



The Wyoming County

FARM & HOMESTEAD

News



Cornell Cooperative Extension | **Wyoming County**

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Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-to-date pesticide guidelines. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying any pesticide.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an educational organization whose programs are available to all residents of Wyoming County. Cooperative Extension disseminates accurate, unbiased information, helps individuals make decisions on current issues based on up-to-date research facts from Cornell University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws.

Cover photo provided by James & Sandy Brick, Perry

Nominations Sought for Wyoming County Agriculture's Good Neighbor and Friend of Agriculture Awards

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County and Wyoming County Farm Bureau are seeking nominations for the Wyoming County Pride of Agriculture Good Neighbor Award. The award will be given at the 2025 Wyoming County Pride of Agriculture Dinner on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the North Java Fire Hall. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, please contact the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce at (585) 786-0307.

The Good Neighbor Award will be awarded to:

- Someone from the local agricultural community for their neighborliness. Nominees can be either an individual, farm, or family, that exemplifies the good neighbor tradition in agriculture in Wyoming County.

The Friend of Agriculture will be awarded to:

- A person, organization or business that strives to help the farm and agriculture community to remain strong and vibrant in Wyoming County.

Nominees are evaluated for their contributions to the local community including youth activities, promotion of agriculture, environmental and livestock stewardship and overall neighborliness.

To nominate someone for the Wyoming County Pride of Agriculture Good Neighbor Award you can:

1. Download the fillable nomination form from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County's web site: <http://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/>
2. Call the Agriculture Office at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County, (585) 786-2251 to have a nomination form sent to you.
3. Stop by our office and pick up a nomination form.

Completed nominations are due to CCE Wyoming by Friday, February 6, 2026. Please mail to, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County, 36 Center Street, Suite B, Warsaw, NY 14569, or e-mailed directly to wyomingcountycce@cornell.edu



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Wyoming County FARM Medic Fall 2025 Training

The Farmedic program teaches responders specific techniques for handling dozens of different farm-related accident situations. Firefighter and farm kid Ted Halpin launched the program to equip emergency personnel with the critical skills needed to manage farm emergencies.



Early collaborations took place in Henrietta, N.Y., and at Alfred State College in Alfred, N.Y. The program moved from Alfred to Cornell in 2002 and was delivered through Cornell Cooperative Extension for many years before McNeil & Co. acquired the rights to the training and curriculum.

Today, Farmedic has evolved into a leading educational program. Since its creation, more than 23,000 firefighters, EMTs, and rescue personnel across the U.S. and Canada have taken the training, which uses scenarios based on real agricultural incidents. This training has repeatedly proven lifesaving. One widely cited example occurred when the Genoa, N.Y., Fire Department rescued a 14-year-old boy engulfed in corn inside a trailer. Because the department had completed the Cornell Cooperative Extension's Farmedic training twice, responders recognized the entrapment hazard, executed grain-bin rescue procedures, and saved the boy's life.

Lee Price, who works for McNeil and Company, did the training today, and he came to Wyoming County on November 15/16 (which turned out to be very cold so some activities were limited). This two-day training brought responders from across the county, as well as some out of county attendees, to discuss various emergencies that are likely to occur on farms including but not limited to fires, chemical spills, medical emergencies, grain bin rescue and entrapments. During the class and the subsequent hands-on portion, Mr. Price went over:

- Grain-bin and bunker entrapment: Participants learn how grain/silage moves, how people become entrapped, and the physics of extrication. Future training will include hands-on modules focused on grain rescue tubes. *The Team is seeking a used grain bin for use in these trainings.

- Tractor rollovers and PTO incidents: Given that tractors are the leading cause of fatalities on farms, extensive training focuses on rollover scenarios, power-take-off (PTO) entanglements, and risk mitigation during equipment extrication. *The Team is seeking a decommissioned tractor for use in these trainings in the future.
- On-scene teamwork: Responders coordinate operations across various settings where terrain and limited light can increase hazards, emphasizing the establishment of safe zones and strategies to prevent injuries to responders.
- Toxic substances and confined-space exposures: Training covers potential dangers from hazardous gases (manure), pesticides, and manure pit atmospheres, ensuring responders are well-prepared with air monitoring techniques, personal protective equipment (PPE), and rescue considerations for confined agricultural spaces.

Day two consisted of a presentation on a new farm mapping hazards project in coordination with the Emergency Services office, Cornell Cooperative Extension



Wyoming County and 4-H, site tour at Breezyhill Dairy of various scenarios and concluded with a hands-on exercise simulating two victims trapped by equipment.

In the future, the Team looks forward to engaging with local Wyoming County, NY FARMEDIC certified professionals.

In 2022, agricultural workers faced a staggering fatality rate of 18.6 per 100,000 workers, highlighting the need for programs like Farmedic.

The "team" includes: Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County, Wyoming County Office of Emergency Services, and Wyoming County Farm Bureau. Lee Price and McNeil & Company provided the training, Arcade Fire Dept and Warsaw Fire Department & Rescue Squad allowed the use of their equipment. FairLife and CCE Wyoming County supported the food which was provided by Laurie's Restaurant, Wegmans, and North Java Country Store. Finally, a huge thanks goes out to Breezy Hill Dairy's

owner/operators Carolyn and Brad Almeter for the use of their farm as well as the Youngers family (especially Ashley) who presented information on farm hazard mapping.

