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# Cornell Cooperative Extension

Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu



**CROPS  
COWS &  
CRITTERS**  
newsletter

A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Steuben Counties.

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Volume 5 · Issue 4 · April 2024

Photo by Kelly Bourne



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 Send address changes to the: Chautauqua County Extension  
 Connection at 525 Falconer St. JCC Carnahan Center, PO Box 20  
 Jamestown, NY 14702-0020." "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  
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 Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-  
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 layout and design by Katelyn Walley-Stoll.

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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.

# HPAI In Cattle Update From The SWNYDLFC Team

By Camila Lage and Amy Barkley

To date (4/17/24) the USDA has confirmed Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) cases in Texas (11 cases), South Dakota (1 case), Ohio (1 case), North Carolina (1 case), New Mexico (6 cases), Michigan (4 cases), Kansas (3 cases), and Idaho (1 case). A juvenile goat in Minnesota has also tested positive. Otherwise, there have been no other positives identified in other livestock species other than poultry to date.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, a dairy farm worker from Texas tested positive for HPAI. The patient reported eye redness consistent with conjunctivitis as their only symptom and has recovered. This infection does not change the CDC's human health risk assessment for the public, which the agency considers **low**. There remain no concerns with the safety of the commercial milk supply, as federal agencies have affirmed that pasteurization inactivates bacteria and viruses, like influenza, in milk.

## How can I protect myself against HPAI?

According to the CDC's interim recommendations, people should avoid unprotected exposure to sick or dead animals and raw milk, manure, or materials contaminated by animals with confirmed or suspected HPAI virus infections.

- If you don't work with animals, avoid visiting livestock facilities.
- People handling animals should wear gloves and wash their hands often, especially before eating, smoking, or rubbing their eyes.
- When working closely (within about six feet) with infected or potentially infected animals, farm employees should wear personal protective equipment (PPE) such as an N95 filtering facepiece respirator, eye protection, and gloves as well as perform thorough hand washings after contact with infected animals, carcasses, milk, or manure.
- The CDC, USDA, and FDA remind farmers, workers, and consumers not to prepare uncooked or undercooked food products, such as unpasteurized milk or raw cheeses, from animals with suspected or confirmed HPAI cases.

## How can I protect my cattle against HPAI?

HPAI is primarily spread by birds to animals and will spread on farms by people carrying fecal matter from infected birds on their clothing, gloves, soles of their shoes, vehicle tires, animal trailers, and other equipment. Infected birds can also spread contaminated respiratory and fecal secretions in water where they're allowed access. There is also evidence from the current outbreak that the disease will transfer laterally (from infected animals to non-infected animals) in the

herd. As we learn more about methods of transmission, our guidance and resources will be expanded.

Symptoms to watch for in your cattle include decreased feed intake, decreased milk yield (an average of 4-20 lbs on the milk tank), changes in milk consistency (colostrum-like milk), dry/sticky feces, and possible mild respiratory symptoms (clear nasal discharge). Not all infected cattle will show all symptoms.

If you suspect that you have this disease in your herd, the most critical actions are to contact your veterinarian and isolate sick animals. Your veterinarian will work with you and the state veterinary team on the best and most updated ways of sampling animals, treating sick animals, and preventing other animals on your herd, people, and other herds from getting infected.

## Increasing biosecurity is vital to keeping the disease contained:

- Limit animal movements. Delay or stop incoming or returning animals from herds with unknown or suspect health statuses.
- If moving animals, test them for HPAI before movement and quarantine new animals for at least 21 days. Keep records of all animal movements.
- Limit the use of trailers to your cattle only. If this is not possible, clean and disinfect the interiors of trailers that haul cattle from other farms. Use an EPA-registered disinfectant labeled for avian influenza.
- Delay or stop non-essential visitors. Whenever possible, limit cattle contact to essential people only.
- Outside people who come into contact with cattle should wear clean clothes and footwear (disposable boots) and wash their hands before and after handling them. When visiting multiple farms, bring disposable coveralls or change clothes and change between each farm.
- Whenever possible, keep birds out of cows' water and food supplies. Avoid walking or driving through bird feces before entering livestock areas.

You can read the latest updates on HPAI in Livestock on the USDA's website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock>

If you suspect anything unusual in your herd or flock, it's important to contact your vet to test and rule out HPAI.



So far, HPAI has been found to affect dairy cattle, a goat, and poultry. It has not yet been found in any other of our livestock species.



# “MEAT” YOUR FARMER

AN EVENT FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS AND THE COMMUNITY TO MEET AND LEARN ABOUT LOCAL BULK MEAT SALES AND TO TASTE RECIPES CREATED FOR NYS SCHOOLS FEATURING MEATS FROM NEIGHBORHOOD FARMS

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 5:00PM - 8:00PM  
THE POWERHOUSE AT THE ROYCROFT CAMPUS  
39 S. GROVE ST. EAST AURORA, NY

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR FARMER PARTICIPANTS! COME JOIN US!**  
THE AUDIENCE WILL BE SCHOOL LUNCH PURCHASING PROGRAM OFFICIALS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

## **PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:**

SET UP A BOOTH AND OFFER YOUR PRODUCTS FOR SALE, INCLUDING BULK MEAT OPTIONS.

INTERFACE WITH THE COMMUNITY TO SHARE WHAT IT IS YOU DO AND WHY YOU DO IT (:

SELECT ONE OF THE MENU ITEMS LISTED IN THE BLUE BOXES, AND MAKE A DONATION OF THE MEAT REQUESTED TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO TASTING PORTIONS BY OUR CATERER, DAILY'S.

