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## Cornell Cooperative Extension

Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

[swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu](mailto: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.

The Equal Education and Employment Opportunity Statement is our university commitment to a welcoming and supportive community for students, faculty and staff.

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Photo by Kelly Torrey



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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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2 - December 2025

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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 585-268-7644 ext. 10.

# Don't Put All Your Seeds in One Basket

By Katelyn Miller, Field Crop Specialist, SWNYDLFC

Harvest has been stretched out for many, but nonetheless, it's time to start thinking about ordering seed for the 2026 growing season. Winter is a good time to look back upon the last season and evaluate what went well and what didn't. Variety trial reports are also starting to become available, which can guide smart seed decisions.

This growing season was less than ideal, causing yield and quality fluctuations across fields. We can't control the weather, but we can select hardy varieties that can tolerate more extremes. Seed availability is also shifting, such as the upcoming production halt of BMR corn. Picking out seed early increases your chances of being able to get the exact hybrids you want, as certain trait packaging or maturities may be limited in quantity, giving time to source other options if needed.

When evaluating variety trials, it's not advisable to choose solely from the top-yielding varieties, as many factors beyond genetics influence yield. Consider your microclimate, soil type, drainage class, planting dates, and general management intensity compared to trial conditions. A top yielder in a trial doesn't automatically make it the best fit for you. Look at the weather data; compare the location's annual rainfall amounts and growing degree day accumulations to your own. Reviewing historical data can help determine whether weather contributed to a variety's performance.

Diversifying your seed selection is one way to spread risk across your acres. Spread out harvest maturities, select varieties based on soil types, and choose hybrids that align with varying management intensities. It can be advantageous to split your portfolio with proven genetics and up-and-coming hybrids that may offer improved traits and stress tolerance. Don't put all your seeds in one basket; if one hybrid struggles under certain conditions, others may help balance it out.

Don't be afraid to test things out on your farm. Look at stand counts, soil maps, and yield maps (if you have them) to see how different hybrids respond. Pay close attention to high-stress areas such as compacted zones, drought-prone pockets, or places with high water tables. These areas can help highlight how hardy, or sensitive, a variety is. Over time, you should be able to evaluate which hybrids give you consistent performance, even in less than desirable conditions.

Your harvesting strategy should play a role as well. There can be meaningful differences between choosing hybrids for grain versus silage. Think about what you need; standability through fall, nutritional value for livestock, or dry down speed. Matching characteristics to your goals can help avoid bottlenecks and keep your harvest window manageable.

Consider common stressors on your farm. Do certain diseases show up year after year? Diseases like white mold and northern corn leaf blight, along with other regional pressures, can chip away at yield.

Talk it out with your seed representatives. They often have insights from the wider region, know how hybrids respond under a range of conditions, and can help you match varieties to your goals. Sharing information about your fields, management style, and concerns can help them steer you towards a balanced hybrid lineup.

The best seed plan is one that spreads your risk and strengthens your acres. By mixing maturities, trying new genetics, and matching varieties to your fields and goals, you can set yourself up for a strong season.

Cornell **CALS**  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**We want your input for identifying priorities!**

Please take a moment to fill out this **brief** and **anonymous** survey that will guide the Field Crops Pathology Research and Extension program.



Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to serving you and your field crops pathology needs.

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By mixing maturities, trying new genetics, and matching varieties to your fields and goals, you can set yourself up for a strong season.

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Winter is a good time to look back upon the last season and evaluate what went well and what didn't.

# Do's and Don'ts for Dairy Farmers When Facing Financial Difficulty

By Wayne A. Knoblauch, Professor Emeritus, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University  
and Jason Karszes, Senior Extension Associate, PRO-DAIRY, Cornell University