In addition to Farmeduc, Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County's 4-H program will provide youth safety training through the Youth Tractor and Machinery Certification Program. This initiative offers hands-on training for youth aged 14 to 15, covering essential topics such as safe tractor operation, hazard recognition, and preventive measures to reduce rollover and other risks on farms. National statistics show that structured education significantly reduces the risk of injury for young operators, making such programs vital for their safety. Contact the CCE Wyoming County 4-H office for more information about that program.

Looking ahead, Wyoming County Cooperative Extension will host a *Farmer Appreciation: Farm Safety Skills Day, tentatively scheduled for February 13 (it may occur during the week of February 15)*. This special event will engage NYCHAM to train participants in CPR and other lifesaving techniques. It will also prepare farmers, staff, and family for immediate assistance needed in the event of an emergency. Let Caron Gala (ceg256@cornell.edu) know if you have topics that you want to cover at that event.

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Dairy Pipeline

School of Animal Sciences

Volume 46, No. 9 - November/December 2025

Year-End Moves for Dairy Farmers

Authored by Dr. Alex White, Instructor—Agricultural

Economics and Management, School of Animal Sciences; axwhite@vt.edu

There's a lot going on in the world today that might impact your farm, business, or family - conflict in Europe & the Middle East, international trade issues, etc., have led to higher input costs, reduced demand for agricultural goods, and supply chain disruptions. Changes in regulations have made it more difficult to develop long-term tax strategies and farm transition plans. Don't let this keep you from planning; instead, let's focus on what you can manage. Here are some year-end items for your management to-do list:

Reserve time to construct your year-end financial statements.

Be sure to update all your inventories on your balance sheet – this will help you and your lenders make accrual-adjusted income statements. Remember - ONLY use accrual-based financial statements to make long-term decisions for your farm and family!

Apply for Agricultural Best Management Practice Tax Credits by Dec 31, 2025.

You might qualify for up to \$17,500 in tax credits for investments during 2025 that support non-point source pollution water quality goals.

Update your estate plan.

In 2026, the federal estate & gift tax exemption increases to \$15 million per person (\$30 million per couple). Work with a qualified estate planning professional to develop or update your estate plan. This can reduce the potential estate taxes at the death of an owner and help the farm continue into the future. I believe everyone over the age of 18 should have a durable Power of Attorney and an Advance Medical directive to protect yourself and your belongings. Wills, trusts, generation-skipping taxes, and other estate planning tools can be critical to the long-term survival of your farm. Again, work with a qualified estate planning professional!

Prepare for price volatility in milk & grains in 2026.

Volatile weather and international trade issues will continue to play havoc with input costs and the prices of agricultural products. Consider participating in risk management programs such as the Dairy Margin Coverage, Livestock Revenue Protection programs, hedging, and/or crop insurance. Calculate your cost of production per unit and breakeven prices. This will help you make wise

risk management and marketing decisions.

Beware year-end tax moves.

More often than not, unplanned year-end tax moves are harmful to farms and businesses. Remember, you must spend an average of \$5.00 to reduce your income taxes by \$1.00. Making year-end prepayments or buying new assets just for tax purposes can severely hurt a farm's liquidity, solvency, and repayment ability. However, if you are planning on expansion or renovation these tax moves can be good decisions. New tax regulations are proposed to make Bonus Depreciation and Qualified Business Income permanent, thereby reducing your tax burden. Section 179 expensing limits have increased to \$2.5 million. Work with a qualified tax professional who understands your long-term goals to develop a comprehensive tax strategy rather than a "knee-jerk" year-end tax strategy.

Review/Revise your herd health protocols.

Animal welfare and cow comfort practices are very important for production and public perception, not to mention a big part of being good stewards. Familiarize yourself with the latest best management practices of the FARM Program's Animal Care Manual and Drug Residue Prevention Guide to see how you can improve cow comfort on your farm.

Get a head start on agricultural grants to help with upgrades or changes to your operation.

It's too late to apply for most of the 2025 grants, but some 2026 grants may have application early deadlines of February/March 2026. There are several grants that might suit your farm – investments in energy efficiency or best management practices, value-added enterprises, and young/beginning farmer development programs. You won't get them if you don't apply!

Do a "risk walk" around your farm to identify potential dangers to your farm, family, employees, customers, or neighbors.

Include your insurance agent, lender, and attorney to get a broad view of the potential risks. This will help you find ways to manage these risks through new protocols, contracts, or revised insurance policies. It can also strengthen your defense in a liability lawsuit.

Revise your insurance policies for recent life changes and economic conditions.

Life insurance policies are not "once-and-done" tools; you need to revise them as your situation changes. Be sure your life insurance policies will meet your goals after major life events (births, deaths, divorces) and major farm events (expansion, new partners). Revise your life insurance coverage

Continued on page 7...

to reflect changes in your net worth over time. Also, remember to account for inflation in your asset values – that \$100,000 policy you purchased 20 years ago won't help your survivors nearly as much today as it would have back then!

As 2025 winds down, take time to reflect on all your accomplishments over the years – large and small. This can help you refocus your energy and redefine your goals. It can also remind you of the most important things in your life to help manage your work-life balance.

Are Enough of Your Replacements Graduating?

Authored by David Winston, Extension Dairy Scientist, School of Animal Sciences, Virginia Tech; dwinston@vt.edu

The dairy replacement enterprise is an important part of the dairy operation as heifers account for 15 to 20 percent of the cost of milk production on a typical dairy farm. Today, estimates of the cost of rearing are over \$2,800 per head excluding the initial value of the animal. It is currently considerably cheaper to raise one's own replacements than to purchase them given the current market prices driven by the tight supply of heifers. Because heifers are so critical, one may want to evaluate the heifer completion rate to ensure that the heifer enterprise is achieving its potential.

