African Swine Fever: What Does it Mean for You?

Join us for a virtual discussion on the status of and risks facing New York pig farms from African Swine Fever (ASF). Eireann Collins, DVM, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets will be covering the symptoms of ASF and what would happen if the disease reached the US. This will be a short presentation with ample time for questions and answers.

This educational meeting is supported by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell Cooperative Extension Livestock Program Work Team and New York Pork Producers Cooperative.

You can register for this event here: https://tinyurl.com/UnderstandingASF

Tar Spot in Corn Confirmed in WNY

Originally published by the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program by Mike Stanyard

Gary Bergstrom has confirmed that tar spot has been found and confirmed in corn in two locations in Erie County. We have been talking about the possible arrival of tar spot for years. Earlier this season it had been confirmed in Erie County PA and just across the border in Ontario Canada. The following are Gary’s advice for identifying tar spot in your corn field. “Attached are two photos of corn leaves affected by tar spot in Erie County. These show nicely the range of sizes of glossy black stromata, the fruiting bodies and overwinter survival structures of the fungus. For diagnosis, it’s all about the stromata. They can’t be wiped off like insect frass can. Chlorotic or necrotic lesions won’t be that helpful at this stage as other foliar diseases and senescence will likely co-occur on the same leaves. The stromata remain highly visible on frosted or completely senesced leaves. This provides an opportunity to scout for stromata on foliar residues in harvested fields! I’ll have a blog article together soon for wider sharing.” We would expect to find tar spot in Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties.

If you think you have found tar spot in your corn, please give Katelyn Walley-Stoll a call or text pictures to 716-640-0522 or email at kaw249@cornell.edu.

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- Sheep and Goat Diseases ................. 8
- And More!
"Cows, Crops, and Critters Newsletter" by the Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program with Cornell Cooperative Extension in partnership with Cornell University and the five county region of Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Steuben and their CCE Associations. 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 and human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying pesticides. By law and purpose, Cooperative Extension is dedicated to serving the people on a non-discriminatory basis. Newsletter layout and design by Katelyn Walley-Stoll.

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We’re hiring! Give Katelyn a call to learn more about our Field Crops Management Specialist position and how to apply.

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Stay connected: Follow us on social media, sign up for our newsletter, visit our website.
Mastitis continues to be the costliest disease of dairy cattle. Antibiotic therapy still plays an essential role in the control of mastitis in dairy cows. Treatment during lactation is not effective in all mastitis cases. Therefore, dry cow therapy is still an essential tool to eliminate previous infections and prevent new cases of mastitis.

Since the development of blanket therapy, a lot has changed. Many farms in the US have eliminated Strep. Ag. and S. aureus from their herd and improved their milk quality significantly. It’s not rare to see herds with BTSCC’s of 150,000 or lower. In this context, and with growing public concern over antibiotic usage in farms, there’s been an increase in the use of selective dry cow therapy (For more information about selective dry cow therapy, read this). For herds using this approach, teat sealants play an important role by preventing new infections without relying on antibiotics.

Although mastitis treatments might be changing, it is essential to remember that: how we infuse intramammary medications on our cows matters. A careful procedure is critical to achieve desired results. Although relatively a simple technique, it is essential to remember this important principle: Teats need to be clean and dry. The only thing that can enter the teats is a sterile cannula and the drug. If the process is not done correctly, we can cause mastitis by inadvertently introducing microorganisms through the teat canal.

The best procedure is to follow these easy steps (Source: NMC):
- Use CLEAN gloves during the process.
- Dip teats in an effective germicidal product. Allow 30 seconds of contact time before wiping tears with an individual, disposable towel.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect each teat end Scrub the teat opening with a cotton swab soaked in 70% alcohol. Use a separate swab for each teat.
- Prepare teats on side farthest from you first, followed by teats on the near side. (Teats may be cleaned and infused individually, if necessary.)
- Treat quarters in reverse order; near side first, far side last.
- Insert only the tip of the cannula into the teat end and express all the contents. Do not allow the sterile cannula to touch anything before infusion.
- Do not massage the teats to disperse the product.

Continued on page 4...
... Continued from page 3

- Dip teats in an effective germicidal product after treatment.
- Identify/mark treated cows and remove them from the milking herd to prevent antibiotics from entering the milk supply.

