' of carbon source above, and 2' of carbon source all around. Personal experience has shown that manger sweepings work really well here especially if they are in contact with the carcass. Manger sweepings typically contain a lot of readily digestible sugars, starches, and proteins, and these are good for jump starting the bacterial processes. If odors, flies, scavengers, or vermin become a problem increase the thickness of the capping layer.

Since we live in a climate where lack of water is not commonly an issue (see 2015), the cap layer should be shaped to shed water. In a drier year you can flatten, or even dish, the top of the pile or windrow to collect rainwater and allow it to soak into the pile. Lastly, mark the date of the pile or end of the windrow on the calendar, take a picture with your smartphone, or place a wire marker flag with the date written on it at the base.

### Stage1 ➡ Stage 2

After capping, the pile or windrow should sit undisturbed for the next 2- 6 months depending on the largest animal in the pile. Larger animals require longer periods to completely compost. In the meantime keep an eye on the pile for odors, flies, exposed carcass parts, etc. and recap as needed.

Falling internal temperatures signal the end of Stage 1. By this time all the flesh should be gone leaving you with little more than bones, hide, and hair. To begin Stage 2 turn the pile or windrow with a bucket tractor or payloader, and recap with more carbon source (chips, sawdust, silage) to cover any exposed carcass parts.

Because this material likely contains various environmental microbes and mold spores this should be done with cabbed equipment operating from an upwind position. At the very least, the operator should be wearing a dust mask or respirator to prevent inhalation hazards.

Allow this to sit another 4 – 6 months. Internal temp-



eratures should again reach 110° to 120°F and then cool off by the time Stage 2 finishes. At this time the material may be reused as base material for a new pile or remove the large bones and spread on crop fields. It is not recommended that this material be spread on any fields producing a crop for direct human consumption (table top, fresh market) or where pets or small children may come in direct contact with it.

The separated bones may be used as structure for the next pile, sold for processing and used as a fertilizer, or, as some have recommended, placed in hedgerows



and woods to serve as a calcium and phosphorus source for various wildlife (as do deer antlers). Since they tend to be very brittle after a year of composting it is not recommended that they go directly back on the field. Normal tillage

and harvesting equipment can shatter these bones leaving shards in the field to puncture tractor or truck tires, or worse, end up in the TMR and pierce the gut wall and/or major organ of the livestock.

### So...

now you know. Yesterday is past, today is a new day, and the perfect time to tweak your composting technique.

# Winter Forage Production

By: Thomas Kilcer, Advanced Ag Systems

Winter forage yields were down this year but quality, for those who cut on time, was very good as always. Some have been talking about dropping the crop, but there is NO crop I have seen in my 40 years of working and researching that is perfect. Every crop has a hole in its veneer.

The real advantage of the winter forage is for farms that have had weather related decreases in their total forage supply. Winter forage (triticale) will give you the earliest, high quality, potentially high yielding crop, next spring; forage for the high cows. This crop is a real advantage in areas where much of the corn is growing in standing water.

To get this yield will take several steps that we have learned are critical for optimum success:

First: start with quality seed. Bin run seed creates yield limiting disadvantages. First, you don't know what you are getting. Farms have experienced the frustration of planning on a high yielding winter triticale quality forage only to find a significant percentage of the crop is a mix with early heading, easy to lodge rye

(photo right). So, do you cut when the rye is peak quality and take a 35% yield hit on the triticale, or cut when the triticale is

optimum yield and quality but has 20 – 30% of the dry matter over mature rye straw? Second, you don't know if it will germinate. You wouldn't buy a steer to breed your cows why buy seed that may not germinate? Combining and throwing it in a bin where it heats, or high temperature drying will kill the germ. Thus you are buying seed that will not sprout (a steer). I have also seen a number of fields of bin run seed with weeds such as downy brome, annual

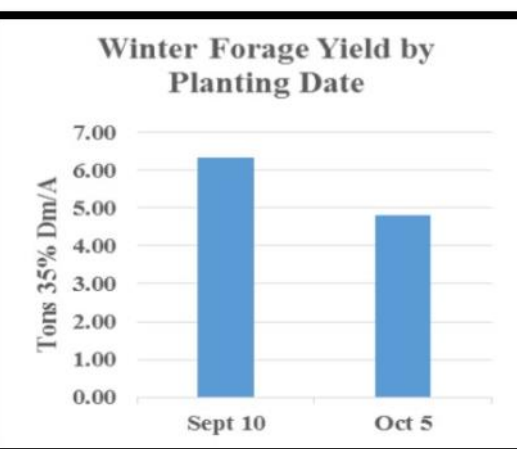


*25% heading rye and 75% still growing triticale, when do you mow?*

ryegrass and other species that cannot easily be cleaned from the good seed. Spend slightly more and plant good seed. 100 lbs. of seed/acre is suggested for on time planting.