### **TERIYAKI CHICKEN:**

4 WHOLE CHICKENS (5-6 LB) OR 21 CHICKEN THIGHS (LARGE)

### **CHICKEN SOUVLAKI:**

21 LARGE CHICKEN THIGHS

### **CHICKEN MAC AND CHEESE:**

3 POUNDS CHICKEN BREAST

### **TURKEY CHILI:**

7.5 POUNDS GROUND TURKEY

### **CARNE ASADA:**

10.5 POUNDS ROUND ROAST

### **MEATLOAF:**

8 POUNDS GROUND BEEF

### **LOADED BEEF NACHOS:**

8 POUNDS GOUND BEEF

### **CHOPPED CHEESE SANDWICH:**

8 POUNDS GROUND BEEF

### **MOJO PORK:**

13.5 POUNDS OF FRESH HAM OR PORK SHOULDER

### **PULLED PORK:**

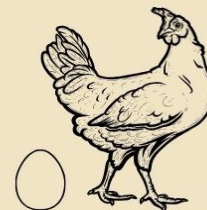
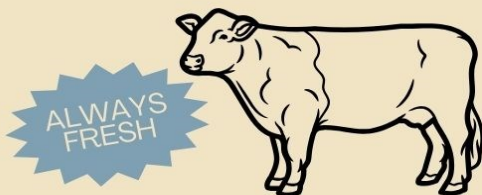
13.5 POUNDS OF FRESH HAM OR PORK SHOULDER

### **MAPLE FRENCH TOAST BAKE:**

5 DOZEN LARGE EGGS

### **VEGGIE EGG BAKE:**

7 DOZEN LARGE EGGS



DO YOU WANT TO JOIN US OR HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT AMY BARKLEY  
AMB544@CORNELL.EDU OR (716) 640-0844



Attendees of previous events have shared that this event has influenced their thinking of purchasing bulk meats.

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For those who may want to “test run” a farmer’s market set-up, this is a great opportunity!



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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

5:00PM – 8:00PM

THE POWERHOUSE  
AT THE ROYCROFT CAMPUS  
39 S. GROVE ST. EAST AURORA, NY

---

LEARN ABOUT BULK MEAT  
PURCHASING INCLUDING:

HOW TO FIND A FARM

HOW MUCH MEAT AND WHAT CUTS TO  
EXPECT FROM A 1/4, HALF, OR WHOLE  
ANIMAL

TIMELINES FOR PURCHASING BULK MEATS

5:00PM – 6:00PM

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TASTE FREE SAMPLES OF OVER 10 DIFFERENT  
NYS SCHOOL LUNCH OPTIONS MADE WITH  
LOCAL MEATS DONATED BY OUR FARMING  
COMMUNITY

TALK WITH FARMERS TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR  
FARMS AND MEATS THEY HAVE FOR SALE

6:00PM – 8:00PM

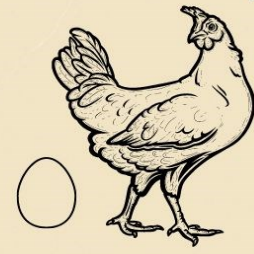
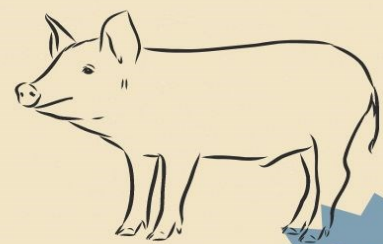
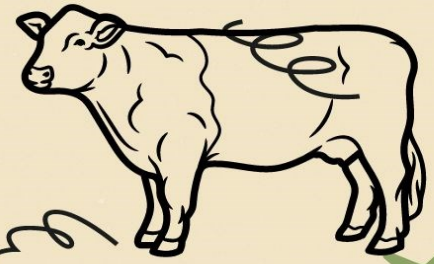


CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND RESEARCH BASED INFORMATION TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS, GROWERS, AND AGRIBUSINESSES. CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IS AN EMPLOYER AND EDUCATION RECOGNIZED FOR VALUING AA/EEO, PROTECTED VETERANS, AND INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES AND PROVIDES EQUAL PROGRAM AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. FOR ACCOMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT AMY BARKLEY AT AMB544@COR. AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

If you want to participate, but don't have the ability to make a meat donation, let Amy Barkley know! We want everyone to attend who'd like to!

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School lunch programs are actively searching for local farms to purchase meat from, and can purchase directly from you.



# What Can I Expect From A Freezer Lamb?

By Betsy Hodge, CCE St. Lawrence and NCRAT

We recently held a lamb cutting and cooking workshop at the CCE Kitchen in Canton. Ray Butler expertly demonstrated the different cuts while patiently answering our questions. The information we collected by weighing "parts" along the way is shared in this article along with weights I collected from my last freezer lamb. Many thanks to Ray Butler (he's a meat cutter and beef producer with a few sheep) and Joe Briggs (from Little Joe's Butcher Shop in Crary Mills) for their help and enthusiasm. MacKenzie Waro, our regional meat processing and marketing specialist also assisted in making the day a success, taking notes, pictures and weighing parts.

Here is an example of a hair lamb I had butchered for my own use from my hair flock:

The numbers you are seeing here are from me weighing the cuts in my garage as I put them into my freezer. I was just using a kitchen scale so I wouldn't get too excited about the accuracy but it gives you an idea what to expect. I had the legs made into steaks instead of roasts because I find them easier to use on my schedule. This does not include any organs or the tongue and I suspect the neck meat is in the grind.