## Do's

1. Complete a production and financial management analysis of your business for 2025. Determine strengths, but most importantly, areas for improvement that result in an immediate response and improvement in cash flow.
2. Complete a profitability and cash flow projection. A) Partial budget of the expected impacts of any changes made to improve the business. B) Whole farm budgets of expected cash inflows and outflows along with profitability.
3. Meet with your lender and share your financial management analysis and cash flow projections. Communicate with your lender often and provide periodic updates regarding your financial situation.
4. Continually review and update cash projections and partial budgets. Cash flow management is the key to surviving difficult economic times.
5. If you have past due balances, meet with suppliers to develop payment arrangements.
6. Effectively utilize farm produced feeds, especially forages.
7. Test all farm-grown forages and feed for nutrient availability. Evaluate the most cost effective commodities to purchase when feeding balanced rations, especially to early lactation cows. Focus on the goal of minimizing loss, not minimizing cost.
8. Treat disease outbreaks, such as mastitis, before they become worse.
9. Be an astute purchaser of inputs. Check more than one source for prices.
10. Examine family living to see if expenses can be reduced.
11. Maintain minimal inventory; cull unprofitable cows, buy feed as needed. If you have extra dairy replacements, consider selling them. When selling animals, remember to consult your tax preparer concerning associated tax liabilities.
12. Sell nonessential capital items, including machinery and equipment; that is not needed to operate the business. Consider selling land not essential to the business, including timber. Remember to consult your tax preparer concerning tax liabilities of a sale and your lender for any restrictions associated with selling collateral.
13. Examine debt for possible benefits of restructuring or alternative financing.

14. Perform tasks in a timely fashion, yet get enough rest. Sleep deprivation can interfere with task performance and judgement.
15. Consider off-farm work by all family members.
16. Communicate current financial situation often with management and team/family members. Seek and welcome their suggestions and involve them in key financial decisions.
17. Forward contract inputs such as feed, fuel, and other supplies if you can lock in a profit.
18. Monitor the financial health of those who purchase your farm products. They may also be under severe financial pressure in this economic period.
19. Seek management advice and analysis assistance early from cooperative extension, consultants, FarmNet, and others.
20. Seek personal counseling and advice from close friends, clergy, FarmNet, medical professionals, and others.
21. Routinely test manure for nutrient content. Employ modern soil testing technology to minimize purchased crop nutrients.
22. Evaluate risk management tools such as crop insurance, dairy margin coverage, and dairy revenue protection insurance in order to minimize production and price risk.
23. Evaluate business arrangements with other farms that have potential to reduce costs.
24. Adopt new technologies, such as variable rate seeding, only after careful study for impact on costs and returns.
25. Obtain price quotes from multiple suppliers for inputs such as feed, fuel, and other necessities.

## Don'ts

1. Make decisions that will cause the problem to be worse in a week, month, or year down the road.
2. Continue the same practices simply because you've always done it that way.
3. Neglect needed accounting tasks because there isn't time right now.
4. Utilize farm produced feeds so rapidly that they are used up without a replacement plan.
5. Reduce purchased feed just to save money.
6. Purchase products that promise to be a cure-all, unless you have hard data and experiences of others to confirm.

The end of the year can be a good time to reflect on how your business is doing and to take stock of your financials.

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This list of do's and don'ts provides some ideas for how to get back on track when facing financial difficulty, and preventive steps from finding yourself in that situation.



7. Make capital investments to reduce tax liability or because "it is a good buy."
8. Borrow money unless the cash income to the farm is reasonably expected to increase in order to provide for repayment.
9. Neglect the details; cleaning and maintaining equipment, communicating with and managing labor, detecting heats, etc.
10. Use alcohol to excess. Alcohol and other drugs can make a tough situation even worse.
11. Assume a management strategy that worked for one farm will be effective on yours.

Revised December 2025

# JOIN US

The New York Pork Producers, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Pro-Dairy Present:

## CONVERTING OLD DAIRY BARN INTO SWINE FACILITIES

Zoom webinar

Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 6pm - 7:30pm

As we continue to see transitions away from traditionally small dairies across the state, we have identified opportunities to rethink the interior design of these barns to be more suitable for other livestock. Tim Terry, Strategic Planning Specialist with Cornell University's Pro-Dairy Team will be speaking on repurposing these facilities in order to most successfully raise hogs. Considerations that will be highlighted include flooring, ventilation, lighting, and efficiency of design.



This event is free from generous support of the National Pork Board. Registration is required. This event will be recorded.



Questions? Contact Emma  
[info@nypork.org](mailto:info@nypork.org) or 845-905-6962



Register online at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/BarnC>

Ventilation, lighting, flooring, and workability of the system can all be modified in older dairy facilities to better suit swine production.

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## Southern Tier

# Crop Congress

DEC & CCA  
Credits

January 28 @ 10am

Belfast Fire Hall

13 Merton Avenue, Belfast, NY 14711

Lunch will  
be available

Fate of  
neonicotinoid  
seed  
treatment

Field crop  
disease  
discussion

Mixing  
pesticides

Registration coming soon!

TAXES

## Tax Deadline Dates

Timely filing by the dates below (assuming they apply to your business) is your responsibility as an owner, even if hiring a paid preparer. Failure to make timely payments can result in penalties and interest.



