swnyteam@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu

A partnership between Cornell University
and the CCE Associations in these five counties:
Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben.

Crops, Cows & Critters Newsletter

Volume 3· Issue 1 · January 2022

Thinking about a solar lease? Here are 5 things you should consider.

By Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Farm Business Management Specialist

Rural landowners across the Southwest New York Region, and New York State in general, have been receiving invitations from solar companies to lease their land for utility scale solar arrays. While this has been around for several years, the general trend of increasing renewable energy sources has spurred lots of conversations about the potential benefits, pitfalls, and logistics of hosting solar arrays on your property.

One thing to note is that solar leases are rarely something landowners should feel pressured to rush right into. Careful consideration, consultation with legal counsel, and an evaluation of the role such a lease would play into a farm business plan are all important steps before signing on the dotted line. Here are 5 things to consider as you think about leasing your land for solar.

1. The Benefits of Solar Leases: Solar energy is an important part of reducing carbon emissions and meeting statewide, national, and global efforts of increasing renewable energy sources. As a landowner, a solar lease can also provide a steady income stream, ranging from $250 - $2500/acre/year. While this isn't as profitable on a per acre basis as other production options, for unused or marginal land, solar leases can help diversify farm revenues. There are several companies in our area recruiting land parcels for solar development, which could work to your advantage! Research and contact developers in your area for the best lease rates and agreements.

2. Solar Leases and Your Farm Business Plan: Having a farm business plan in place is so much more than a dusty binder sitting on a shelf in the farm office. A business plan tells you where you're going, why you're doing what you're doing, and what other types of opportunities you'd like to explore. Depending on your farm's business plan, stage in the business life cycle, and

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Preparing for, Identifying, and Accessing Public Funding Sources: for NYS Livestock Slaughter and Processing Facilities

Date: Thurs, January 27th
Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Where: Online via Zoom
Cost of Attendance: Free

You can register by visiting:
https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/GrantWriting_211
or by contacting Dana Havas at
(607) 391-2664 or
dmh353@cornell.edu

Topics

- What is needed to apply for and administer funding
- How to work with a grant writer and local economic development organizations on your application
- How to identify and access public funding sources, which will include a list of grants applicable to the NYS processing industry

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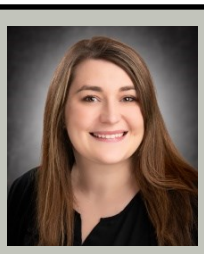
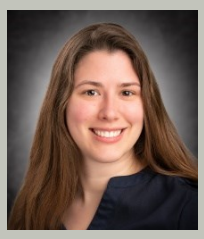
Contact Our Specialists



Katelyn Walley-Stoll
Team Leader
Farm Business Management
716-640-0522
kaw249@cornell.edu



Amy Barkley
Livestock and Beginning Farms
716-640-0844
amb544@cornell.edu

Camila Lage
Dairy Management
607-422-6788
cd546@cornell.edu

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

County Association Executive Directors

Allegany County
Laura Hunsberger
lkh47@cornell.edu
585-268-7644 ext. 17

Cattaraugus County
Dick Rivers
rer263@cornell.edu
716-699-2377 ext. 122

Chautauqua County
Emily Reynolds
eck47@cornell.edu
716-664-9502 ext. 201

Erie County
Diane Held
dbh24@cornell.edu
716-652-5400

Steuben County
Tess McKinley
tsm223@cornell.edu
607-664-2301

"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.

County Association Agriculture Educators

Sharon Bachman - Erie County
Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator
sin2@cornell.edu · 716-652-5400 ext. 150

Lynn Bliven - Allegany County
Ag & Natural Resources Issue Leader
lao3@cornell.edu · 585-268-7466 ext. 18

Lisa Kempisty - Chautauqua County
Dairy/Livestock Community Educator
ljk4@cornell.edu · 716-664-9502 ext. 203

Ariel Kirk - Steuben County
Agriculture Educator
adk39@cornell.edu · 607-664-2574

Kathleen McCormick - Erie County
Agriculture Educator
km864@cornell.edu · 716-652-5400 ext. 146

John Whitney - Erie County
Agriculture Educator
jrw44@cornell.edu · 716-652-5400 ext. 146

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For accommodations or accessibility concerns, please contact our specialists at least one week prior to the scheduled event. If you need information provided in a different format, call 716-640-0522.

We need your help with a survey on Calves and Heifers management in SWNY!