Percent survival to calving by 30 months of age is a straightforward way to measure completion rate in dairy herds. It provides the percent of heifers born in a particular timeframe that calved by 30 months of age.

This metric is available to farms enrolled in Dart through Dairy Records Management Systems through the Heifer Tracker tool but can be calculated using a spreadsheet as well. In Dart, the calculation does not include calves born dead or heifers sold for dairy purposes. A suggested target for the metric is 72 percent or higher. Reasons for individual heifers not achieving the target are death, being sold, or not getting bred in a timely manner. Delayed calving may result from issues related to growth, reproductive management, health, or lapse in management attention.

Be aware that there can be variation with this metric, particularly when the number of heifers born in a timeframe is less than 50. Combining data into a rolling 12-month average can provide a more stable picture. If the percent survival to calving by 30 months is low, the reason should be investigated. Were too many heifers sold for involuntary purposes? Were mortality rates high? Was the average age at first conception too high indicating a reproductive issue? If too many were heifers sold for involuntary reasons or died, what were the most common

reasons? Answering such questions can be helpful in identifying areas of focus for improvement.

A strong replacement program consists of many factors that require constant management and attention. Listed below are a sample of bottlenecks to examine when heifers are not meeting the percent survival to calving by 30 months target.

- Is the colostrum management program successful? Are calves receiving the right amount of high-quality colostrum in a clean and timely manner to achieve successful passive transfer of immunity?
- Are facilities clean, dry, draft-free, and wellventilated? Is there adequate space for the number of animals?
- Are heifers uniform in size within each group?
- Are diets for all groups nutritionally balanced?
- Is animal growth monitored? Are heifers gaining at recommended rates?
- Is the calthood vaccination program reviewed and updated on a routine basis?
- Do employees know how to recognize signs of disease and to treat appropriately?
- Are calves managed to reduce stress from pathogens, handling, transportation, environmental temperature, pests, and diet changes?
- Why are animals being sold – disease, injury, poor growth, or reproductive failure?
- Why are animals dying – injury or specific diseases? Are there patterns related to specific diseases, facilities, seasons, or age groups?

Protocols can be excellent tools to develop good practices related to the calf and heifer management areas mentioned above and may help dairy managers achieve higher completion rates. They provide direction, consistency, and a means to provide training to new and seasoned employees. They should be evaluated and adjusted routinely as needed. Examples of protocols for calf and heifer management include newborn care, colostrum management, feeding, weaning, dehorning, removal of extra teats, breeding, and pre-freshening.

To conclude, examining heifer completion rates can be useful for evaluating the overall ability of a farm to maintain desired herd size. The metric does not account for the animal's performance as a first lactation cow which ultimately paints the bigger picture, but it has a place in monitoring heifer herd performance. Discovering and correcting bottlenecks that prevent high completion rates should be financially rewarding.

For more information on Dairy Extension or to learn more about our current programs, visit VTDairy—Home of the Dairy Extension Program at www.sas.vt.edu/extension/vtdairy.html

Soil Moisture Monitoring for Irrigation Management in High Tunnels

by: Caron Gala

High tunnels play a significant role in extending the growing season for a wide range of horticultural crops in our region. While temperature control often takes center stage in discussions about high-tunnel production, effective water management is equally essential. In the CCE Wyoming County high tunnel, we currently use a drip irrigation system that runs along each row. As Don and I evaluated the setup, he identified several opportunities for improvements such as optimizing water flow rates, implementing soil moisture measurement tools, and potentially installing overhead sprinklers.

At a recent leadership conference in Albany, I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Jonathan Jarmillo. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Computer Science from Houghton University and previously worked as a Systems Engineer at Lockheed Martin. Dr. Jarmillo now serves as a lecturer in the Systems Engineering Program at Cornell University. Before joining Cornell, he conducted research in the Collective Embodied Intelligence Lab, focusing on robotics and agricultural computer vision. His work has supported the development of low-cost, accessible tools to improve vineyard management.

Dr. Jarmillo is developing a unique approach to agricultural robotics education through the innovative new gardening robot, AgXRP. The Agricultural Experiential Robotics Platform (AgXRP) is a versatile, open-source educational tool designed by students in Cornell Cup Robotics to introduce learners to precision agriculture, automation, and engineering principles. It integrates robotics with agriculture, digital agriculture concepts, soil sensors, 3D printing, and computer programming, offering hands-on, practical learning opportunities.

I reached out to Dr. Jarmillo and invited him to host a session at our offices in Warsaw, NY—an exciting first step toward a longer-term collaboration. He accepted. He even wants to work with CCE Wyoming County over the next semester to have an advisory group to work on high tunnel irrigation.

During this session on December 2 at 5:30 PM (where food will be served), participants of all ages will explore soil water content and methods for measuring it, as well as how to program a soil moisture monitoring system and manage water availability. (e.g. We will make mini robots.) This introductory session won't cover advanced topics, but CCE Wyoming County plans to offer a

follow-up session in early spring for those interested in learning more.

Sources:

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AG SENSOR TECHNOLOGY

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- Build a simple irrigation system

Tuesday, December 2, 2025
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Ag & Business Center, Warsaw
Hands-On Workshop Room LC1



Facilitated by
Dr. Jonathan Jaramillo
of Cornell University,
Department of
Engineering.