Andy Gilbert  
Financial Consultant,  
NY FarmNet

The following deadlines generally apply, but there are exceptions, and it is always recommended to consult with your tax professional, the IRS, and/or state tax departments for the most up-to-date information regarding your specific situation. Dates may vary slightly if the 15<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> of the deadline month is on a weekend or holiday during a particular year.

- **January 15<sup>th</sup>** - 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (previous year) estimated payments due
- **January 31<sup>st</sup>** - Deadline for sending W-2 and certain 1099 forms
- **January 31<sup>st</sup>** - Federal Unemployment Tax due
- **February 15<sup>th</sup>** - Deadline to refile W-4 form
- **March 15<sup>th</sup>** - S corporation, Multi-member LLC, and partnership income tax returns due
- **March 15<sup>th</sup>** - K-1's for shareholders must be provided
- **April 15<sup>th</sup>** - Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Health Savings Account (HSA) deadline for prior year contributions
- **April 15<sup>th</sup>** - First quarter of current year estimated payments due
- **April 15<sup>th</sup>** - Personal and C corporation returns due or file for an extension
- **June 15<sup>th</sup>** - Second quarter estimated payments due
- **September 15<sup>th</sup>** - Third quarter estimated payments due
- **October 15<sup>th</sup>** - Filing deadline if you filed for an extension
- **December 31<sup>st</sup>** - Required Minimum Distributions must be taken (73 and up)



The swine webinar coincides with the release of a series of short videos on barn conversions, being released in January!





# 2026

## One Year Skills Series for Hispanic Farm Workers

Brought to you by Cornell Agricultural Workforce and Development (CAWD), the Small Farms Program, NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH), and NY FarmNet. **The program includes monthly topical videos and a live discussion held every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 PM January - December.**

VIDA = "life" in Spanish – reflecting the heart of this wellness and life skills series. This FREE program offers monthly, topical videos and discussions.

### About the program

#### **V – Valorar la salud / Value Wellness (Provided by NYCAMH)**

Promote physical and mental well-being by addressing, nutrition, healthy routines, dental care, addiction prevention and preventive health.

#### **I – Informar para crecer / Inform for Growth (Provided by NY FARMNET)**

Equip participants with practical knowledge on banking, budgeting, using credit, and other financial tips. Support healthy relationships and emotional balance through workshops on parenting, dating and marriage while living abroad.

#### **D – Desarrollar el futuro / Develop the Future (Provided by SMALL FARMS)**

Encourage long-term financial planning, goal-setting, and a vision for life both in the U.S. and in their country of origin. Provide tools and strategies to start and get access to small business abroad, fostering entrepreneurship and economic independence. Facilitate resources for start ups.

#### **A – Activar la confianza / Activate Confidence (Provided by CAWD)**

Build confidence and strengthen communication skills for use with supervisors, coworkers, and loved ones along with conflict management.

### 2026 Program Calendar

#### **January | NY FarmNet**

Financial Basics Part I: Personal Finance and Banking

#### **February | NYCAMH**

Health Awareness Part I: General Health & Diet

#### **March | NY FarmNet**

Managing Stress on the Farm

#### **April | NY FarmNet**

Family Services Part I: Maintaining Family Bonds Across Borders

#### **May | NYCAMH**

Understanding and Preventing Addiction

#### **June | Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development**

Communication Skills at Work (Understanding the Workplace)

#### **July | NY FarmNet**

Financial Basics Part II: Budgeting and Saving – Forward Thinking

#### **August | Cornell Small Farms Program**

How to Start a Small Business Abroad

#### **September | NY FarmNet**

Family Services Part II: Family Stability and Growth While Apart

#### **October | NYCAMH**

Health Awareness Part II: Dental Care and Preventive Health

#### **November | Cornell Small Farms Program**

Financial Basics Part III: Credit and Financial Introduction

#### **December | Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development**

Stories from Hispanic Farm Leaders



[ml2656@cornell.edu](mailto:ml2656@cornell.edu)

| [agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/vida-program/](http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/vida-program/)



This free, yearlong program offers monthly videos and discussions geared towards the Spanish speaking workforce.

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The program will provide practical knowledge on topics ranging from financial basics to broader life skills and wellness.