The main objective of this survey is to learn more about the current practices adopted in farms regarding calf and heifer management. From this, we will identify opportunities for programming and research that can help improve calf health, performance, and economic success. **This survey will take approximately 15 minutes** to answer. Feel free to skip any questions you wish. You can also stop and resume the study from where you left off. **If you would like to complete the survey on paper, we will be soon sending out a printed copy and a prepaid envelope so you can return the answered survey.** Your response will help us move forward on providing updated reliable, science-based information back to dairy farmers, so you can make better decisions to improve your calf and heifer management. If you have any questions or concerns about this survey or the project in general, please feel free to reach out. Your responses will remain confidential.

Start the survey by scanning the QR code or visit:
https://bit.ly/surveycalves

Understanding Milk Protein

By Camila Lage, SWNY Dairy Management Specialist & Casey Havekes, North Country Regional Ag Team Dairy Management Specialist

It's no surprise that a large portion of your milk check comes from milk components. The last year especially has demonstrated how fluctuations in component pricing can, and should, change our perspective on how to maximize components. Recently, a presentation delivered at Cornell Nutrition Conference by Dr. Kevin Harvatine highlighted that maybe we don't have to focus on only the higher priced component, but rather we can focus on maximizing both at the same time! The following article summarizes some concepts shared in Dr. Kevin Harvatine's presentation.

Since the onset of COVID19, the dairy industry has faced numerous challenges including the establishment of 'quotas', high feed prices, and fluctuating component pricing. This provides us with extra incentive to monitor and try to maximize both fat and protein percent. Dr. Harvatine highlighted that even if one component is paying better than the other, you shouldn't give up on the lower priced component because of the concept of marginal influence. For instance, if protein is paying better than fat, our thought process should be "well I already have this cow and am producing this much protein, now how much fat I can make on top of that?"

Of course, this thought process should consider the profitability of what is being fed and how the cow can efficiently convert those ingredients into milk fat and protein. An interesting observation that Dr. Harvatine further emphasized is that overall, milk yield has little effect on protein and fat concentration at the herd level. In other words, there is no reason we can't have both high milk yield and high components simultaneously. After all, we shouldn't lose milk yield while trying to maximize components but rather focus on maximizing both. After Dr. Harvatine explained the concept of maximizing both milk fat and protein, he switched gears and dived into the mechanisms driving milk protein synthesis. We can think of the mammary gland as a milk synthesis factory with three assembly lines: one for fat, one for protein, and one for lactose. He further explained that each of these lines have some level of coordinated regulation. After all, we never have 0% production of any of these components, so in one way or another they are working together to drive production. The challenge we face now is understanding how to minimize the coordination between lactose and protein because as Dr. Harvatine explains, although lactose is driving volume through osmotic regulations, it's also a waste of energy for the cow to produce. The end goal would be to increase fat and protein synthesis, but not lactose - similar to the way the Jersey cow functions. Getting back into the mechanism driving milk protein synthesis, Dr. Harvatine explains that it all starts at the DNA level.

The cow has genes that instruct her to make protein, but those genes must be turned on and this all happens through hormonal regulation. With any biological process, there are

Protein continued on page 6....

Since the onset of COVID-19, the dairy industry has faced numerous challenges including the establishment of 'quotas', high feed prices, and fluctuating component pricing.

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If you need more information, or would like a paper copy of our calf and heifer survey, contact Camila Lage at cd546@cornell.edu or 607-422-6788.

Dairy Market Watch

December 2021

PRO DAIRY Education & Applied Research
prodairy.cals.cornell.edu

Prepared by Katelyn Walley-Stoll.
Funded by PRO-DAIRY.