Dinner will be provided.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Call 585-786-2251, or scan QR code to register here:
https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/sensors-WYCO-1_256



Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County
Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling the 585-786-2251 no later than 10 days prior to the event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

Shape the Future Goals of Wyoming County, NY TODAY

Wyoming County is preparing its first-ever Comprehensive Plan, a roadmap that will guide future land use, development, infrastructure, and investment across the county. This plan will influence how Wyoming County communities grow, how resources are allocated, and what the county emphasizes in its growth—be it agriculture, rural vitality, healthy lifestyles, or economic development.

The Plan will shape the county for decades to come.

Take the survey today! (online)

Fill out paper version.

Therefore, it is essential that the community's interests are represented in the final document. Fill out the survey today to determine the Plan's priorities. This survey addresses six major comprehensive planning themes:

- Economic Opportunity
- Health and Connected Living
- Infrastructure, Technology, and Housing
- Tourism
- Agriculture and Rural Identity
- Natural Resources Conservation

The survey takes only a few minutes, and responses are confidential and used solely for planning purposes

Please take the survey by December 14, 2025

Connecting County Priorities With the CCE Wyoming County Strategic Plan

At Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County (CCE Wyoming), we recognize how important the county's priorities are—they guided the development of our own CCE Wyoming County Strategic Plan, adopted by county membership on October 15. See it here: <https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/cce-wyoming/cce-strategic-planning-2025-2030>.

Our strategic plan outlines seven key goals that align with long-term county needs and affirm our role as a community partner committed to supporting agriculture, youth, economic resilience, and innovation.

Highlights of the Strategic Plan

- Goal 1: Reinforce the Culture of Agriculture
- Goal 2: Improve Agricultural Market Access and Community Food Systems
- Goal 3: Foster Engagement and Experiential Learning
- Goal 4: Build Hands-on Skills for Practical Innovation
- Goal 5: Leverage Strategic Partnerships
- Goal 6: Enhance Communication and Volunteer Recognition
- Goal 7: Strengthen Organizational Practices and Infrastructure

This strategic plan is a dynamic document. The next step is to outline our implementation process. Working in partnership with the county is how we will get things done—and how we ensure that local needs, values, and goals drive the decisions that shape our future.

WYOMING COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2025

Join us in Arcade!

**We want to hear from you! Join us
and learn more at our upcoming
open house & resource fair.**

**DECEMBER 1
5:30–7:00 PM**

Arcade Fire Hall
145 North St., Arcade



Take Our Survey



WYOMING COUNTY
NEW YORK

CCE Wyoming County's Second Year of Vegetable Variety Trials (VVT) Yields Fresh Results

by: Don Gasiewicz

The second year of the Cornell Vegetable Variety Trial (VVT) again showed how gardening brings people together. The project trials and rates varieties for germination, ease of growth, pest and disease resistance, and overall yield and quality to decide which are recommended for New York State gardens. It also serves as a hands-on learning tool.



We showcased 10 raised beds to 36 people at a VVT open house, and held a second open house in 2025 at the Oatka Creek/YMCA community garden. Participants learned how the project started, where to source materials, how to start crops from seed, and how to grow abundantly in small

raised beds—an appealing model for village residents and new gardeners.

The 2025 theme, “Cultural Roots of African Diaspora,” highlighted unique crops sourced from TRUELOVE Seeds. Project harvests were used to prepare a shared meal, featuring gumbo with okra, dried beans, tomato, and sweet leaf basil; a collard green dish; and a “sweet potato” sheet pie made with the winter squash variety ‘Martha Sanders Sweet Potato.’ Many attendees tried these foods, especially collard greens, for the first time and reported thoroughly enjoying the flavors.



The impact of this small garden was significant. Beyond the open house dinners, crops were used in various programs, and much of the produce—along with many high tunnel crops—was donated to the Warsaw Food Pantry. Feedback from the VVT project helps shape the Vegetable Varieties for New York State Gardeners, an extensive guide built on years of crop trials across New York State.



The guide can be accessed electronically at <https://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/files/2023/06/Vegetable-Varieties-for-NY-Gardeners-Catalog-6.28.23.pdf>

You can also email drg35@cornell.edu to have the guide emailed to you or stop our office for a print copy.



DHIA REPORTS



SEPTEMBER 2025

File for Wyoming County NY September 2025

Name, Milk, Fat, Fat%, Protein, Prot%

""COVISTA HOLSTEINS""	32946	1438	4.4	1074	3.3
""PINGREY, DONALD""	29078	1319	4.5	985	3.4
""ARMSON FARMS""	29647	1338	4.5	976	3.3
""FARYNA, WALTER""	29000	1188	4.1	938	3.2
""BOLDER DAIRY BECKER FARM""	27746	1357	4.9	880	3.2
""PINGREY DAIRY FARM LLC""	26863	1153	4.3	868	3.2
""RUDGERS REGISTERED JERSE""	23059	1190	5.2	857	3.7
""SANDIMEADOWS DAIRY LLC""	23039	1013	4.4	777	3.4
""CHAMBERLAIN, DAVE & GREG""	20062	1100	5.5	743	3.7
""SALTY ACRES FARM LLC""	21708	926	4.3	718	3.3
""LEX NICKERSON""	18995	838	4.4	646	3.4