Sanitizing the teats is necessary even if treatment is administered immediately after milking. Although the udder and teats appear clean from your pre-milking routine, the teat end can be contaminated with mastitis-causing bacteria after milking. These microorganisms could be carried into the teat canal along with the infusion cannula if not correctly disinfected during the process. In addition, always dip gloved hands in a sanitizing solution between treating individual animals to reduce the spread of pathogens.

Avoid fully inserting the conventional mastitis tube syringe cannula. This could result in temporary dilation of the teat sphincter muscle, allowing the entry of microorganisms. The syringe cannula may also push microorganisms that are colonized in keratin into the teat cistern.

This information is for educational and reference purposes only and is not a substitute for sound veterinarian consultation and following product labels. Cornell Cooperative Extension is dedicated to providing research-based information to our agricultural producers. Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete, and up-to-date recommendations.

Calves Can Make the Perfect Pair
by Abby Bauer, Senior Associate Editor Hoard’s Dairyman

Group housing for calves is a common topic of conversation in today’s dairy industry, but it’s not a system that is easy for all farms to implement. That does not mean dairies can’t still reap the benefits that come from raising calves in social groups, though.

Whitney Knauer, an assistant professor with the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, believes that housing two calves together in a pair is an easier transition for many farms that still yields positive results.

“I really like pair housing because we get a lot of the advantages of social housing without the detrimental effects of large groups,” she said during a presentation at the American Association of Bovine Practitioner’s (AABP) annual conference.

Knauer explained that pair housing requires few changes in overall calf management on the farm and generally won’t impact the milk delivery system. Paired housing doesn’t require a new building, and both hutches and pens can be adapted to accommodate two calves. “There is a lot of opportunity to modify what we already have,” she said about housing.

Studies have shown the same benefits in paired calves as they have in those raised in groups, including greater starter intake at weaning, longer lying times at weaning, and less vocalization at weaning. Calves raised with a peer also have a reduced fear of new objects or novel situations.

Knauer noted that pair housing is best suited for farmers that are already doing a good job with raising their calves. If a farm is currently facing health challenges among the calf herd, this would likely not be a good time to facilitate this change.

Pairing provides the most benefit when it is done earlier in life, prior to three weeks of age. Knauer recommended starting calves out individually for a week to 10 days and then forming the pair. There should be no more than a two-week age difference between the two calves, and less than one week is ideal, she said. “Calves should be vigorous and drinking well before being moved into a pair,” she added.

There are various ways to create groups in either hutches or pens, but Knauer reminded that each calf must be provided at least 35 square feet of resting space.

For milk feeding, Knauer noted that calves must be fed, at minimum, 6 liters of milk or milk replacer per day, split into two meals. It is most desirable to offer this liquid in a nipple bottle or nipple bucket to slow drinking time and reduce the risk of cross sucking.

If cross sucking is a concern, Knauer said it can be minimized by feeding more milk and feeding out of a nipple. She said there is also the option to split calves up for feeding.

While this adds labor – about one minute per calf in a University of Minnesota trial – she said the calf feeders actually found it easier to feed calves when they were separated for milk delivery.

Knauer noted that the pen should include a water bucket and calf starter bucket for each calf. One benefit of social housing is that calves can learn from their peers, so if one calf is eating or drinking, it is desirable for the other calf to be able to mimic the behavior and to do the same activity at the same time.

No matter what system is used to pair calves, Knauer reminded the audience, “The basic principles of excellent husbandry and management apply.” Practices such as colostrum feeding, proper bedding, and so forth will all play a role in the success of pair housing for calves.

Are you interested in raising your calves in pairs? Talk to your veterinarian to see if that’s the best fit for your farm!
We hope to see you at some of our in-person and virtual events this season!

Ag Workforce Development Council is hosting Labor Roadshow V as a virtual event. A series of six two-hour webinars will be held online through Zoom at noon on November 22 and 23, and December 2, 3, 9 and 10. Cost is $55 per person to attend all six webinars and to receive links to the webinar recordings and roadshow materials.

New York Labor Road Show V is an opportunity to learn about regulation changes and how to best position your business for compliance and success. Several important changes to state regulations occurred in 2021 that farm employers need to understand, and better employee management is the key to farm success during and after our current farm labor crisis.