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

Milk Component Prices			Milk Class Prices				Statistical Uniform Price & PPD				
Month	Butterfat	Protein	I (Boston)	II	III	IV	Jamestown, NY		Albany, NY		Albany $/gal. to farmer
Nov 20	$1.56	$5.62	$21.29	$13.86	$23.34	$13.30	$17.12	($6.22)	$17.72	($5.62)	$1.53
Dec 20	$1.54	$3.03	$23.12	$14.01	$15.72	$13.36	$16.11	$0.39	$16.71	$0.99	$1.44
Jan 21	$1.55	$3.04	$18.39	$14.18	$16.04	$13.75	$14.76	($1.28)	$15.36	($0.68)	$1.32
Feb 21	$1.44	$2.98	$18.79	$14.00	$15.75	$13.19	$14.65	($1.10)	$15.25	($0.50)	$1.31
Mar 21	$1.72	$2.70	$18.45	$15.07	$16.15	$14.18	$15.35	($0.80)	$15.95	($0.20)	$1.38
Apr 21	$1.94	$2.81	$18.76	$15.56	$17.67	$15.42	$16.21	($1.46)	$16.81	($0.86)	$1.45
May 21	$1.98	$3.13	$20.35	$16.22	$18.96	$16.16	$17.19	($1.77)	$17.79	($1.17)	$1.53
June 21	$1.96	$2.53	$21.54	$16.66	$17.21	$16.35	$17.35	$0.14	$17.95	$0.74	$1.55
July 21	$1.89	$2.49	$20.67	$16.83	$16.49	$16.00	$16.91	$0.42	$17.51	$1.02	$1.51
Aug 21	$1.85	$2.45	$20.15	$16.51	$15.95	$15.92	$16.54	$0.59	$17.14	$1.19	$1.48
Sep 21	$1.93	$2.60	$19.84	$16.89	$16.53	$16.36	$16.81	$0.28	$17.41	$0.88	$1.50
Oct 21	$1.94	$3.01	$20.33	$17.08	$17.83	$17.04	$17.29	($0.54)	$17.89	$0.06	$1.54
Nov 21	$2.15	$2.75	$21.23	$18.40	$18.03	$18.79	$18.39	$0.36	$18.99	$0.96	$1.64

November Utilization (Northeast): Class I = 32.7%; Class II = 24.9%; Class III = 27.7%; Class IV = 14.7%.

***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.*

Dairy Commodity Markets (Excerpts from USDA Dairy Market News – Volume 88, Report 51, December 24th, 2021)

Dry Products: Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) prices are steady to higher in all regions. Demand is active and inventories are a bit tight. Plants in the East and West report delivery constraints arising from staff shortages and transit delays. Dry whole milk production is contract focused. Prices are steady with a quiet market tone. Dry whey prices are steady to higher in all regions. Demand is steady to stronger, with increased production anticipated in the near future. Transit delays and worker shortages are noted. Tight inventories of whey protein concentrate (WPC) 34% have contributed to steady to higher pricing. Some sources believe this product is undervalued.

Cheese: When compared to the year end holidays from 2020, current prices, although discounted, are notably higher: This time last year, prices reached as low as $8.50 under Class. Cheese inventory reports range from accessible to limited, and vary by region and plant to plant. Production is running as expected. Some plant managers plan to run a very active holiday schedule, as they clear markedly more spot milk loads this week due to the discounts, while others say they are taking some holiday downtime. Contacts view the cheese market tone with some trepidation based on the current price gap.

Butter: Despite some tightness early in the week, cream has become more available than in recent weeks. Cream demand varies as butter production is mixed; some plant managers are purchasing extra cream and increasing butter production while others are pausing churns for a holiday break. Domestic food service and retail orders are steady to stronger, and international interests remain robust as well. Healthy butter demand has outpaced production, and spot inventories are said to be tight.

Fluid Milk: Across the United States farm milk production is level to trending higher. Midwest producers are reporting higher butterfat levels, attributed to feed quality. Bottling demand is lower in most areas, reflecting school breaks. Some Pacific Northwest milk is going to Canada to areas affected by recent inclement weather. In the East, cream is more available at lower prices.

Friday CME Cash Prices					
Dates	11/24	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/23
Butter	$1.99	$2.00	$2.12	$2.09	$2.25
Cheese (40# Blocks)	$1.85	$1.85	$1.86	$1.88	$1.87

November's Albany price per gallon to the farmer was $1.64 and Jamestown's PPD was positive at $0.36/cwt.