**Earlier planting to maximize yield potential.** Over the years and many research trials, we have developed a rule of thumb that winter triticale for forage needs to be planted 10 days to two weeks before the normal wheat planting date. It is more critical as you go further north where winter comes swiftly. The

earlier planting allows for sufficient accumulation of growing degree days to prolong the tillering process. The more till-



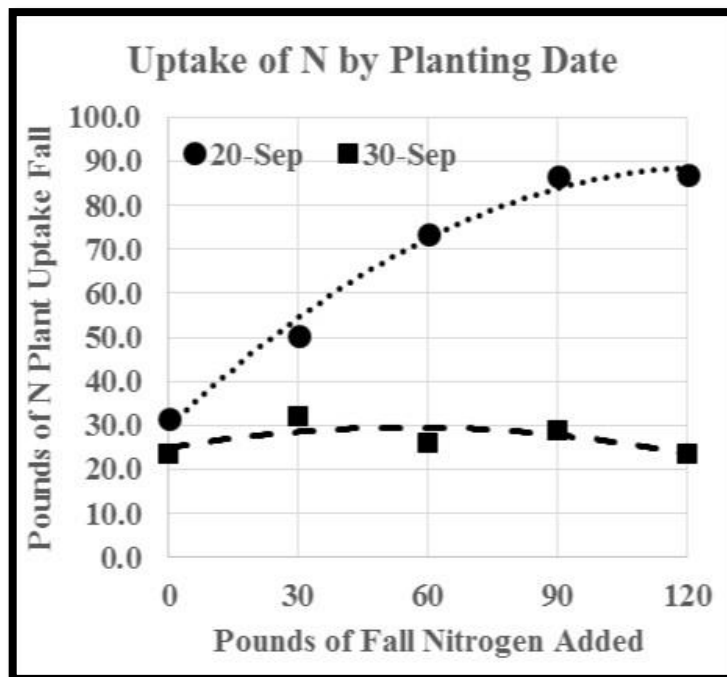
ers the more potential mature stems next spring which means more potential forage yield. Southern areas have a fall with long periods of temperatures in the range for optimum tillering of winter grains – thus their higher yields. In our replicated trials, planting September 20 (normal wheat planting time) vs September 30 increased yields 29%. Another year the September 10 yielded 32% over October 5 (graph). If your corn is delayed because of the weather this year, you can still plant in our area into October, but you just have to recognize that yields will be down compared to earlier planting unless we have a warm fall. This is something we have repeatedly seen in our trials.





Planting earlier gives many advantages: Planting earlier means more top and root growth. The root growth reduces winter heaving injury – the number one cause of winter kill I have seen in triticale. The top growth both directly protects, and collects snow to protect, the crown from cold desiccation in the polar vortex that hits each winter. In spring the leaf mulch protects the soil from temperature extremes that cause heaving injury. Early planting gets more leaves above spring melt water that causes snow mold injury. Even more important, the earlier planting with ground covering crown of leaves may completely eliminate any need for a fall herbicide program in the crop (photo). Finally, earlier winter forage takes up more nutrients. Thus utilizing this crop will allow environmentally sound manure applications in early fall that minimize ground and surface water losses. We have documented (graph at right) earlier fall planting with more vegetative growth will take up and store more nitrogen (could be from incorporated manure). This has the bonus of both increasing the number of fall tillers, and potentially reducing the amount of nitrogen needed to grow the crop the next spring. Without fall manure we suggest 40 – 60 lbs. N/A for early planting. Late planting needs none.

**Drill triticale 1.25 inches deep.** Some farms ignored this and got away with it. The past two years a number lost their crop to winter kill while farms that planted deep enough did not have that problem. The deeper planting allows the roots to have a firm grasp to resist early spring heaving. The smaller the plant (late planting) the more critical this is to survival.



Triticale is winter hardy if planted correctly. The newer drills do a far superior job with this. **Remember you are NOT planting a cover crop.** You are planting a high yield crop that with proper management produces the highest quality forage you can grow and feed.

Finally, when you select your corn seed this fall, adjust for a shorter season crop to allow maximum yield of both the corn and the winter forage crop. You can drop 20 days in maturity and may only lose 3 tons of corn silage/acre (some shorter season varieties do not lose yield but equal the yield of longer ones). It is replaced with 5.5 - 10 tons of higher milk producing winter forage.