AGENDA

NOV 22, 2021 | Noon to 2:00 PM EST
- Worker’s compensation: How does it work from employer and employee perspectives? Henry Talmadge, New York Farm Bureau Safety Group; Jan Klodowski, Dairy Farmers of America
- Employee handbooks: Getting your handbook in place and in compliance while making it a useful tool to communicate expectations to employees. Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development

NOV 23, 2021 | Noon to 2:00 PM EST
- Labor cost trends, efficiency, and management strategies: How dairy farm labor costs and efficiencies are changing over time and management actions that producers can take to minimize impact of rising labor costs more effectively. Jason Karszes, Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY; Greg McConnell, Farm Credit East
- COVID issues for farm employers: Understanding the NY HERO Act and employer requirements and strategies to encourage or require vaccinations. Michael Sciotti, Attorney, Barclay Damon LLP

DEC 2, 2021 | Noon to 2:00 PM EST
- NY farm labor law compliance: A review of current New York regulations covering minimum wage, overtime, day-of-rest, and COVID sick leave pay. Melissa Buckley, NYS Department of Labor
- Preventing turnover: Real perspectives from active farm managers about what causes employees to leave and how to prevent it. Bob Milligan, Cornell University Professor Emeritus and Dairy Strategies, LLC; Panel of managers and employees including: Meghan Hauser, Table Rock Farm, Garrett Miller, Oakwood Dairy, and Bob Ceglowski, Rupert Veterinary Clinic

DEC 3, 2021 | Noon to 2:00 PM EST
- Employee housing management: Producer strategies to manage employee housing, enhance housing culture, create new housing solutions, comply with H-2A requirements, and finance employee housing. Panel of farm managers including: Bill and Corinne Banker, Blue Hill Farms, Jeremy Bergen, Bergen Farms, and Lisa Neal, Merrel Dairy.
- Financiers: Mike Haycook, Farm Credit East, and an update from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
- Employee wellness programs: Why are these programs emerging and how can producers make them positive for their farm and for the industry? Panel of farm managers and industry experts including Jaime Padilla, Fair Trade USA, David Darr, Dairy Farmers of America, and Nicole Ayache, National Milk Producers Federation-FARM (invited).

DEC 9, 2021 | Noon to 2:00 PM EST
- NY farm unions and immigration enforcement: Review and update of employer responsibilities related to farm union organizing and negotiation. John Wirienius, Chair of the NY Public Employment Relations Board. Chris Schulte, Attorney, Smith, Gambrell Russell LLP; Hosted by Alyssa Keally, Northeast Dairy Producers Association
- Middle managers’ role in creating a great place to work: How middle managers influence the engagement of frontline employees and help keep the business in compliance with workplace laws. Chris Schulte, Attorney, Smith, Gambrell Russell LLP; Panel of farm middle managers.

DEC 10, 2021 | Noon to 2:00 PM EST
- H-2A for beginners: An introduction to the federal temporary guest worker program for agriculture (H-2A), and the experiences of farm employers who recently started using the program. Mark Martens, Agri Placements International Inc.; Farm panel of success stories: Maureen Torrey, Torrey Farms, John Mueller, Willow Bend Farm, David Fisher, Mapleview Dairy
- Understanding NY paid sick leave and paid family leave: Requirements and strategies for compliance and to make this a positive benefit for employees. Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development

Staying on top of annual changes to labor regulations can help prevent future challenges.
Dairy Market

October 2021

An educational newsletter to keep producers informed of changing market factors affecting the dairy industry.


**Dry Products**: Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) prices heightened in all regions. Western industry contacts note international demands are strengthening. Spot load availability is mixed in the United States. High heat prices are mostly higher. NDM markets are bullish. Dry buttermilk prices moved higher. International interests remain healthy, mostly higher. NDM markets are bullish. Dry buttermilk note international demands are strengthening. Spot load prices heightened in all regions. Western industry contacts

**Butter**: Cream is tight in the East region, while availability varies in the West. Following a fire at a butter plant in the Northwest, cream has been diverted to other nearby production facilities. In the Northeast some churns are, reportedly, idle this week as cream clears to holiday-related processing lines. Demand for butter is strong. While inventories of butter are available in the Northeast and West, some purchasers are buying early in anticipation of the upcoming holiday season.