95 lb lamb (6 and a half months old)

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Ground =             | 9.7                                     |
| Rib and Loin Chops = | 6.6                                     |
| Should chops =       | 4.1                                     |
| Leg Steaks =         | 9.6                                     |
| Shanks =             | 2.4                                     |
| Total =              | 32.4 lbs or 34% of live unshrunk weight |

For our lamb cutting and cooking class we started with a 134 pound ram lamb. The lamb was 8 months old and had quite a fleece on him and was not shrunk. As a matter of fact he got a last meal in the morning before he was slaughtered. When comparing carcass weights be careful that you are comparing apples to apples because sometimes the hanging weight includes the head and some organs. When we sold whole lambs to restaurants in New York City they regularly dressed 50% but they had the heads on and various organs still inside. That was the way they wanted them for their market. Most of us do not get the head on or many of the organs so that affects the dressing percentage.

Here's how the lamb we cut up in the class came out. We weighed the primals and then the cuts. It doesn't all add up because we showed some different cuts. At the end I

tried to add up what you would have gotten back from the butcher. Again, remember we were just using a kitchen scale so weights are close but could be influenced by our skills at balancing a large primal on a little scale!

134 pounds live – unshrunk and with wool on (3 lbs of fleece and 11 lbs of gut fill at least!)  
Equivalent to a 120 pound lamb that has been to market?  
Head off.

59 lbs HCW (Hot Carcass Weight) = 44% of live

57 lbs CCW (Cold Carcass Weight) = 42% of live

## Primals

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Foreshank and Breast | 3.8        |
| Shoulder             | 7.9        |
| Rack/Loin            | 6.1        |
| <u>Leg</u>           | <u>9.3</u> |
| Total                | 27.1       |

27.1 lbs (half lamb) x 2 halves = 54.2 lbs (whole lamb) or 40.4 % of live weight

Then we divided the primals up into various cuts listed below. There was some trimming going on so don't expect everything to add up perfectly. I also put some comments and other cuts below each section.

## Forequarter: 12.7 lbs

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Neck =      | 1.25 |
| Belly =     | 2.2  |
| Shoulder =  | 7.9  |
| Foreshank = | 1.4  |

The belly could be trimmed up for ground or stew or little sections of riblets.

Then Ray made a nice boneless shoulder roast which weighed 2.2 pounds.

Ray also showed us how to make little steaks called chuck eyes (.5 lbs)

## Rack/Loin: 6.1 lbs

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Loin =        | 2.9 |
| Rack (ribs) = | 3.0 |

Loin Chops added up to 2.3 lbs when we cut up the loin.

We also frenched the ribs and that weighed 1.6 when done.

Lamb yields approximately 33% of its live weight in cuts.

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Sending shorn sheep that have been off feed for about 12 hours is ideal for processing. Always provide animals with free choice water.

### **Hindquarter: 9.3 lbs**

Retail ready leg = 8.1 lbs

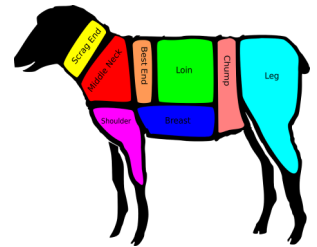
Hind Shank = 1.2 lbs

Ray also boned out the leg so we could compare it to bone in and it weighed 4.75 lbs

Trim: = 3.3 lbs (fat, gristle)

Stew Meat = 0.6 lbs

Scrap = 7.55 lbs (could be ground)



Total = ~28 lbs retail cuts if you do basic cuts from half a lamb (ground, stew, neck, fore shank, boneless shoulder roast, loin and rib chops, retail ready leg and hind shank). The scrap and stew and trim came from doing the frenched ribs, boneless shoulder, finer trimming, trimming the belly, etc. It is not uncommon for customers to have the neck meat removed and put into ground as well.

28 pounds (half a lamb so multiply by 2 to get 56 lbs) is about 42% of live weight (unshrunk weight).

Notes: If the lamb was shrunk before butchering he would probably have weighed 120 pounds and his retail percentage would be a little higher. Keep in mind that these weights include bone in cuts except for the boneless shoulder roast. If you have your lamb cuts boned out the yield will be less pounds but about the same amount of meat. So if you are pricing your cuts to sell at the farm-ers market you should charge more per pound for boneless cuts. The weights of the cuts can vary because of different butchering and packaging styles as well.

## **Goat & Sheep Dairy Development Grant**

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the Goat and Sheep Dairy Development Grant program. This program will strengthen and support the growth of the Northeast goat and sheep dairy sector through projects that address one of the following:

- business viability
- market development
- innovative approaches to production

Projects are expected to enhance the growth and viability of individual small ruminant businesses, as well as address gaps in technical assistance, improved supply chain partnerships, market access and growth, and long-term business

### **How to Apply**

1. Review the full Goat and Sheep Dairy Development Grant RFA (request for applications) for the complete details on eligible projects/applicants and the full application process.
2. Register in WebGrants (may take up to two business days).
3. Complete your application in WebGrants using the Application Guide. **The application will be open February 1 – June 6, 2024 at 2:00 pm ET.** Please note that this grant application period has been extended from the original deadline.
4. Applicants who do not already have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov are strongly encouraged to start this process during the application period to ensure a timely start to their grant, if awarded.

### **Eligibility**

Grants are available to applicants in all Northeast states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

### **Have a question about this grant?**

Kathryn Donovan  
kethryn.donovan@vermont.gov

For more information and to review the requirements for applicants, visit:  
<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/goat-sheep-dairy-development/>

You will get more cuts to take home if you opt for bone in cuts vs bone out cuts.