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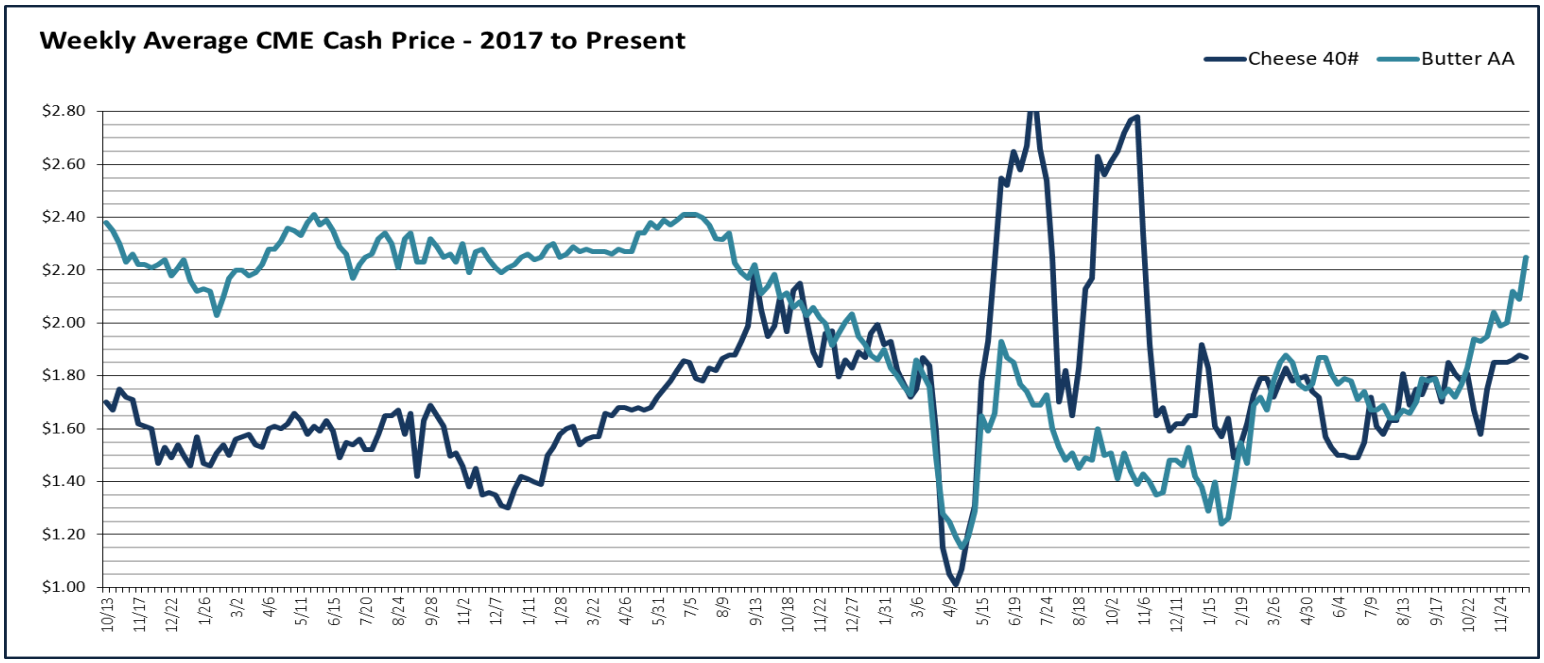
For more information on Dairy Business Management and Market Analysis, contact Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Farm Business Management Specialist, at 716-640-0522 or kaw249@cornell.edu.



Excerpt from Dairy Situation and Outlook - December 20th, 2021

Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Division of Extension Agriculture

Milk prices will end the year a little higher than what was forecasted back in November. For the year Class III will average about $17.10 compared to $18.25 for 2020. Fluid (beverage) milk sales have been below a year ago. January through October sales were 5.2% lower. This decline is attributable to the fact that in 2020 there were more at home meals. But higher milk prices are in response to good butter and cheese sales, strong exports of butter, cheese, whey products and nonfat dry milk/ skim milk powder. Dairy export volume January through October on a milk solids equivalent basis was 11% higher than a year ago.

The slowdown in milk production is due to declining milk cow numbers and below average increase in milk per cow. Since peaking in May milk cow numbers had fallen 122,000 by November. November cow numbers were 47,000 below a year ago, down 0.4%. Milk per cow was just 0.2% higher in November than a year ago. Declining cow numbers and little increase in milk per cow are attributed to tighter forage supplies in many states and much higher feed costs encouraging producers to increase culling of milk cows.

The economy is expected to continue growth next year but at a slower pace. While fluid milk sales will likely continue a downward trend butter and cheese sales are expected to show continued growth. But there is uncertainty in sales due to inflation that has increased the cost of food, gasoline, the cost to heat the home and most everything else. That will reduce consumer spending power which could reduce going to restaurants and in store purchases of dairy products. And hopefully COVID and the new variant Omicron does result in more restrictions on restaurants, closing of schools and public events. The world economy is showing continued recovery. World milk production is showing modest growth of less than one percent. Milk production in leading exporters like the EU-27, the UK and New Zealand has been running below a year ago or up just slightly. This will leave opportunities for U.S. dairy exports. World dairy product prices have increased leaving U.S. dairy products price competitive on the word market. There is some uncertainty as to whether COVID will cause a shut down in restaurants and tourism in some of U.S. export markets reducing their imports of dairy products. Port congestions and related issue also continue to challenge dairy exports.