# Baby, It's Cold Outside: Winter Management for Dairy Calves

By Katie Callero, Dairy Management Specialist, SWNYDLFC



## Winter Management for Dairy Calves

The holiday season is rapidly approaching, and we have already seen quite the snowfall across the southwest New York region as we head into mid-December. As the popular holiday song says, "Baby, It's Cold Outside." The cold doesn't just affect us; it also impacts your calves. Cold stress occurs when temperatures drop below an animal's thermoneutral zone. The thermoneutral zone is a temperature range in which an animal does not have to spend any additional energy to regulate their body temperature. Young calves are especially vulnerable because they have limited body fat. This type of environmental stress event for the calf can have long term effects on calf health, growth, and ultimately farm economics.

The best way to spot calves experiencing cold stress is through frequent and careful observation. Watch for behavioral cues such as shivering, reduced activity, nesting behavior, and decreases in feed intake. In pair or group-housing, cold-stressed calves will often huddle tightly together. You can also check the calf for physical signs, such as cold ears or a wet coat. All of these can be indicators that the calf is not adapting well to the colder environment. There are some management strategies that we can use to help minimize cold stress.

Proper housing and bedding are essential in the winter. Calves should have plenty of deep, dry bedding to help insulate them from the cold ground and retain body heat. This may require using more bedding material than you typically do in other seasons. It is also important to monitor air flow in calf housing areas. Drafts should be minimized while still maintaining adequate ventilation. Proper ventilation is essential to stop the buildup of ammonia odors which can contribute to respiratory problems during winter. Calf jackets are another great management tool for reducing cold stress. Ensure newborn calves are completely dried before putting on a jacket. Jackets should never be placed on a wet calf, as this traps moisture and increases chilling. It is equally important to remove jackets as temperatures rise to prevent overheating. If a calf sweats under its jacket during the day, that trapped moisture can lead to chilling if temperatures drop at night. Overall, jackets are a valuable tool for maintaining warmth when used correctly and monitored carefully. As temperatures drop, the challenge for calves isn't just staying warm but also meeting the extra energy demands that come with it.

Due to this drop in temperature and increase in energy expenditure to stay warm, calves typically will need an increase in milk in colder weather. Table 1 from Dr. Mike Van Amburgh from Cornell University shows the temperature in Celsius along the columns and the calf bodyweight in kilograms across the rows. In general, as temperature decreases and bodyweight increases, the calf's maintenance requirement (shown in Mcal) also increases. Let's use this table to follow an example calf. It's a cold Christmas day at -15 degrees Celsius (5 degrees F) and my calf Noel weighs 30 kg (66 lb). Using the table, I find that she requires 2.5 Mcal for maintenance per day. To feed my calves, I use a 20:20 milk replacer that I know provides 4.67 Mcal/kg. Now, I will take Noel's maintenance requirement (2.5Mcal) and divide that by the energy provided in the milk replacer (4.67 Mcal/kg) to find out that I need 0.54 kg (1.2 lbs) of milk replacer power to meet her maintenance requirements. Simple exercises like this with your own herd can help you visualize how a drastic temperature drop could shift your feeding protocol. Understanding these increased energy needs is only one piece of winter calf care, but it showcases the bigger theme that small management adjustments can make a big difference.

If you need help figuring out some small adjustments to your winter calf management that could make a big difference on your farm, please reach out. I am available to do free on-farm consultations and can help work with you to develop practical strategies that can help support your calves all winter long!

Maintenance Requirements of Calves at Various BW and ambient temperatures. Values are in Mcal ME per day									
Temp., °C	20.0	15.0	10.0	0.0	-10.0	-15.0	-20.0	-25.0	-30.0
BW, kg									
25.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6
30.0	1.3	1.5	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0
35.0	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4
40.0	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.7
45.0	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.7	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.1
50.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.9	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.4

Table 1: Slide from Dr. Mike Van Amburgh, 2023

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Calves have an increase in maintenance requirements in colder weather.

# 2026 Becker Forum



## Smart Strategies for a Changing Landscape



Labor is a challenge for everybody! Farm employers from every sector should attend the Becker Forum.

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

Jordan Hall, Cornell AgriTech | Geneva, NY  
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

### Topics

- H-2A Wage Changes and Best Practices for Producers
- How New York State is Handling the H-2A Changes
- Other Visa Options for Securing Workers
- NY State Refundable Tax Credits for Farmers
- Onboarding Resources for Growers
- NY Farm Labor Union Updates
- Avoiding Fraud and Scams for Employees and Your Business
- New York's New Mandatory Retirement Program

**Cost** ADVANCED REGISTRATION \$90/person  
WALK-INS: \$120/person



EMAIL ADDRESS

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**REGISTER NOW**



[NYSVGA.ORG](http://NYSVGA.ORG)

### Lodging



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530 Hamilton St.  
Geneva, NY 14456

**\$119 a night**

Dates available: January 13-16  
Last day to book: January 3

Call (315) 787-0530

Reference NYS Vegetable Growers  
Expo when making reservations



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**AGRICULTURAL  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**

The Becker Forum is coming in January! Are you registered?