The Goat & Sheep Dairy Development Grant can provide means of diversifying into offering value-added products on your farm.



# Are Your Calves Eating Enough Starter At Weaning?

By Camila Lage, Dairy Management Specialist

Calf-rearing programs on farms have undergone significant changes in recent years. Traditionally, these programs aimed to reduce raising costs of replacement heifers by promoting early starter feed intake, providing calves with an average of 1.2 lb./d of milk solids (~ 4 quarts of whole milk daily), and weaning them at 4-6 weeks of age. However, research has shown that higher nutrition plans during the pre-weaning phase benefit animal health and welfare and can potentially boost future milk production (Soberon et al., 2012). Consequently, the industry has increased milk/milk replacer allowances to an average of at least 1.7 lb./d (~ 6 quarts of whole milk daily) and extended the pre-weaning phase to at least eight weeks of age. While this is a better practice regarding calf health and welfare, it presents a new challenge: preparing calves to transition from liquid to solid diets. This task requires careful planning and execution.

High liquid feeding plans can delay starter intake, and weaning calves, not eating enough starter to supply all necessary nutrients to support desired gains, often experience growth slumps in the 2-3 weeks following weaning, which is economically unfavorable. Despite the high cost of nutrients offered at these ages, the most cost-effective growth occurs during the first six months of life. Feed efficiency (efficiency to convert the feed they consume into body weight gain or growth) can be as high as 60% until two months of age and around 30% right after weaning. Therefore, accruing 1 unit of BW at this stage is generally more economical than later in life (efficiency at 22 months of age is about 7%) (Bach et al., 2017).

There is significant variation in weaning practices on dairy farms worldwide, with age being the primary criterion for weaning for most farmers in the USA (50.2%) (USDA, 2014). Over the past two decades, researchers have studied which weaning strategies best promote rumen development and growth while minimizing signs of hunger and distress. These strategies primarily focus on age at weaning and the duration of the weaning process. Here is a compilation of the four main points to consider when developing a weaning strategy for calves in high-nutrition programs.

**SOLID FEED AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY:** To promote solid feed intake before weaning, offering a highly palatable starter rich in fermentable carbohydrates is crucial, typically with a starch content ranging between 25-35%. The physical form of the starter also matters, with textured starters showing greater intake and average daily gains compared to other forms. While starters are more effective than forages in stimulating rumen development, there seem to be benefits of providing access to about 5% of chopped grass (~1 inch) alongside a starter, especially for calves eating pelleted starters, which can enhance feed intake, improve rumen function, and help calves digest post-weaning diets more efficiently (NASEM, 2021). For calves consuming liquid-feeding diets with more than 1.9 lb/d of solids (~ 8 quarts of milk/d), proving starters with crude protein contents of 22-25% of dry matter have shown to result in increased growth rates.

**AGE AT WEANING:** Recently, a meta-analysis evaluating weaning practices for dairy calves observed positive effects in weaning calves at later ages, suggesting that early weaning should be avoided. The precise age at which the 'tipping point' occurs is unclear but weaning after 8 weeks of age appears to support superior average daily gains, especially if calves are receiving liquid diets higher than 1.7 lb of solids or 6 quarts of milk daily. According to the USDA, in 2014, 31.1% of farms in the USA were weaning their calves at 9 weeks or later.

**WEANING METHODS:** Reducing the allowance of liquid diet weeks before weaning facilitates a smooth transition to solid feed. According to literature findings, calves respond best to gradual weaning over a period of at least 10 days, with slow drops in volume over weeks being the most beneficial strategy. This approach, known as "step-down" weaning, is easier to implement with automated feeders but for farms manually feeding calves, a practical strategy involves breaking the pre-weaning feeding system into weeks and gradually reducing milk volume at each feeding three weeks before weaning, then halving the daily milk delivery one week before weaning (Bach et al., 2017). Some farms use color-coding systems or other creative methods to help them monitor the volumes calves should receive.

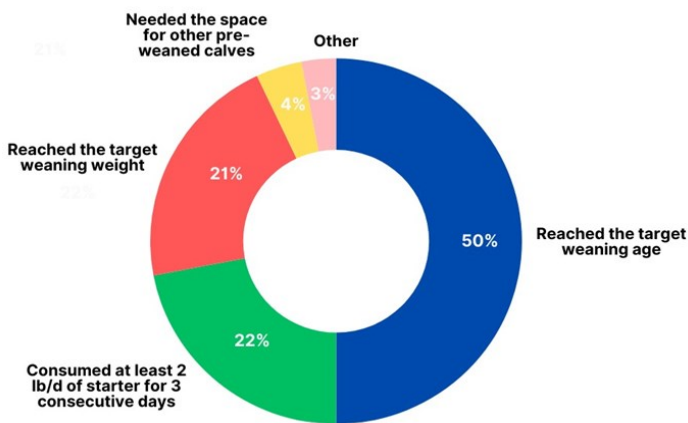


Figure 1. Percentage of operations in the USA by primary factor used to determine when to wean heifers. Adapted from USDA/NAHMS 2014.

Preparing calves to transition from liquid to solid diets requires careful planning and execution. 50.2% of farms in the USA wean calves using age as the first criteria.

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To promote solid feed intake before weaning, offering a highly palatable starter rich in fermentable carbohydrates is crucial.





# Easy Transition To Spring Pastures

By Yoana Newman, UW Madison Extension

Spring arrives in the upper Midwest with varied conditions depending on where you are in the region. Under these circumstances, the checklist below has several strategies that can ease the transition into spring, and help you avoid common mistakes associated with going too fast from dry, austere hay feeding to lush green grass grazing.