With modest increase in milk production, continued growth in domestic dairy product sales, and continued growth in dairy exports forecasts are for much higher milk prices in 2022. Currently, dairy futures are overly optimistic with Class III in the $19's all of 2020 and Class IV in the $20's. It will take time for dairy producers to increase milk cow numbers, but with much higher milk prices producers may reduce culling of milk cows and feed more protein and concentrate for higher milk per cow. So, milk production could show some strength by the second half of the year lowering milk prices some. It seems like every year there are surprises that result in milk prices ending up different than forecasted. These higher milk prices are not guaranteed. So dairy producers may wish to use dairy futures and options, the Revenue Protection Program, LGM-Dairy or contracting with their milk buyer to protect their future milk prices. And signing up for the Dairy Margin Protection program at the $9.50 protected margin levels is strongly encouraged.

Milk cow numbers are expected continue to decline at least through the first half of the year as dairy producers reduce cow numbers in response to tighter margins from higher feed costs, higher cost other inputs and labor shortages.

The latest USDA's price forecast was not as optimistic with Class III averaging $18.15 for the year and Class IV averaging $19.00. Class III and IV at least in the $18's seems reasonable.

Protein continued from page 3....

key regulated and limiting steps and in the case of milk protein synthesis one of these limiting steps is amino acid availability. That being said, it was emphasized that although amino acids are important tools in our toolbox, it is hard to simply push metabolism by adding substrate. If we think about this from a human perspective, you cannot become a body builder by simply eating whey protein every day. You need to go to the gym and stimulate that muscle for it to grow. The opposite is also true, you can't get strong by working out hard if you don't have a balanced diet that gives you the substrate for this muscle to grow. In other words, milk protein synthesis is not solely driven by amino acid supply (although important), but cell signaling mechanisms have an equally important role.

Based on a large data set analyzing over 6000 herds for 12 months, Dr. Harvatine pointed out that variation in milk protein among herds is not as large as the variation in fat yield, but it shouldn't be ignored as it can equate to a lot of money and opportunity. The challenge is that we do not know exactly what is causing variation in milk protein yield and as a result we have a hard time managing it. When it comes to both milk fat and protein, there are two major influences: nutritional and non -nutritional factors. On the non-nutritional side, we have physiological effects such as genetics, season, time of the day, stage of lactation and parity. On the nutritional side, milk protein is largely influenced by energy supply and amino acid supply. Maximizing microbial protein yield should be our first goal. If we focus on this, we can get optimal amino acid supply, normal biohydrogenation, optimal acetate yield, and optimal energy intake. To increase milk protein yield we can focus on management (optimal calving intervals and DIM, cow comfort, forage quality, silage management, genetics, seasonal management, etc.) and nutrition (increase amino acid supply and energy supply for optimal rumen fermentation). At the end of the day, we should strive for high milk yield, high protein yield, and high fat yield all at the same time to maximize profitability.

This should be the goal regardless of what independent components are paying!

Dairy Margin Coverage – Protect Your Milk Check with this Risk Management Program

By Katelyn Walley-Stoll

For dairy farmers, milk production and profitability can be a tricky thing tricky things to plan for. It's even trickier when you take into consideration all of the different places where systems can break down, prices can drop, and life (or a more visual term synonymous with manure) happens. Knowing your options for farm risk management, especially dairy price risk management, is important to make sound decisions to help protect your farm financially.

What is it? Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) is one risk management tool dairy producers can use to help protect against low milk prices and/or high feed costs. Enrollment occurs annually, and for 2022 you can sign up between December 13th, 2021 and February 18th, 2022.

Super Brief History? If you're new to DMC, you might remember the old MPP (Margin Protection Program) and MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) programs. DMC is the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency's (FSA) current voluntary program for dairy farm risk management. DMC was authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. As of December 6th, 2021 there were 2,024 participating farms in NYS (74% of total dairy operations) representing 81% of total milk production. DMC has been a net positive for participating farms in almost every year of its history except 2014.

What's New? There have been some changes to DMC for the 2022 program year. You can read more about those changes in my recent article here.

What's it Do? DMC pays participating dairy operations when the difference (margin) between the national milk price and the national average cost of feed falls below a certain, selected level. The margin is calculated using national averages, not farm specific feed costs and milk prices. Farms choose their coverage levels based on their production history.

