

# Cornell Cooperative Extension

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

## DAIRY ALERT

September 24, 2019

Welcome to the new Dairy Alert!

While many of you receive our monthly newsletter, Ag Focus, we wanted a way to stay in touch during those in-between weeks when there is important news to share.

### CORN SILAGE PRE-HARVEST MEETINGS

Over three days last week, dairy specialist Margaret Quaassdorff and forage specialist Jodi Putman visited four dairy farms across our region to check in with farmers on their plans for corn silage harvest. This year's harvest is going to take careful planning as many areas in our region are tasked with harvesting corn silage planted late and/or planted at two different times. Some corn silage in Orleans, Ontario, and Wyoming Counties is looking ready for end of September, while parts of Yates County could be ready to go, depending on variety, soil type, and planting dates. Refer to Corn Silage 2019: Two Different Crops by Cornell PRO-DAIRY's forage specialist, Joe Lawrence, to make sure you are up to date on best management practices for a successful season. <https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/crops-nutrients/forage-management/>



#### Pricing Corn Silage

A publication put out earlier this month by Michigan State Extension's Phil Durst presents options for immature corn including how to price standing corn silage.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/options-for-immature-corn>

According to the article, corn silage pricing is often estimated by multiplying a factor (usually between 8-10) times the current corn price per bushel. Adjusting for recent prices, and if we used 9 as the factor and corn grain locally was \$3.73/bushel, then the value of corn silage (CS) would be \$33.57/ton of CS at 35% DM. It is important to use a corn grain price that is local because this is the alternative market for the corn. For immature corn, it is recommended to adjust the price down because of lower feed value; approximately 90% at early dent, 75-80% at soft dough stage. For example, CS harvested in the early dough stage – before dent – would be valued at \$25.18 – \$26.86 per ton (75-80% of normal CS price based on \$3.73/bushel corn). These calculations are approximate and are used as a starting point for negotiations. That pricing assumes the crop is harvested and ready for delivery. For purchase out of the field, one needs to adjust for harvest cost.

**Some of the earlier planted corn has caught up, and will be ready to chop during the last week in September, but also keep an eye on the dry matters of the later planted crop to make sure we don't miss the opportunity for quality fermentation.**

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## SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION: COMPLY BY 10/9

By Richard Stup

A team of Cornell Cooperative Extension educators recently adapted New York State's model sexual harassment prevention training materials to be more relevant to the farm workplace. NY State DOL reviewed these materials to be sure they meet the content requirements and now they are ready for release. You will find both a presentation that teaches about sexual harassment and set of case studies that illustrate it in more detail. The presentation and case studies are available in English and Spanish and in PowerPoint or video format. You can use the PowerPoints as visual aids if you choose to do the presentation and review the case studies yourself.

Or, you can show the video recordings of the presentation and case studies to train your farm employees.

We developed a comprehensive farm sexual harassment prevention resource page on the Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development website. The site contains a step-by-step guide to help a farm business meet New York's requirements for employer sexual harassment prevention policies and training. Find the new resources under Step 5.

A few reminders as you prepare for the training:

1. Treat it seriously. You could have someone in your workforce experiencing harassment right now.
  2. Customize your policy for your farm and put it in place before you do the training.
  3. Customize the "Sexual Harassment Prevention Poster/Notice" and distribute copies to your employees at the training.
  4. Be sure that you include an interactive portion such as a question and answer session, or brief feedback survey with your employees. You can pause the videos to create opportunities for interactive questions and discussion.
- Document your training activities.

All New York employers are required to complete the training each year with all employees. The due date for this first time is October 9, 2019!

## IMPORTANT DATES

**October 8:** Beef Quality Assurance Transportation Training, Pavilion, NY

**October 9:** Deadline to train employees on Sexual Harassment Prevention

**October 22-24:** Cornell Nutrition Conference, East Syracuse, NY

**November 18-22:** Labor Roadshow, various locations



Stay in touch!

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