## PROVIDE DRY HAY FOR THE FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS OF SPRING GREEN-UP:

A smooth transition calls for the continuation of hay feeding for a week or two into grass green-up. This strategy allows to gradually change from the stored hay to pasture grazing. The rumen microbe population changes with the type of feeding. During the winter, this population is mainly high-fiber digesting microbes because of the hay diet that livestock are consuming. In the spring, new growth of grasses has very low 'effective' fiber, to which the microbes need to adjust. Also, this greenup is very high in crude protein. This combination of low 'effective fiber' and high protein is associated with spring diarrhea. Extending dry hay feeding helps ease the transition by balancing the rumen microbes until fully adjusted. Cattle with signs of diarrhea due to lush spring pastures. Feeding hay helps as cattle graze into spring growth. Pasture location is near Siren, WI during early spring.

## TAKE ANIMALS OFF PASTURE

Delay initial grazing, or limiting the number of hours the animals have access to pasture each day, allows for sufficient regrowth after winter dormancy. Utilize a stocking rate (animals/acre) that is not too high. Bunch grasses, like orchardgrass, with tall growth habit will not tolerate a high stocking rate that would lead to close grazing of the plant stems where a significant part of carbohydrate reserves are stored; keeping animals on pasture while grass regrows will encourage grazing on the new growth because it will be tender and more palatable. Sod type grasses like Kentucky bluegrass, smooth brome grass, or reed canarygrass will come back early, however, they will also benefit from grazing time off. Grasses that rely on the underground stems or rhizomes like the sod grasses will use these structure as energy reservoir to grow the new leaves. Taking animals off pasture, also allows for a strong root system. This plan will likely provide you with more grass later in the spring. Consider early harvesting of excess forage growth before grasses are fully flowered or head out. If you opt to harvest the excess forage, the best time to do it is immediately after grazing. This approach will help maintain the forage nutritive value of the grass, and provides early harvesting of surplus grass. New re-growth of pastures in spring as the one shown above is not tall

enough for grazing. Spring grazing requires allowing time (two to three weeks) for the new leaves to be long enough to have sufficient photosynthate to tolerate the intensive grazing of the new season.

## SPLIT NITROGEN (N) AND POTASSIUM (K) FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS:

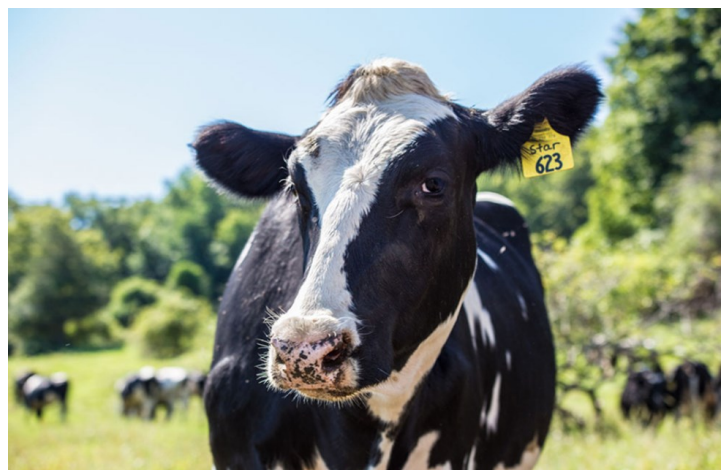
There are several reasons for splitting N and K. Spring lush pastures that have excess nitrogen and potassium tend to cause grass tetany or low blood magnesium in the animal. Results from soil testing will show what are the deficiencies that need to be addressed. Most nitrogen and potassium fertilizers are top-dressed in split applications. The purpose for dividing the nitrogen applications is to avoid excess levels in the soil that could lead to grass tetany. Split applications also will help control leaching and volatilization losses, they also minimize the effects of uneven fertilizer distribution, the risk of fertilizer burns, and guarantee that nitrogen and potassium supply coincides with livestock forage needs.

## FAST ROTATION OF PASTURES:

Do a quick rotation of the livestock through your paddocks to capture the initial grass growth but mainly because your pasture might be too wet. Doing the quick rotation will help avoid compaction by minimizing the hooves action on the above normal soil moisture during this time of year.

## TREAT FOR INTERNAL PARASITES:

Internal parasites go hand in hand with grazing livestock. Prevention and management of parasites during spring is key so they don't become a health problem for grazing livestock. High humidity allows for parasites to remain infectious in pastures for longer time. Check with your veterinarian about the best preventive options.



Smooth transition calls for continuation of hay feeding for a week or two into grass green-up. The rumen microbe population changes with the type of feeding and they need time to adapt to new growth grasses.

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If pastures are too wet, do a quick rotation of the livestock through your paddocks to capture the initial grass growth and to avoid compaction.



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km753@cornell.edu



Over 10 weeks from January 9 to March 12, 2024 CCE and PRO-DAIRY held a webinar series focused on enhancing farm efficiency.

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A Cornell graduate student is doing a survey on attitudes towards wildflower strips on U.S. farms. The main goal is to make establishment of wildflower strips accessible to interested farmers.