OCTOBER 2025

File for Wyoming County NY October 2025

Name, Milk, Fat, Fat%, Protein, Prot%

""COVISTA HOLSTEINS""	32906	1431	4.3	1073	3.3
""ARMSON FARMS""	29773	1345	4.5	982	3.3
""PINGREY, DONALD""	28947	1319	4.6	981	3.4
""FARYNA, WALTER""	29086	1194	4.1	941	3.2
""BOLDER DAIRY BECKER FARM""	27824	1365	4.9	884	3.2
""PINGREY DAIRY FARM LLC""	27060	1157	4.3	873	3.2
""RUDGERS REGISTERED JERSE""	23100	1193	5.2	860	3.7
""SANDIMEADOWS DAIRY LLC""	22986	1012	4.4	775	3.4
""CHAMBERLAIN, DAVE & GREG""	20165	1103	5.5	746	3.7
""SALTY ACRES FARM LLC""	21708	926	4.3	718	3.3
""LEX NICKERSON""	19016	838	4.4	646	3.4

Maple Success Through Partnerships in Wyoming County

Throughout the CCE Wyoming County Strategic Planning process it became clear that maple producers around the area could benefit from more hands-



on learning and in field educational opportunities. In response to this request a well attended Hands on Maple Tubing Workshop was organized by CCE Wyoming, Gordy Putman of Whispering Brook Farms, and Cornell Maple Specialist Aaron Wightman. Whispering Brook Farms was able to provide a perfect location for an event like this. Logistics of attempting to have 38 people access a

sugarbush can be quite a challenge in making an event like this come together.

Gordy had the perfect place for this workshop. A seasonal road with ample parking provided great accessibility to the recently tapped sugarbush. Participants could exit their vehicles and be in the woods in just a few steps. Along with the location Gordy provided most of the tools, lines, and equipment Aaron Wightman used in his tubing installation demonstration. Easy access was also essential to get equipment into the woods. Gordy had his equipment trailer present at the site, which made things go smoothly.

Participants included maple producers from all over the region, some as far as Northern Pennsylvania, and two local FFA groups from Oakfield Alabama and Attica Schools. Aaron was able to show all in attendance how to install a maple tubing system from tap to collection point. It was great to see the FFA groups working together to familiarize themselves with the maple tools and gain an understanding of up-to-date maple tubing installation. This included setting up a mainline to the proper slope for adequate sap flow, installing lateral lines, as well as drop lines for connecting the taps to trees. Besides the demonstration, it was extremely valuable to hear from Aaron the reasoning behind the



methods used.

This event proves how valuable a network of partners is to the success of CCE Wyoming. A workshop of this magnitude would not be possible without the generosity and willingness of our agricultural community and partnerships with Cornell staff and experts. The amount of time, space, and energy offered with no hesitation is truly appreciated. The dedication will certainly help keep our ag community strong for the next generation.



2026 Annual Rural Landowner Workshop

Pioneer Central School

12145 County Line Road, Yorkshire, NY 14173

Saturday, March 7, 2026 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cornell Cooperative Extension's 2026 Annual Rural Landowner Workshop will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM. Following the opening session there will be three concurrent sessions with multiple classes per session to choose from.

The Rural Landowner Workshop is a regional program involving several agencies that provide educational information and outreach to landowners.

Presenters are brought in from both private and public sectors to provide participants with up-to-date information. For more details, contact Lynn Bliven at 585-268-7644 x18 or email lao3@cornell.edu.



THE BEE REPORT

Bees and Wax Craft

The Wyoming County Beekeeping Club is a part of a very active New York State beekeeping community with nearly 3,000 beekeepers managing around 80,000 colonies of western honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) across the state. Beekeepers in New York produce a variety of hive products, including honey, beeswax, queens, and nucleus colonies, all of which support different sectors of the agricultural economy.

Beeswax is a substance produced by bees for constructing the honeycomb in their hives. Typically, a beekeeper can harvest about 1-2 pounds of wax for every 100 pounds of honey collected. This wax is produced by the bees' eight wax glands and hardens upon exposure to air, forming flakes (See Figure 1). It is chemically complex, containing over 300 compounds, primarily consisting of alcohols, esters (such as monoesters, diesters, hydroxyesters, and minor triesters), long-chain hydrocarbons, and free fatty acids. This unique composition lends beeswax its durability and flexibility, allowing it to melt at a low temperature and beautifully hold pigments.

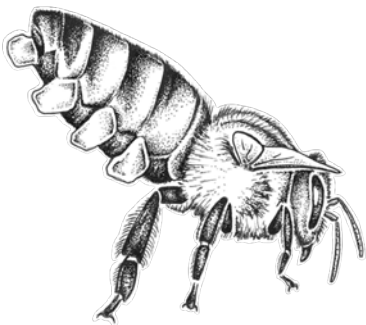


Figure 1. Honey Bee Worker Producing Wax (*Apis mellifera*).
Credit: Michael Hill. From Penn State University photo archive.

It is recommended that beekeepers remove old beeswax from the hive and replace it with fresh combs on a regular schedule.

How to Use Beeswax

Before using beeswax, it must be cleaned, which involves melting it. Since wax can be difficult to remove from surfaces, equipment specifically designated for wax tasks should be used. Wax can be extracted from frames by scraping it off or by poking holes into each capped cell, allowing honey to drain into an extractor. A hive tool is usually used to collect the wax into a container. A soft brush or cloth can be used to remove dead bees or bee parts before rinsing the wax with cool water.

The next step is to clarify the wax by melting it slowly over low heat to preserve its quality. The temperature should not exceed 180 degrees Fahrenheit, as higher temperatures can cause wax discoloration. To control the heat, set up a double boiler by placing a large pot filled with water on the stove and a heat-resistant bowl on top, partially submerged. Once the wax is

melted, remove it from the heat. Filtering the wax through fine cheesecloth, muslin, or a coffee filter to clean the wax product. After filtering, allow the wax to cool and solidify in a desired mold. Avoid rapid cooling methods (processing wax takes time), such as using a fridge or freezer, as this can cause the wax to crack. Depending on the level of impurities, filtering may need to be repeated 1-2 times.