How is Production History Calculated? Pounds of milk that you can enroll/cover, unless you're a new farmer, is based on your highest milk production in 2011, 2012, and 2013. This is called your "Production History".

What's Supplemental DMC Enrollment? If your milk production has increased from your 2014 "historical milk production" level (above), you can add supplemental coverage. This is only for producers with less than 5 million pounds of production and uses 2019 actual milk production. Payments are retroactive to 2021 and coverage can be selected for 2021 – 2023.

What do I Select? Dairy producers select two different variables to insure. If you lock in your coverage selections for 2022 AND 2023,

DMC Continued on page 7……..

Marginal influence: When establishing the goals for milk components on your farm, don't give up on the lower priced component!

The deadline to sign up for Dairy Margin Coverage, and Supplemental DMC, is February 18th - Don't miss out! This is a historically "positive revenue" program.

Solar continued from page 1.....

succession planning goals, solar may help spur new growth or hinder new investment opportunities. A solar lease can affect how you might use that land in the future, which could include mortgages, property sale, production diversification, expansion, or generational use.

3. You'll Need Legal Counsel: Lease agreements are living documents that can be adapted to meet your needs. This could range from including provisions that protect actively farming around the solar arrays (apiaries, small ruminant grazing and market garden production), hunting, right of ways, insurance and liability concerns, and more. Leases can range in length from 20 to 40+ years, and it's important to have a sound and fair lease in place from the beginning. There's very little chance of changing the lease terms once it's in place.

4. Effect on Property Taxes: If you're currently receiving an Agricultural Assessment, or other property tax reduction, taking the land out of production agriculture and into a solar array may require paying some of those reductions back and conversion penalties (you can typically negotiate that the solar company pays these costs). A solar array can sometimes increase the value of your property and your tax obligations. Once the land is in a lease, the solar developer should also be responsible for any real property taxes, PILOT payments, etc.

5. "THE UGLY": You may have heard some horror stories related to array construction, maintenance, and disassembly. Much of this can be negotiated with sound legal counsel who is familiar with solar arrays into your lease agreement. However, things do (and probably will) happen and you should be prepared to handle these issues on your property. Some areas of concern include:

- Construction debris during the installation phase, traffic, and potential interruptions to your farming practices.
- Dismantling the solar equipment at the end of the lease and the oversight of that process, which should be laid out in very specific terms in the lease. Be sure to include specifications of the quality of the property (returning it back to production).
- Security, assurances, and/or bonds in place to cover the termination of the lease and equipment in the case of developer bankruptcy or missed payments.
- Company transitions with the nature of the renewable energy industry, your lease will likely change hands several times and you will need to navigate those ownership changes.
- Local zoning approvals may be a breeze or a community uproar depending on your area and could delay a potential project.

Solar leases and their potential impact on our agricultural industry can be both and exciting and an intimidating topic of conversation. While the situation will vary from farm to farm, developer to developer, and community to community – the most important thing will be reaching out to sound legal counsel to negotiate a fair agreement and reflecting on your farm's business goals.

DMC continued from page 6.....

you can receive a 25% premium discount.
These include:

- Coverage Level is the margin price that will "trigger" a payment. You can choose levels form $4.00 to $9.50 per cwt in $0.50 increments. Catastrophic coverage is $4.00/cwt. The higher you choose the more likely you'll receive a payment, especially in 2022, but your premium due will be higher as well.
- Coverage Percentage is the portion of your production history, in cwt, that you'll cover. You can select to cover 5% to 95% of your production history in 5% increments. Your premium price is on a per cwt basis.

How much does it cost? The minimum catastrophic coverage only costs an annual $100 administrative fee. For higher coverage levels, you'll also be required to pay additional premiums based on your selected coverage level (Table below).

Is this the right program for me? More often than not, DMC is profitable for farms – and, at the bare minimum – provides some peace of mind to balance out price fluctuations. There is a really handy tool available at dmc.dairymarkets.org where you can put in your farm's specific information and see what historical performance might have been AND estimate future performance at various coverage levels . It's important to note that, at this time, the forecasted 2022 margin is $9.19 and monthly margins range from $8.75 to $9.61.

When do I get Paid? If the milk margin drops below $9.50, you may be eligible for a payment, on a monthly basis, depending on the coverage level you chose. In 2021, payments were triggered in every month at various levels less than $9.50.

What's the Process? Call your local FSA office to get the ball rolling sooner rather than later, especially if you haven't participated before. They'll help you determine your production history, register, select your

To sign up for DMC, contact your local FSA office. You can participate in DMC, Dairy-RP, and LGM to help protect your dairy business.