## Household Hazardous Waste / Pharmaceutical Collection

September 19, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rock Glen (Wyoming County)

List of Acceptable Materials: Vehicle fluids (except motor oil), lead acid batteries, household cleaning products, pesticides & insecticides, polishes & waxes, resins and adhesives, oil base paint and stain (no latex), fluorescent light bulbs & tubes, pool chemicals, driveway sealer, 1 lb. & 20 lb. propane canisters and tanks, home computers, microwaves, tvs, & outdated/unwanted medications (no needles). Charge of \$4 ea. For passenger/light truck tires & \$10 ea. For truck tires.

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# Western New York Soil Health Field Day

**September 2, 12:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Hosted By: The Dueppengiesser Dairy Company, 7835 Butler Road, Perry

## Topics to be discussed:

The Basics of Soil Health, Ray Archuleta

### Station Rotations:

- ♦ Root Pit & Smoke Machine Demonstration - Frank Gibbs
  - ♦ Soil Function & Evaluation - Ray Archuleta
- ♦ Planters & Seeding Equipment - Dave Shearing & Matt Ryan
  - ♦ Residue Management & Equipment - Eric Nixon
- ♦ Cover Crop Field Walk - Paul Salon & David DeGolyer

**Cost: \$10, Pre-Register by: 8/19  
\$15, Day of Event**

## **Registration Contact:**

Wyoming County SWCD

Phone: 585-786-5070

Email: [weswcd@frontiernet.net](mailto:weswcd@frontiernet.net)



## **Beef Quality Assurance Training**

**When:** Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Runnings, 3191 County Road 10, Canandaigua

**To Register:** Contact Nancy Anderson, CCE - Ontario County

**Call or email:** 585-394-3977 x 427 or [nea8@cornell.edu](mailto:nea8@cornell.edu)

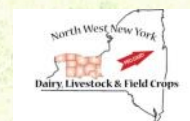


*The event is free, but please register to receive a free lunch.*

*Manuals may be purchased for \$10 at the training*

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a national program that trains & certifies beef cattle producers in animal handling, handling of animal health products, proper injection techniques, and record keeping. The goal of the program is to maximize consumer confidence and acceptance of beef by focusing the producer's attention on daily production practices that influence the safety, wholesomeness, and quality of beef and beef products. Training includes classroom as well as hands n activities with cattle.

***We thank our sponsors for their support of this event***





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## Livestock Behavior Expert Dr. Temple Grandin to Visit Ontario County

Speaking events open to farmers, autism advocates,  
and general public

**Thursday and Friday, September 17 & 18, 2015**

World-renowned animal behavior expert Dr. Temple Grandin will speak at several locations in Ontario County, on September 17 & 18, 2015. An ardent advocate for the humane treatment of animals and one of the most widely-recognized autistic professionals in the country, Grandin is a noted speaker and author of many books including *Humane Livestock Handling* and *Animals Make Us Human*. She is a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University and also designs livestock systems that more closely match the natural instincts of livestock, reducing stress and unintended injuries.

Temple Grandin will speak at three different events during her visit to the region:

### **Livestock handling talk and farm walk-through**

**Thursday, September 17, Noon – 3:30 PM**

Lawnhurst Farms, LLC, 4124 County Rd. 5, Stanley

This event is designed for dairy and beef farmers to help them improve livestock handling. There will be time after the program for questions and book signing.

Cost: \$25 per person, includes a BBQ Beef lunch. Space is limited & lunch will be guaranteed only for those who pre-register. Please **register by September 10, 2015** at [www.nwnyteam.org](http://www.nwnyteam.org) or by writing out a check payable to CCE and mailing it with names of attendees to CCE-Genesee Co., Attn: Cathy Wallace, 420 E Main St. Batavia, NY 14020.

### **Public lecture**

#### **Dr. Temple Grandin: My Life with Autism & the Livestock Industry**

**Thursday, September 17, 7:00 PM**

Vandervort Room

Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva

This event is free and open to the public. Dr. Grandin will have time to meet participants and sign copies of her books.



### **2015 Happiness House Autism Conference “Thinking Across the Spectrum”**

**Friday, September 18, 8:30 AM**

Keynote address by Dr. Temple Grandin

Crosswinds Wesleyan Church

3360 Middle Cheshire Rd., Canandaigua

A conference on autism for families and professionals presented by Happiness House in Canandaigua. Conference details available at: [www.happinesshouse.org](http://www.happinesshouse.org)

These events are independently hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team and Happiness House, with support from the Northeast Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Contract through the Beef Checkoff, Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Global Initiative on Disability, Finger Lakes Institute, and Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.