**Fluid Milk**: In most areas of the nation, milk production is increasing off farms. There are reports milk availability is slightly tight in areas of the Northeast. Bottling demands are mostly steady. Seasonal retail products, like eggnog and aerated cream, have increased production schedules for customers’ demands. Cream markets are stable. Internal cream supplies are meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk Component Prices</th>
<th>Milk Class Prices</th>
<th>Statistical Uniform Price &amp; PPD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Butterfat</td>
<td>Protein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 20</td>
<td>$1.59</td>
<td>$3.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>$1.64</td>
<td>$5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>$1.56</td>
<td>$5.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>$1.54</td>
<td>$3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>$1.55</td>
<td>$3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>$1.44</td>
<td>$2.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>$1.72</td>
<td>$2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>$1.94</td>
<td>$2.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
<td>$3.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>$1.96</td>
<td>$2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>$1.89</td>
<td>$2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 21</td>
<td>$1.85</td>
<td>$2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 21</td>
<td>$1.93</td>
<td>$2.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**September Utilization (Northeast):** Class I = 31.0%; Class II = 26.7%; Class III = 27.3%; Class IV = 15.0%. **Class I** = fluid milk; **Class II** = soft products, cream, and yogurt; **Class III** = cheese (American, Italian), evaporated and condensed products; **Class IV** = butter and milk powder.

**Cheese**: Spot milk trading was fairly quiet in general, and Northeastern cheese producers say there are pockets of tightness regarding milk availability. Cheese production generally has been somewhat busy, despite reports of employee shortages and other logistical snags growing in regularity in recent months. Demand notes ring true across the regions. Retail demand has strengthened seasonally, across the board. CME prices have thrown a curveball at market participants. After a notable gap between block and barrel cheese prices for months, where block prices clearly outpaced those of barrels, the prices have now inverted. Barrel prices late last week and throughout this week have been higher than blocks. Cheese contacts in the Western region do relay block inventories are more available than barrels.

The September 2021 $/Gallon paid to the farmer (Albany price) was $1.50. This is an increase from $1.40 a year ago.
Milk prices will finish the year higher. Class III was $15.95 in August, $16.36 in September and may improve to about $17.80 for October. The higher Class III price is the result of both higher cheese and dry whey prices. Stronger butter prices and much improved nonfat dry milk price will push the Class IV price which was $15.92 in August and $16.36 in September to $17 for October. Butter which averaged $1.78 per pound in September has ranged from $1.69 to $1.82 in October. The real strength in the Class IV price came from higher nonfat dry milk prices. Nonfat dry milk averaged $1.35 per pound in September and has shown steady increase since to now $1.52.

The increase in milk production over a year ago has slowed and is expected to continue to slow for the remainder of the year. And with the strong seasonal demand for butter and cheese for the holidays cheese and butter prices could strengthen even more. Class III could improve to the high $18’s November and December. Current Class III futures are higher reaching $19 for both November and December. Class IV could also be in the $18’s November and December. This is the second consecutive month milk per cow dropped below a year ago partially reflecting some adverse weather and possibly higher feed costs.

Dairy exports have also been a factor in higher dairy product prices. The volume of August exports was 13% higher than a year ago. August exports marked the seventh straight month of grow.

The growth in milk production for 2022 may be no more than 1.5%. USDA is projecting an increase of just 1.2% over 2021. High feed cost as well as increasing labor and other input costs will encourage heavier culling of lower producing cows. The high cost of building materials will dampen dairy expansion decisions. Milk cow numbers will likely average below 2021.

The economy is forecasted to continue to grow in 2022. But inflation driving up the cost of food, other consumer goods, gasoline and home heating fuel will reduce consumer spending power. But barring any set back to restaurants, in-person learning on schools and colleges and public events increased cheese sales should increase overall milk sales.

Dairy exports are forecasted for some growth over 2021. U.S. dairy products are expected to remain competitive with other major exporters. If progress continues in reducing cases of COVID-19, world economy should show improvement improving world demand for dairy products.