8 – December 2025

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The day will feature a series of informative sessions designed to equip attendees with the tools and knowledge they need to navigate these complex topics successfully.



# What Did We Learn About Internal Parasites In Small Ruminants This Year?

By Amy Barkley, Livestock Specialist, SWNYDLFC

Earlier this year, our team received funding through a Northeast Risk Management Education grant to assess internal parasite loads and dewormer resistance in small ruminants across Southwest New York. The project allowed us to work closely with ten producers, focusing on deworming practices, pasture management, and integrated pest management strategies aimed at reducing both parasite burdens and resistance. This article is the summary of our findings and is the first of a four-article series that will explore various facets of controlling small ruminant internal parasites, for consideration by those who are either raising or are thinking about raising small ruminants.

In the spring of 2025, each farm on the project was visited by Jess Waltemyer, PRO-LIVESTOCK Small Ruminant Specialist and myself. Five-Point Checks®, including a FAMACHA score, were performed on all animals over 9 months of age. Fecal samples were also collected for parasite egg counts and reduction testing. Those animals having a combination of low body condition scores, presence of wet dags (wet feces adhering to their backsides) and/or moderate to severe anemia were dewormed with the farmer's dewormer of choice. Six of the ten farms had animals to deworm during our first visit, and those farms were revisited in 2-3 weeks to check in on the animals' conditions and to collect feces to recheck fecal egg counts. Subsequent dewormings and rechecks were performed until the worm populations in affected animals proved susceptible to one of the three available dewormer classes. Each farm had its animals rechecked in the fall for the same indicators of parasites as they were in the spring.

In addition to the evaluation of individual animals, farmers received consultations regarding pasture management, using targeted deworming practices, and adjusting nutritional strategies in order to manage internal parasite burdens through integrated pest management.

## Farm Demographics:

To get an idea of the farms we visited, here are the farm demographics:

- Herd/flock sizes ranged from 8-83 animals, with most having around 25 individuals.
- Most animals were being raised for meat with some raised for fiber, show, and 4-H.
- Nine farms raised sheep while one farm raised goats.
- Breed composition varied widely, with seven farms of the ten having crossbreds or multiple breeds.

## Fecal Egg Counts and Interpretation

Fecal samples were collected from each of the animals that we evaluated, and strongyle eggs were counted in each sample. All 8 species of strongyles were counted; we were not differentiating between species. In general:

- High egg counts plus moderate to severe anemia strongly suggested Barber Pole Worm infections.
- High egg counts with normal anemia scores plus wet dags indicated a likely Brown Stomach Worm infection.

The overall number of strongyle eggs provided a baseline for the fecal egg count reduction test that we performed for the dewormed animals and gave the farmer valuable information about which animals in their groups naturally carried high worm loads. We concluded that those individuals that were able to carry more worms without anemia or other symptoms were genetically resilient to worm infestations. Those that had low worm numbers from the same flocks/herd were understood to be genetically resistant to infestations.

## General Trends:

- A poor FAMACHA (anemia) score correlated directly with higher worm burdens. This indicates that the majority of the worm eggs identified in these samples were Barber Pole Worm.
- Bottle jaw prevalence was low and used by most farms as an indicator of severe Barber Pole Worm infections, and a need to immediately deworm.
- The presence of diarrhea correlated with a better plane of nutrition, rather than worm loads. Therefore, Brown Stomach Worm was not a great concern for our study farms. Farms with pasture acreage exceeding animal needs generally had higher forage quality and more animals exhibiting diarrhea.
- Poor coats that showed wool break were related to animals experiencing high worm burdens or stress. One of the most stressful situations we identified outside of worms was when animals were in peak lactation with twins or triplets.
- Animals had lower body condition scores at our spring visit vs our fall visit due to the stresses of lambing/kidding, lactating, and cold/wet weather in the late fall/winter/spring.

## What did the worm burdens and 5 Point Checks® tell us?

- The general rule of 20% of the animals carrying 80% of the farm's worms held true for those farms

Internal parasites represent one of the most financially impactful challenges in small ruminant production.