More information provided by contacting:

Linnea Smith

LCS238@cornell.edu

201-973-0421

or using QR code:



# A Review Of The Endangered Species Act And Pesticides: An Example

By Katelyn Miller, Field Crop and Forage Specialist

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) passed in 1973 requires government agencies to ensure actions taken will not threaten any species that have been federally listed as endangered or threatened. Whenever an agency has a proposed action that might affect an endangered species or its habitat, they are required to consult with one of two agencies. These agencies are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service. These agencies, commonly referred to as the “Services” provide a biological opinion which determines if the proposed action would cause jeopardy or adverse effects to any species or habitat. If they identify a risk, the action needs to be modified to avoid harm. This is also referred to as a consultation.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees all pesticide use. The use of pesticides is considered an action which would require an endangered species consultation. Because the EPA has not complied with the ESA, the Federal Court has ordered them to conduct consultations on all current and newly registered pesticides. Currently, there are over 1,100 active ingredients that need to go through this review process, not including new active ingredients entering the market. To speed up the process, the EPA is developing strategies for the different groups of pesticides. Here’s the current timeline:

- This past year, the EPA had an open comment period on their herbicide strategy. The final version should be available in August of 2024.
- The final version of the rodenticide strategy is planned to be released in November 2024.
- The insecticide strategy is scheduled for release in 2025. Currently, neonicotinoids are under review.
- The fungicide strategy is scheduled to be released in 2026.
- There is no schedule set for biopesticides at this time.

After these strategies are finalized, it will still take years before all pesticides have been evaluated for ESA impacts and the labels change as a result. It’s important to check the label every time you purchase a product as these changes can be implemented on a label at any point. This change impacts growers where listed threatened and endangered species and agriculture overlap. There will be changes in labeling that may require additional management practices to be implemented. Some of these changes could include:

- A label requirement to check “Bulletins Live! Two” for additional labeling information. You can access the website here: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins>. If any additional labeling is released about a pesticide, it can be found here.
- Restrictions may be in place on pesticide applications to saturated soils.
- Mitigation strategies to reduce spray drift and runoff/erosion. If products are identified as having a high risk to impact threatened and endangered species, mitigation strategies may need to be implemented to use certain products using a point system. Some examples include but are not limited to removing states or counties of concern, reducing application rates, adjustments to the total number of applications and field buffers.

It’s important to make sure that you are always reading the label on your pesticide labels no matter how frequently you purchase a product. If you’re interested, the recording of this webinar is available on YouTube on the NYSIPM channel, which can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeuakbASnRU> or by scanning the QR code.



*The following information is summarized from the webinar hosted by the Weed Science Society of America titled “Endangered Species Act and Pesticides: An Example”. 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.*

The EPA has been ordered to review all current and new pesticide registrations to be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.



As the EPA rolls out strategies to undergo this process, it’s important to remember that this process will likely take years to complete.



# 2024 Updates On XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium Registrations and Use in Dicamba-Tolerant Soybeans for NY Producers

By Vipin Kumar, School of Integrative Plant Sciences - Soil & Crop Sciences Section, Cornell University

Michael Helms, Cornell Pesticide Safety Education Program

Mike Hunter, Field Crops IPM Coordinator, NYS Integrated Pest Management Program (NYSIPM)

Mike Stanyard, CCE Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program



On February 06, 2024, the U.S. district court in Arizona vacated 2020 registrations of three dicamba containing products (XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium) for over-the-top (OTT) applications in dicamba-tolerant (Xtend and XtendFlex) soybean. In response to the U.S. district court ruling, the EPA issued an Existing Stock Order on February 14, 2024, that allows limited sale, distribution, and use of these dicamba OTT products that were already in the possession of growers, distributors or in the channels of trade and outside the control of pesticide companies as of February 06, 2024.

According to this Existing Stock Order, the manufacturers/registrants are no longer allowed to distribute these dicamba products in the US other than for disposal or lawful export. However, any dealer with an existing stock may sell these dicamba products until May 31, 2024 (cutoff date in New York (NY)). If soybean producers and applicators in NY are planning to grow Xtend or XtendFlex soybean and thinking to use these dicamba products in 2024 growing season, they should consider the following important points:

Only three dicamba containing products (XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium) are labelled for OTT applications in Xtend or XtendFlex soybean.

- Only certified applicators (private or commercial) are allowed to use XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium herbicides for OTT applications in Xtend or XtendFlex soybean.
- NY growers and applicators must read and understand the EPA's Existing Stocks Order on the use of XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium herbicides for OTT applications in Xtend or XtendFlex soybean.
- Product that dealers had on hand prior to February 06, 2024 can be sold or distributed in NY through May 31, 2024 (the cutoff date for NY).
- Applicators are allowed to use existing stocks of these dicamba products for OTT applications in Xtend or XtendFlex soybeans until **June 30, 2024** (cutoff application date for NY).
- The NY registrations for XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium herbicides are set to expire on **July 31, 2024**. Unfortunately, there are no CleanSweepNY programs currently scheduled for 2024, so alternative disposal options may need to be found.
- **Mandatory dicamba training:** Applicators must take mandatory annual dicamba training before applying XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium herbicides in Xtend or XtendFlex soybean. These online dicamba trainings are offered by following manufacturers/registrants:

BASF  
Bayer  
Syngenta

Training is reciprocal across brands and applicators only need to take one dicamba-specific training each year (i.e. only one training session either from BASF, Bayer or Syngenta). Contact your local dealer for further information.

- Note that other dicamba-containing products (e.g. Banvel, Clarity and the many generics) are not labelled for OTT applications in Xtend or XtendFlex soybeans. However, some glyphosate products (Roundup PowerMax, Durango, etc.) can be used in OTT applications in Xtend or XtendFlex soybeans. Some glufosinate (Liberty) products can only be used for OTT applications in XtendFlex soybean, **not in Xtend soybean**.

**Disclaimer:** Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. Persons using such products assume responsibility for their use in accordance with current label directions of the manufacturer.