# The 15th Annual NODPA Field Days

*Organic Dairy -- Preparing for the Next Generation*

**October 1 & 2, 2015**

**BW's Restaurant and Banquet Facility, 11070 Perry Road, Pavilion, NY  
Cottonwood Farms, The Tillotson Family, 10770 Cook Road, Pavilion NY**

**Thursday, October 1, 2015**

**8:30 – 9:00 am - Farm Tour registration at the farm.**

*Coffee and light refreshments will be available.*

**9:00 – 11:30 am - Farm Tour**

**Noon – 1:00 pm - Field Days Registration and Lunch at BW's Restaurant**

**1:00 – 2:30 pm - Organic Dairy and Robotic Milking: A useful tool to balance a farmer's life or an expensive toy?**

*Richard Kirshbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension*

**2:30 – 3:00 pm - Milk Break**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm - The Next Generation of Organic Dairy Farmers:**

**What do 'Millennials' see as the future of farming? - panel discussion**

*Virginia Chamberlain, Stephen Gould, Eric Beiler, Peter Martens*

*moderated by: Joan Petzen, Farm Business Management Specialist, CCE.*

**5:00 – 6:00 pm - Social Hour and Trade Show**

**6:00 – 7:00 pm - Banquet Dinner and NODPA Annual Meeting**

**7:00 – 8:00 pm - The Organic Brand: Where we've been and where we are going**

*Keynote speaker: Liana Hoodes, founding Director National Organic Coalition*

**8:00 – 9:00 pm - Working Together For a Sustainable Organic Dairy Future**

*facilitated by Fay Benson, Project Manager NY Organic Dairy Initiative, CCE*

**Friday, October 2, 2015**

**6:30 – 9:00 am - Continental breakfast**

**7:00 – 9:00 am - Producer-only meeting**

*Henry Perkins, facilitator - Maine Organic Milk Producers President and past NODPA president*

**9:00 – 9:45 am - Grass Milk - Tim Joseph, Maple Hill Creamery**

**9:45 – 10:00 Milk Break**

**10:00 – 10:45 - What's New in Washington? Q&A - Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director**

**10:45 – 11:00 Travel to Cottonwood Farm, Pavilion**

**11:00 – 1:00pm Optimizing Cow Comfort in the Barn and throughout the Farm**

*Jerry Bertoldo, DVM, Dairy Management Specialist, NWN Team, CCE*

**1:00 – NODPA Field Days Cookout and Door Prize Drawing – Letchworth State Park**

To register on-line: [www.nodpa.com/fielddays\\_registration\\_2015.shtml](http://www.nodpa.com/fielddays_registration_2015.shtml)

**Questions???? Contact:** Ed Maltby at: 413-772-0444 or Email: [ednodpa@comcast.net](mailto:ednodpa@comcast.net)

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## **SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Save the Date...**

- 1-7 **Dairy Cow Birthing Center**, NYS Fair, 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. (open till 9:00 p.m. on Labor Day). Located next to the FFA Bldg. near tram stop #8.
- 2 **Soil Health Field Day**, 12:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Dueppengiesser Dairy Company, 7835 Butler Road, Perry. **RSVP** by: August 19. Contact: Wyoming Co. SWCD: 585-786-5070 or [wcsxcd@frontiernet.net](mailto:wcsxcd@frontiernet.net). For more details see page 16
- 17 **Dr. Temple Grandin Visit**, 12:00 - 3:30 p.m., Lawnhurst Farms, LLC, 4124 County Road #5, Stanley. **RSVP** by: September 10. For more details see page 18.
- 17 **Dr. Temple Grandin: My Life with Autism & the Livestock Industry**, 7:00 p.m., Vandervort Room, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva. Free and open to the public. For more details see page 18
- 18 **Happiness House Autism Conference "Thinking Across the Spectrum"**, Keynote Speaker: Dr. Temple Grandin, 8:30 a.m., Conference details at: [www.happinesshouse.org](http://www.happinesshouse.org)
- 19 **BQA in a Day at Runnings**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 3191 County Road #10, Canandaigua. Contact: Nancy Anderson: 585-394-3977 x427. For more information see page 16
- 19 **Livingston Co. Farm Fest**, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Noblehurst Farm, Craig Road, York
- 19 **Household Hazardous Waste/Pharmaceutical Collection**, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Rock Glen, Appointments required. Call: 585-334-2580 x5463 or 585-815-7906
- 26 **Fun on the Farm**, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Black Brook Farm, 4556 Kyte Road, Shortsville

## **OCTOBER 2015**

- 1-2 **NODPA Field Days**, see page 19 for times & complete schedule
- 17 **BQA in a Day**, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., CCE - Ontario County, 480 North Main St., Canandaigua, & a nearby farm. For registration contact: Cathy Wallace at 585-343-3040 x138 or [cfw6@cornell.edu](mailto:cfw6@cornell.edu)

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Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.