Strongyles are a broad classification that includes Barber Pole and Brown Stomach Worms.

with average worm burdens. This pattern broke down on farms with dewormer-resistant parasite populations, where a much larger proportion of animals carried high loads.

- Worm loads were higher in the spring and very low at our end-of-season visit in the fall. This is due to a combination of better nutrition over the summer coupled with a lower stress environment due to warmer temperatures and weaned offspring. In addition, worms have a tendency to encyst in the gut in the late fall and not shed eggs until temperatures and light patterns increase in the spring.
- Prior to our first visit, most farms dewormed all animals on a schedule rather than selectively by using a 5-Point Check© or FAMACHA score. The majority of farms on the project adopted the use of these tools by fall.

### Snapshot of dewormer resistance in SWNY

Of the six farms that elected to deworm animals at their first visit, three had resistance to at least one class of dewormer, and one farm was approaching resistance based on the fecal egg count reduction test. One farm was resistant to one class of dewormers. Two farms were totally resistant to all three classes of dewormers. Resistance is indicated by less than a 75% reduction in worm loads assessed through a fecal egg count reduction test.

However, this represents only part of the regional picture. Not all farms had animals requiring treatment during our visits, and not all dewormer classes were tested at every farm. Additionally, farms with animals sourced from multiple origins may have inadvertently combined resistant parasite populations, creating mixed levels of susceptibility within a single herd or flock.

All this is to say, we know that there is significant internal parasite resistance to our three available classes of dewormers in the SWNY region. We also know that each farm has different challenges with internal parasites. Identifying if a dewormer is effective or not is the first step to ensuring that your deworming protocols will be effective. In addition to finding an effective dewormer, implementing Integrated Pest Management protocols to reduce worm burdens and resistance is imperative. These can look like:

- Rotating pastures at least weekly and not restocking them for 45-60 days during the grazing season to allow parasites living in the pasture to die off.
- Grazing no lower than 4" on average reduces the number of parasites sheep and goats pick up. Parasite larvae survive best in the lower 2" of forage.

- Not rotating onto wet pastures in the spring and fall, when parasite survivability is at its highest.
- Checking animals every two weeks for signs of anemia via a FAMACHA test during the grazing season and only deworming those animals that show a moderate to severe anemia score. If you can't check the whole flock or herd, check those that appear less thrifty at a minimum.
  - Recheck the anemia scores in two weeks to determine effectiveness of the dewormer you used, and switch deworming classes if the dewormer you use is no longer effective.
- Storing dewormers properly to reduce degradation of active ingredients due to heat/light.
- Providing the right nutrition for the age and stage of production of your animals. This includes everyday access to species-specific minerals.

Parasite will always be a part of raising sheep and goats, but it doesn't have to result in devastating effects. Managing your animals to reduce exposure to worms, and only exposing worms to drugs when absolutely necessary are scientifically proven ways to help our toolbox remain full for years to come.

If you have questions about parasite management in your sheep or goats and live in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, or Steuben Counties, please contact Amy Barkley at 716-640-0844 or [amb544@cornell.edu](mailto:amb544@cornell.edu)

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Moving animals through a chute system is an easy, safe way to evaluate all animals individually.

*Continued on next page...*

For more information on 5-Point Checks and dewormer classes, reach out to Amy Barkley at [amb544@cornell.edu](mailto:amb544@cornell.edu) or 716-640-0844.

**CROPS  
COWS &  
CRITTERS**  
newsletter

This is the first of four articles on internal parasites in sheep and goats. Stay tuned!





The ewe on the left is exhibiting wool break, which is when the wool is weak from stress-related factors. Checking the coat is part of checking the overall health of the animal.



Example of advanced bottle jaw on a goat. Note the bulge of flesh between the lower jaw bones that will feel like a water balloon. This is a symptom of a severe Barber Pole Worm infection.



FAMACHA testing is a method of looking for anemia in sheep and goats by popping out the lower eyelid membrane and comparing it to a known scale. The results indicate the level of anemia and need to treat the animal for a Barber Pole Worm infection.



Regular checks on your flock or herd can help you pick out individuals who may be struggling with worms or other illnesses. Those animals can be isolated, tested, and treated as needed.

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<https://www.negrazingnetwork.com/2026-grazing-conference/>



CCE regularly offers FAMACHA training courses and Fecal Egg Count mobile workshops. Ask about when one will be coming to your area!

**CROPS  
COWS &  
CRITTERS**  
newsletter

This new grazing conference is a joining of two previously separate grazing conferences.



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