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For more information on Dairy Business Management and Market Analysis, contact Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Farm Business Management Specialist, at 716-640-0522 or kaw249@cornell.edu.

Dealing with Lice on our Ruminant Species

By Amy Barkley, Livestock Specialist

There are a few parasites that producers will interact with over the course of keeping stock. One of those is the humble louse. Lice are small, about the size of a pinhead, and can be hard to spot unless either a.) you're looking for them or b.) they're in such large numbers that they are causing discomfort to the animal. There are two types of lice: those which consume dead skin (chewing lice) and those which consume blood (sucking lice) Animals with heavy infestations may not gain well, lose weight, drop in milk production, present with anemia, and/or have areas of hair rubbed off where they are trying to scratch the always present itch. Of course, chewing lice don't cause anemia because they don't suck blood, but they do result in discomfort. The economic threshold for treatment is achieved once 10 lice or more per square inch are counted on any one animal in the herd or flock.

Once an infestation is identified, the first bit of good news is that it's relatively easy to treat, but takes dedication on behalf of the stockowner. The second bit of good news is that lice are obligate parasites. This means that they can't live without their hosts. If your favorite cow leaves some lice when she scratches against a pen support, those lice will die in the environment unless they find another cow to call home.

While producers get the relief of not needing to treat the barn, they do need to aggressively treat all the animals of the affected species on the farm. This is because lice easily transfer from animal to animal, so if one animal is infested, consider that they all have lice to varying degrees.

When treating, we need to think of the louse's biology. These critters take about 1-2 weeks to hatch from eggs. That means that one treatment of insecticide, depending on the label's treatment timelines, may not be enough if that insecticide is only active for a week.

For this reason, it's important to treat multiple times, in strict accordance with the label's scheme for lice. Remember that chewing and sucking lice may need different treatment strategies; chewing lice are not susceptible to systemic insecticides because they don't consume treated blood!

Once the lice are controlled, you'll need to check 10-30 individuals in the herd for signs of nits (eggs attached to the hair) and/or adult lice every 2-4 weeks. If either of these are seen at a rate of 10 nits or lice per inch, you'll need to repeat the whole herd treatment. There is a chance they'll come back once eradicated, but vigilance and repeated treatments will keep them controlled. It's also a good idea to isolate and treat any cattle you buy in (if you do) for that 4-6 week period before introducing them to the herd as a precaution.

Some fly treatments and dewormers can kill mites and lice. Check the label to see if you're already covered!

Cache Valley Fever
Understanding the Prevalence in the Northeast

Notice from Dr. tatiana Stanton, Cornell University

Cache Valley Fever Virus (often referred to as CVV) is a mosquito-transmitted virus that can cause of infertility, abortions, stillbirths and congenital abnormalities in sheep and goats. Typical birth abnormalities may include one or more of the following: abnormally bent or shortened limbs or fused joints, shortened lower jaw, cryptorchidism (an undescended testicle), sideways or outward curvature of the spine, accumulation of fluid in the brain and/or hydranencephaly (portions of brain missing and filled with fluid instead). Offspring may be stillborn or live, premature or full term. It is most commonly diagnosed in sheep and goats who are due to give birth in the late fall and winter, usually prior to February in the Northeast, corresponding to exposure of the pregnant dams (during the first 2 months of gestation) to infected mosquitoes in the late summer/early fall.

Dr. Mary Smith DVM from the Cornell Veterinary Ambulatory Clinic wants to get an idea of how prevalent this virus currently is and whether its season is extending into birthing dates as late as February and March. **She is asking that Northeast goat and sheep farmers who suspect they are experiencing Cache Valley Virus this year, fill out and return to her by email the attached questionnaire if at all possible so that we can better understand its prevalence.**

Example of a lamb with deformities caused by Cache Valley Fever.
Photo from the University of Guelph

Please reach out to Amy Barkley to receive Dr. Mary Smith's questionnaire as a fillable pdf file by calling 716-640-0844.

Preparing for Shearing Day

A free webinar for all looking to prepare for their shearer

Date: Tuesday, February 1st, 2022
Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Where: Online via Zoom
Cost of Attendance: Free

Guest Speaker: Robin Nistock

Robin Nistock, shepherd for over 30 years at Nistock Farms, will share with attendees how to prepare for shearing day, focusing on efficiency and shearer safety and maintaining the quality of the clip.