On February 06, 2024, the U.S. district court in Arizona vacated 2020 registrations of three dicamba containing products for over-the-top (OTT) applications in dicamba-tolerant soybeans.



The Existing Stock Order in place allows limited sale, distribution & use of these dicamba OTT products until the product registration expires July 31st, 2024.

# Dairy Market Watch



## March 2024

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<br>(Boston)     | II      | III     | IV      | Jamestown, NY                   |        | Albany, NY |        | Albany \$/gal.<br>to farmer |
| Feb 23                | \$2.71    | \$2.36  | \$24.03           | \$20.83 | \$17.78 | \$18.86 | \$19.60                         | \$1.82 | \$20.20    | \$2.42 | \$1.74                      |
| Mar 23                | \$2.73    | \$2.41  | \$22.24           | \$19.52 | \$18.10 | \$18.38 | \$18.78                         | \$0.68 | \$19.38    | \$1.28 | \$1.67                      |
| Apr 23                | \$2.70    | \$2.56  | \$22.10           | \$19.20 | \$18.52 | \$17.95 | \$18.62                         | \$0.10 | \$19.22    | \$0.70 | \$1.66                      |
| May 23                | \$2.75    | \$1.80  | \$22.82           | \$19.11 | \$16.11 | \$18.10 | \$18.31                         | \$2.20 | \$18.91    | \$2.80 | \$1.63                      |
| Jun 23                | \$2.76    | \$1.51  | \$21.26           | \$18.83 | \$14.91 | \$18.26 | \$17.46                         | \$2.55 | \$18.06    | \$3.15 | \$1.56                      |
| July 23               | \$2.79    | \$1.19  | \$20.57           | \$19.12 | \$13.77 | \$18.26 | \$17.08                         | \$3.31 | \$17.68    | \$3.91 | \$1.52                      |
| Aug 23                | \$3.02    | \$2.08  | \$19.87           | \$19.91 | \$17.19 | \$18.91 | \$18.28                         | \$1.09 | \$18.88    | \$1.69 | \$1.63                      |
| Sep 23                | \$3.12    | \$2.30  | \$22.15           | \$19.98 | \$18.39 | \$19.09 | \$19.27                         | \$0.88 | \$19.87    | \$1.48 | \$1.71                      |
| Oct 23                | \$3.71    | \$1.04  | \$22.72           | \$21.95 | \$16.84 | \$21.49 | \$20.05                         | \$3.21 | \$20.65    | \$3.81 | \$1.78                      |
| Nov 23                | \$3.46    | \$1.32  | \$23.00           | \$21.21 | \$17.15 | \$20.87 | \$19.59                         | \$2.44 | \$20.19    | \$3.04 | \$1.74                      |
| Dec 23                | \$2.97    | \$1.44  | \$23.01           | \$19.88 | \$16.04 | \$19.23 | \$18.56                         | \$2.52 | \$19.16    | \$3.12 | \$1.65                      |
| Jan 24                | \$2.97    | \$1.12  | \$21.73           | \$20.04 | \$15.17 | \$19.39 | \$18.16                         | \$2.99 | \$18.76    | \$3.59 | \$1.62                      |
| Feb 24                | \$3.10    | \$1.22  | \$21.24           | \$20.53 | \$16.08 | \$19.85 | \$18.54                         | \$2.46 | \$19.14    | \$3.06 | \$1.65                      |

**February Utilization (Northeast): Class I = 29.8%; Class II = 25.2%; Class III = 30.4%; Class IV = 14.6%.**  
*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 (Excerpt from USDA Dairy Market News – Volume 91, Report 12, March 22nd, 2024)

**Dry Products:** Low/medium nonfat dry milk (NDM) prices moved lower on both ends of the Central and East range and the bottom end of the West range. Dry buttermilk prices held steady, aside from downward price movement for the bottom end of the Central and East range. A few manufacturers note lighter drying schedules due to some weaker interest from buyers. Dry whole milk prices stayed firm. Inventories are tight.

**Cheese:** Milk production continues to trend higher in the East region. Cheese plant managers note that production schedules are steady. Inventories remain comfortable as cheese demand remains quiet. Contacts share retail demand is increasing. Some contacts share current market conditions are weakening export demand.

**Butter:** Retail demand is strong to steady across the nation. However, stakeholders note interest for securing loads for the spring holiday season varies from picking up slowly to steady. Food service demand is flat to weaker. Cream is readily available throughout most of the country. Butter production is mixed. In the East, various butter makers indicate churning varies from as much as possible to as minimal as possible.

**Fluid Milk:** Milk production is steady to stronger throughout the country. Open processing capacities are tight in some parts of the country. Balancing plants are busier with heavier milk volumes as the nation cycles through session breaks at educational facilities. Class I demand is lighter. Class II, III, and IV demands are strong to steady. Condensed skim availability is looser.

| Friday CME Cash Prices |        |        |        |        |        |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Dates                  | 2/23   | 3/1    | 3/8    | 3/15   | 3/22   |
| Butter                 | \$2.85 | \$2.75 | \$2.80 | \$2.82 | \$2.80 |
| Cheese<br>(40# Blocks) | \$1.55 | \$1.55 | \$1.46 | \$1.47 | \$1.39 |