The most common use for beeswax is to make candles. Recently, reusable beeswax wraps have become popular as alternatives to aluminum foil or cellophane for food storage. A publication from Utah State Extension includes a recipe for making these wraps, which you can view here: <https://extension.usu.edu/beekeeping/research/processing-and-using-beeswax>.

Properties of Beeswax

Beeswax serves as a humectant, which can prevent moisture loss from a surface. It melts at a low temperature, holds pigments well, and can be reshaped multiple times without degrading. Because it is resistant to degradation, beeswax can be used for treatments on wood and leather, fine art restoration, and sculpture.

Dried botanical specimens often lose color, shape, and texture, limiting their usefulness for display and educational purposes. Wax models provide an effective way to showcase scientifically accurate representations of plant materials throughout the year. With proper care, they can last for hundreds of years.

For instance, at Amgueddfa Cymru — National Museum Wales, botanical models have been created by artists and modelers such as Adolf and Friedrich Ziegler, Robert and Reinhold Brendel, and H. Smedley, who specialized in scientific model-making in the 1800s. Each artist used slightly different materials, including wax, fabric, papier-mâché, and resin. One modern artist, Annette Townsend, drew inspiration from Cornell University's beekeeping research to develop a model of wild strawberries (Figure 2), which you can view more of here: <https://annettemarietownsend.co.uk/>.

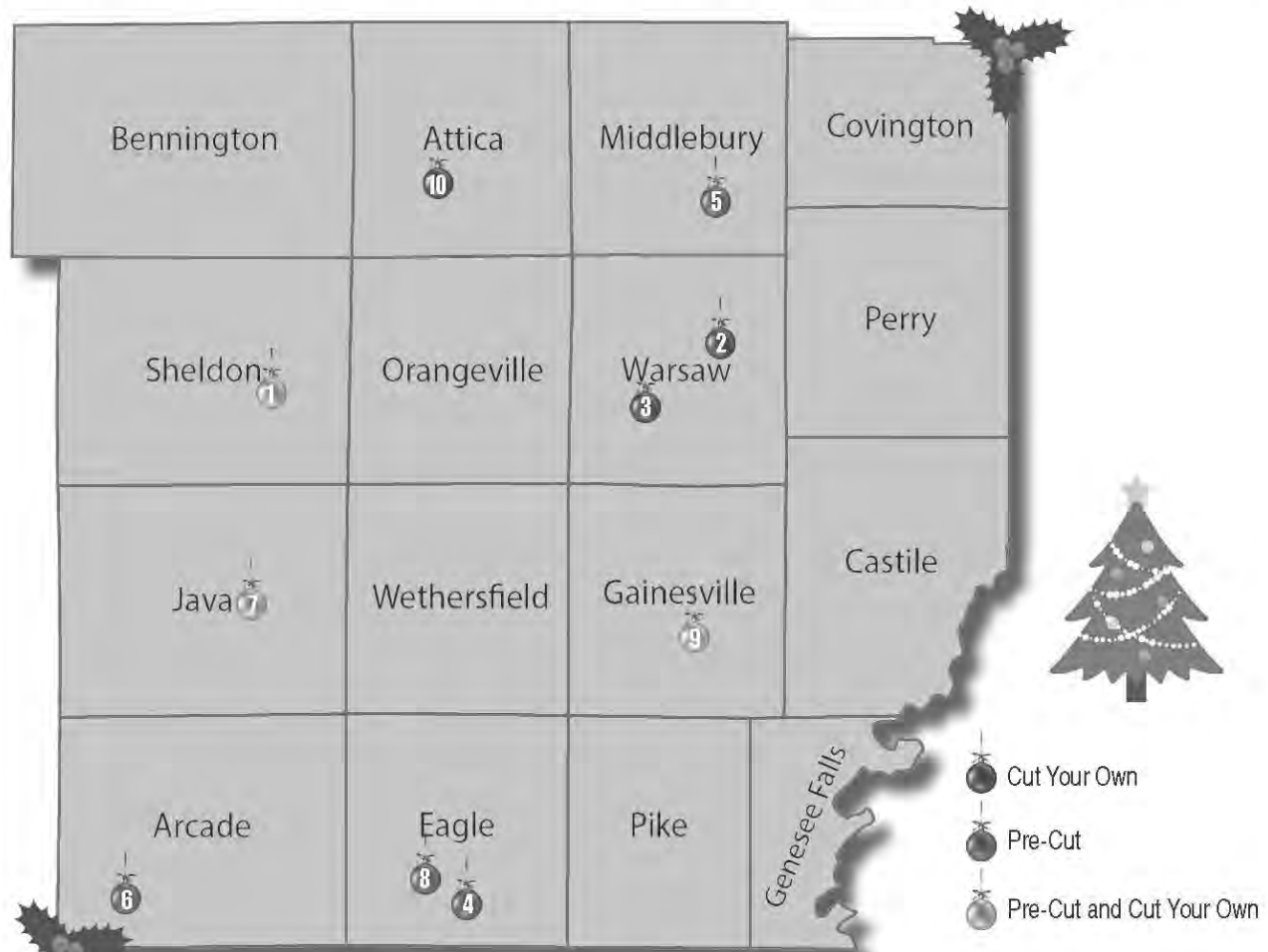


Figure 2 - The finished (wild strawberry) sculpture.
© Annette Townsend

The Wyoming County Beekeeper Club is invited to attend a potluck and a wax artist talk on **December 5th from 5:00 – 8:00pm ET at Smiths Maple Farm.**

Continued on page 27...