Q & A session with professional shearers to follow

Pre-Registration is required. You can register here:
https://tinyurl.com/PreparingforShearingDay
or by contacting Dana Havas at (607) 391-2664 or dmh353@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Livestock Program Work Team

Preparing for and Accessing Wool Pools

A conversation on wool pools and what makes quality wool

Date: Tuesday, February 8th, 2022
Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Where: Online via Zoom
Cost of Attendance: Free

Pre-registration is required.
Register here:
https://tinyurl.com/PreparingForWoolPools
or by contacting Dana Havas at
(607) 391-2664 or dmh353@cornell.edu

Topics:

NYS Wool Pools

NYS wool pool locations and times
Contacting and contributing to NYS wool pools
Options when wool pools are far away

Understanding Wool Quality from a Wool Buyer's Perspective

What is quality wool?
What is properly packaged wool?
What affects raw wool pricing?

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Livestock Program Work Team

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Livestock Program Work Team

CCE Flock Talks Presents:
Producing, Processing, and Packing Eggs for Sale

EVENT DETAILS

Wednesday, January 26th, 2022
7pm – 8pm

Register here:
https://tinyurl.com/SellingEggs
or by contacting Amy Barkley at (716) 640-0844 or amb544@cornell.edu

This meeting will be held over Zoom with a call-in option available.

WHO IS THIS EVENT FOR?

Anyone raising poultry for table egg production

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Food Safety in the Coop
- Collection, Refrigeration, and Washing
- Sorting Eggs for Quality
- Candling Demonstration
- Regulations for Packing and Labeling
- Maintaining Food Safety Through Sale

Genesee Valley Produce Auction Winter Meeting

Jan. 27th, 2022
Genesee Valley Produce Auction House
8855 Co. Rd. 3,
Freedom, NY 14065
Session 1: 9:45 am – 12:15
DEC credits: 0.75 in 1a & 21 (field crops)
Free to attend. Please register so we have an accurate count for lunch.
Masks are required.
Contact Amy Barkley to register:
(716) 640-0844 or amb544@cornell.edu

Topics include: Pasture Management: Rotation Patterns and Best Management Practices by Species • Soil Health • Soil Compaction • Small Grains Crop Protection using Cultural Practices and No-Spray-License Materials • Small Grains Selection - Choosing the Right Fit for your Farm

Attention Dairy Producers: Your voice matters!

Participate in the Northeast Beef x Dairy Survey

- Help researchers learn more about dairy producers' use of beef semen to generate beef x dairy cattle
- Enter for the chance to win one of four $50 Visa gift cards

Sponsored by researchers at UCONN and PennState

Start the survey by scanning the QR code or by visiting https://csrpsu.link/BeefDairySurvey

Questions? Contact the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg at surveys@psu.edu

PennState Harrisburg | Center for Survey Research

If you're interested in joining the mailing list for the Cornell Experienced Commercial Goat & Sheep Farmer Discussion Group, reach out to Amy Barkley.

CROPS COWS & CRITTERS newsletter

For more information about any of our events, or for accessibility concerns, contact Katelyn Walley-Stoll at 716-640-0522.

Upcoming Events

Date, Time, Location	Topic	Learn More...
January 21st 11:00am—12:00pm Online via Zoom	Onboarding Webinar Series for Farm Employers—Session 1 of 3	Contact Katelyn Walley–Stoll
January 25th 12:30pm—2:30pm Online via Zoom	2022 Annie's Project: Know Your Numbers, Know Your Options—Session 1 of 5	Contact Katelyn Walley–Stoll
January 25th 7:00pm—9:00pm Online via Zoom	Farm Specific Tax Code Benefits	Contact Katelyn Walley-Stoll
January 26th 7:00pm—8:00pm Online Via Zoom	CCE Flock Talks: Producing, Processing, and Packing Eggs for Sale	See Page 9
January 27th 9:45am—12:15pm Centerville, NY	GVPA Winter Meeting Session 1: Managing Soil Health, Pastures, and Small Grains	See Page 9
January 27th 6:30pm—8:00pm Online via Zoom	Public Funding Sources: for NYS Livestock Slaughter and Processing Facilities	See Page 1
February 1st 7:00pm—8:30pm Online via Zoom	Preparing for Shearing Day Webinar	See Page 9
February 2nd and 3rd 12:00pm—2:30pm Online via Zoom	Net Zero for NY Dairy What You Need to Know.	Contact Kathy Barrett at (607) 229—4357

Would you like to expand the reach of your ag business?

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

swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu

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