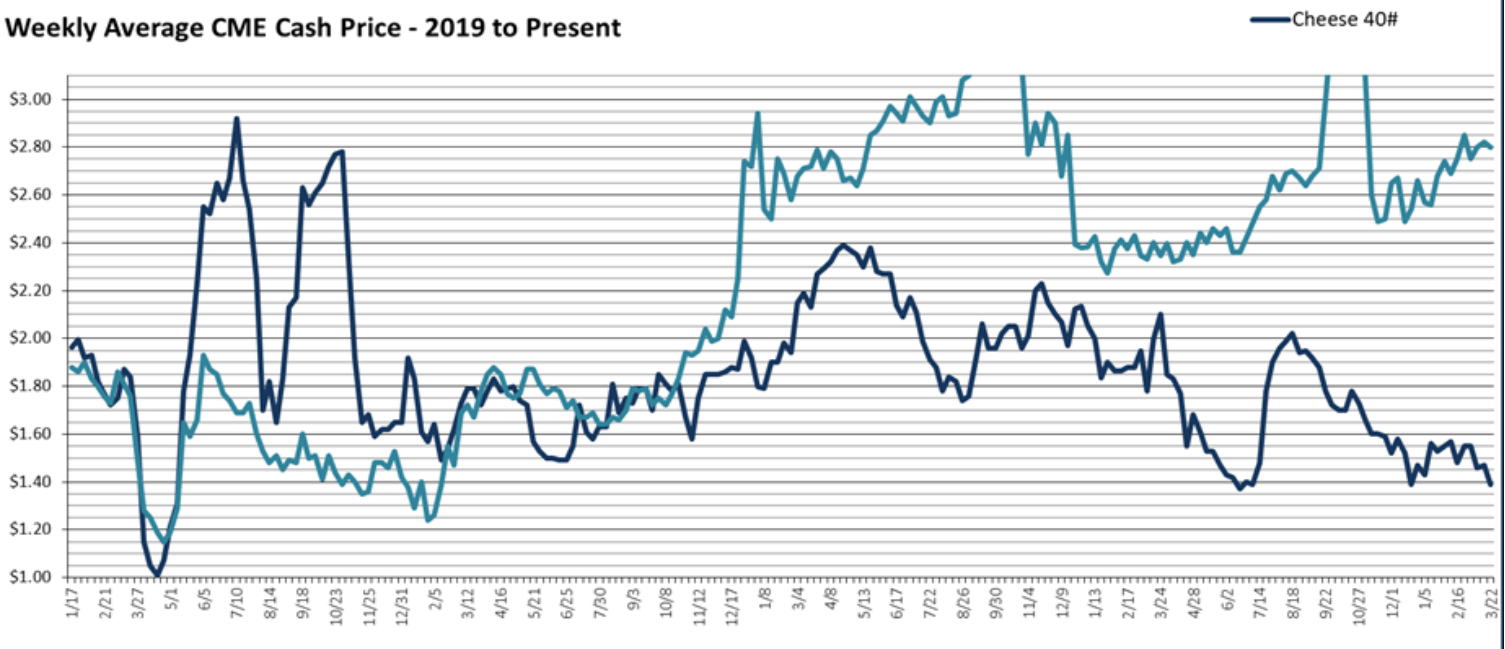
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Dairy Market Watch is an educational newsletter compiled by Katelyn Walley and funded by Cornell PRO-DAIRY.



**Weekly Average CME Cash Price - 2019 to Present**



**Selected quotes from the National Milk Producers Federation Dairy Market Report**

Volume 27, Issue 3, 3/20/2024: <https://www.nmpf.org/key-dairy-statistics-reveal-continued-production-decline/>

Sluggish U.S. milk production is showing up in other key dairy industry statistics, including scant milk solids production growth, flat to declining production of major dairy products, and a general drawdown of product inventories.

The modest level of stock drawdowns and stagnant milk and dairy product prices indicates that the market is currently broadly balanced, with lower milk production, flat milk solids production and growth in overall domestic use, offset by continued weakness in exports, resulting in flat growth in total use. Stronger total demand and/or further reductions in milk production will be needed to bring higher milk prices faster.

January milk production was 1.1 percent lower than the previous January. This was the largest drop in the current seven-month period of annually lower production. Total production during those months was down from a year earlier by 0.8 percent, while production per cow was 0.2 percent lower.

Seasonal stocks of butter rose from December to January, as the highly seasonal product always does. This year's rise was 50 million pounds, slightly more than the 46 million pound average for the prior years since 2000. Stocks of the major cheese categories, as well as those for the various dry

skim ingredient products, are either trading water or else moderately dropping month-to-month in recent months, with none showing signs of significant and systematic buildup.

The current USDA 2024 forecast for US milk production, 227.3 billion pounds, would represent the lowest leap-year adjusted milk production growth over a contiguous span of three years - a gain of only 0/2 percent from 2021 - since 1975.

By contrast, with the exception of fairly consistent increases in its butter and Class IV price forecasts, the department has varied widely in raising and lowering its calendar-year 2024 WASDE forecasts of product and Class prices and the all-milk price. Even so, as of mid-March, WASDE, the DMC Decision Tool on the USDA DMC website, and the CMW futures were all forecasting somewhat less than a \$1 per cwt increase in the 2024 U.S. average all-milk price from last year's average.

Mid-March CME futures indicated the DMC margin would average at least \$4/cwt higher in 2024 than last year's average of \$6.70/cwt.

Mid-March CME futures indicated the DMC margin would average at least \$4/cwt higher in 2024 than last year's average of \$6.70/cwt.



For more information about any of these topics, please contact Katelyn Walley by calling 716-640-0522 or emailing kaw249@cornell.edu.

The Crops, Cows, and Critters (USPS#101-400) is published monthly by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County, JCC Carnahan Center 525 Falconer Street, PO Box 20 Jamestown, NY 14702-9608.

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