Wyoming County Christmas Tree Farms



1 Almeters Tree Farm
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Strykersville, NY 14145
585.652.0798

2 Armendiger Tree Farm
5541 Minor Road
Warsaw, NY 14569
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3 Bird Haven Tree Farm
4327 Wilder Road
Warsaw, NY 14569
585.786.5081

4 Circle K Trees
7409 Centerville Road
Bliss, NY 14024
585.322.4952

5 Cowie Tree Farm
6093 Cowie Road
Wyoming, NY 14591

6 Decker's Christmas Trees
571 Main Street
Arcade, NY 14009
585.322.7540

7 Keenan's Christmas Tree Farm
4604 Route 98
North Java, NY 14113
585.457.3326

8 Domes Tree Farm
4053 Route 39
Bliss, NY 14024
585.322.7262

9 Luczak's Tree Farm
4616 Route 19A
Silver Springs, NY 14550
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10 Rudolph's Christmas Tree Farm
2997 Sonricker Road
Attica, NY 14011
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Vander Gac
Northeast SARE Communications Specialist
Vander.Gac@uvm.edu

Grants Up To \$30,000 Available for Northeast Farmers - Call for Northeast SARE 2026 Farmer Grant Proposals Open



The Call for 2026 Northeast SARE Farmer Grants is now available. Approximately \$800,000 has been allocated to fund projects for this grant cycle. Awards of up to \$30,000 are available, depending on the complexity of a project. Proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on December 9, 2025.

Northeast SARE covers the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Vermont, and Washington, D.C.

The Farmer Grant program is specifically for farmers. Northeast SARE will be releasing calls for proposals for other grant programs in the coming months. Join the mailing list to stay informed. <https://northeast.sare.org/maillinglist>

View the project final report: <https://projects.sare.org/project-reports/fne24-077/>

Related links

View the call: <https://northeast.sare.org/FarmerGrantCall>

Access the projects database: <https://projects.sare.org>

View interviews with previous grantees and their technical advisors: <https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/farmer-grant-program/videos-farmers-and-their-technical-advisors/>

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- **Ag Radio Net Farm News** with Tom Cassidy & Tim Slusarczyk
- **Chicago Grain Breakdown** with Michael Howlett
- **Farm Progress America** with Max Armstrong
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From the Ground Up: How to Overwinter Geraniums

By Jackie Hadenfeldt MacLaren, ISU Extension and Outreach Linn County Master Gardener

Overwintering your geraniums is relatively easy to do, and can save you a bunch of money next spring. Most of us have a favorite geranium variety, and overwintering yours will also save you time next planting season hunting for just the right one. Try one of these three methods to get a jump start next spring.

Grow in containers

Before the first frost, cut back plants by half. If growing in the ground, dig and transplant into containers, using a potting mix made for containers. Water well and keep in a cool, bright location. Geraniums grown inside during the winter will often become “leggy”, and may be a paler green color than in summer. Don’t worry, once you’ve babied them through the winter, they’ll regain their vigor next spring.

Rooted cuttings

Geraniums root readily from cuttings, and it’s an easy way to increase your stock for next spring. Remove a 3- to 4-inch section of the plant’s stem tip with a sharp knife. Pinch off the leaves from the lower half and dip the cut end into rooting hormone (available at your local garden center). Stick the cuttings in a moist, porous, well-drained rooting media such as coarse sand, perlite, or vermiculite. Make sure the container has holes for drainage.

Keep media evenly moist. In six to eight weeks, you should have roots about an inch long. Transplant into individual containers using sterile potting soil. Place in a sunny window and water as needed. Pinch tips back to encourage branching and prevent spindly growth.

Dormant Storage

Geraniums have the ability to survive for most of the winter without soil. Dig up the entire plant before frost and gently remove the soil from the roots. Place the plants inside open paper bags or hang them upside-down from the rafters in a cool, dark location for the winter. Ideally the temperature should be between 45-50 F.

Two or three times during the winter, take the plants out of the bags or down from the rafters and soak the roots in water for 1 or 2 hours. While many of the leaves will die and fall off, the stems should remain firm and solid. Discard any plants with shriveled stems, since those plants will most likely die. Pot up dormant geraniums in containers in late March or early April. Water plants thoroughly, trim any dead stems and place in a sunny window. Be patient, it can take several weeks for plants to initiate growth after dormant storage.

Pause to 2026 Production of Cornell Crop and Pest Management Guidelines

Michael Helms- Pesticide Safety Education Program Leader

Cornell IPM has been working with Illume Projects, a project management consultant, on how to reimagine the Cornell Crop and Pest Management Guidelines. Through interviews, surveys, and data analysis, Illume Projects has evaluated the Guidelines’ production system, their value, and ways we can improve the Guidelines for a long-term future.

After careful consideration based on Illume’s findings and their recommendations, we have decided to pause Guideline production for 2026. We feel this is the best way for us to put our energy into restructuring and rejuvenating the Guidelines. Producing revised editions for 2026 while restructuring the whole Guidelines system is not possible without sacrificing quality and the long-term future of the Guidelines.

While we have paused Guidelines production for 2026, we will still offer the 2025 versions of the Guidelines through the Cornell Store. Print versions for each title will be available as long as their supply lasts. Online versions will be available for purchase until the next editions are released in 2027.