Any slight changes in forecasted milk production, domestic sales or dairy exports will change the milk price outlook for 2022. As of now first quarter Class III prices could be in the higher $17’s, second quarter the mid $17’s and in the $18’s third and fourth quarter. But there is the probability that prices could turn out higher or lower.

Dairy producers need to consider one of several price risk management tools to protect profits when opportunities occur. Opportunities currently exist to do so. Class III futures are rather optimistic for 2022 milk prices with Class III in the $18’s January through October. If the growth in milk production continues at the low rate experienced for the past two months, Class III could well be the $18’s for most of next year. However, USDA is much more cautious with Class III averaging just $17.10 for the year. But if USDA’s projection of just a 1.2% increase in milk production is correct, the Class III price ought to average higher.
Properly infusing intramammary medications increases their effectiveness and decreases the chance of causing infection.

Contact Camila Lage at 607-422-6788 or cd546@cornell.edu for a digital copy of this SOP.
When buying sheep or goats, especially breeding animals, they should come from a herd or flock that is free of common diseases. Below are some of the common ailments and what they look like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Concerns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foot Rot</strong></td>
<td>Rotted-looking or smelling blisters or sores usually between the claws of the hoof.</td>
<td>Hard to get rid of, spreads easily, reduced weight gain,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caseous</strong></td>
<td>Abscess at infection site or nearby lymph node.</td>
<td>Chronic wasting disease, decreased weight gain, decreased wool growth, lower milk production, reduced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sore Mouth</strong></td>
<td>Blisters on the lips, nose, udder, teats, and/or junction of the hoof and/or lower leg.</td>
<td>Body weight loss, don’t grow well, susceptible to other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Johnes</strong></td>
<td>Rapid weight loss, diarrhea. Affected goats still eat.</td>
<td>Symptoms may not show up for months or years in infected animals, infected mothers can infect offspring through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caprine Arthritis</strong></td>
<td>Varied. Can include stiffness, lameness, weight loss, mastitis, pneumonia, inflammation of brain, deep and chronic cough, trouble breathing. May not show symptoms.</td>
<td>Contagious, spreads from infected mothers to kids through milk and/or from adults to other adults, low weight gains,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Encephalitis</strong></td>
<td>Weight loss, anemia (loss of mucous membrane color), bottle jaw, and/or diarrhea. Some may have moderate infections and not show symptoms.</td>
<td>Weight loss, attraction of flesh eating flies, secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internal Parasites</strong></td>
<td>Weight loss, anemia (loss of mucous membrane color), bottle jaw, and/or diarrhea. Some may have moderate infections and not show symptoms.</td>
<td>Weight loss, attraction of flesh eating flies, secondary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some ill sheep and goats don’t show symptoms. It’s always important to quarantine animals for at least 30 days once you bring them home.

Work with your veterinarian to blood test animals that you’re looking to purchase to ensure disease free status.
### Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date, Time, Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learn More...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 23rd 12pm - 2pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>Labor Trends and COVID Issues</td>
<td>See Page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30th 12:30pm - 1pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>Transition Cow Tuesdays: Calving Considerations</td>
<td>Contact Camila Lage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1st 7pm - 8pm</td>
<td>African Swine Fever: What Does it Mean for You?</td>
<td>See Page 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2nd 12pm - 2pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>NY Farm Labor Law Compliance and Preventing Turnover</td>
<td>See Page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2nd 7pm - 9pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>Farm Financial Records for Decision Making and Tax Management</td>
<td>Contact Katelyn Walley-Stoll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3rd 12pm - 2pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>Employee Housing Management</td>
<td>See Page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7th 12:30pm - 1pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>Transition Cow Tuesdays: Post Calf Monitoring</td>
<td>Contact Camila Lage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7th 7pm - 8pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>Beefing Up: The Importance of Mineral Nutrition</td>
<td>See page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9th 12pm - 2pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>NY Farm Unions, Immigrant Enforcement, and Manager’s Roles</td>
<td>See Page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10th 12pm - 2pm Online via Zoom</td>
<td>H-2A for Beginners, NY Paid Sick and Family Leave</td>
<td>See Page 5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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For more information on becoming a sponsor, contact Kelly Bourne, Administrative Assistant, by calling 585-268-7644 ext. 10 or email klb288@cornell.edu.

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