The 2026-2027 New York/New England Greenhouse/Herbaceous Ornamentals Guidelines that was announced yesterday was an exception to the pause. We had a commitment to our New England partners for the work, which was finished prior to our decision.

We realize the pause is a bold move, but it’s the best way for us to have the space to modernize the Guidelines. We appreciate your support as we move towards a stronger and more sustainable future for the Guidelines. We will keep you updated on our progress and any opportunities for input.

NYSDEC Pesticide Applicator Refresher Course and Wyoming County Exam

February 25, 2026
CCE Wyoming County
36 Center St, Warsaw

Contact Don Gasiewicz at drg35@cornell.edu or 585-786-2251 x 113 for training material and exam application.

Butternut Squash Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
 - 3 large eggs
 - 2 cups baked squash
- 1 can (14 ounces) Sweetened Condensed Milk
 - 1 cup evaporated Milk
- 1 unbaked 9-inch deep-dish pie shell

Directions:

Step 1 - Beat eggs in large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and spices. Gradually stir in sweetened condensed milk and evaporated milk.

Step 2 - Pour into pie shell.

Step 3 - Bake in preheated 425° F oven for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350° F; bake for 30-40 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.



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2026 CCE Cut Flower Webinar Series

**Tuesdays: 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3 (2026)
via Zoom**

Advanced registration required; Zoom links and session recordings will be emailed to all registrants.

Cost: \$20 per session • \$60 for all 5 sessions

Session 1 – 1/6

- 1:00 PM – Updates on the Cut Flower Cost Calculator – Steve Hadcock, CCE
- 2:00 PM – Great Woody Cuts: From Field to Vase – Dr. John Dole, NCSU

Session 2 – 1/13

- 1:00 PM – So You Want to Grow Some Perennials as Cuts? – Dr. Allan Armitage, Univ. of Georgia
- 2:00 PM – Industry Trends from a Regional Wholesaler's Perspective – Jessica Balnaves, Flower Aggregate

Session 3 – 1/20

- 1:00 PM – Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation for Disease-Free Cut Flowers – Dr. Francesca Hand, Ohio State
- 2:00 PM – Biochar Use in Cut Flower Production – Dr. Debbie Aller, Cornell

Session 4 – 1/27

- 1:00 PM – Using Beneficial Insects in Cut Flower High Tunnels* – Dr. Elizabeth Lamb, Cornell
- 2:00 PM – Propagation Techniques for Cut Flower Crops – Dr. Mark Bridgen, Cornell

Session 5 – 2/3

- 1:00 PM – Managing Powdery Mildew, Leaf Spots & Root Rot on Cut Flowers* – Dr. Margery Daughtrey, Cornell
- 2:00 PM – Managing Pests in (and Out of) Cut Flower Production* – Daniel Gilrein, CCE Suffolk
- 3:00 PM – Market Trends & New Cut Flower Varieties for 2026 – Dave Dowling, Ball ColorLink

**NYSDEC pesticide application credits available.*

Partial scholarships available for Extension educators (CCE & other states) – contact Jingjing Yin at jy578@cornell.edu

Register: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2026CutFlowerWebinarSeries_201
or scan QR Code



Registration help:

Jingjing Yin – jy578@cornell.edu • 518-429-8608

New York Small Farms Summit 2025: Stronger Together

**Friday, December 5, 2025
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM**

Join us for the 2025 New York Small Farms Summit! Connect with farmers, educators, and ag supporters to share ideas, set priorities, and strengthen New York's small farm community.

At the Allegany County site, we'll explore "Giving Trees a Chance"—how trees can build farm resiliency through fruit, nuts, shade, and agroforestry systems.



Photo credit: Lynn Bliven

This one-day event includes statewide virtual sessions and local discussions focused on small farm entrepreneurship, resilience, and collaboration.

Free to attend • Lunch & refreshments provided
Pre-registration required.

Visit allegany.cce.cornell.edu or contact Lynn Bliven at 585-268-7644 ext. 18 or lao3@cornell.edu.

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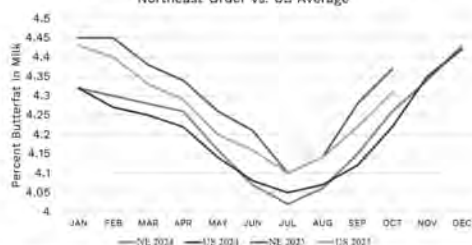
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Dairy Market Watch

OCTOBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.

% Butterfat, Average Test of Producer Receipts Northeast Order vs. US Average



All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
pro dairy@cornell.edu | Laine Koval, hlk65@cornell.edu

PRO-DAIRY

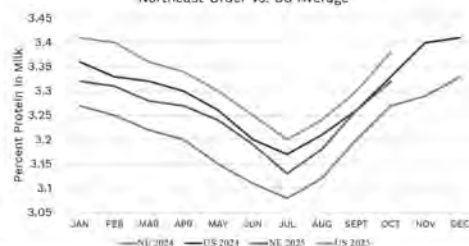
Percent butterfat and protein in milk trended up on average for milk received in the Northeast FMMO #1 in October, following the seasonal trend. Butterfat averaged 4.37% in the NE order, a 2.5 percent increase year over year. Average percent butterfat across all US orders was 4.31% in October. Percent protein averaged 3.32% in the NE order which was a 1.5 percent increase year over year. Average percent protein across all orders was 3.38% for the month.

Dairy Market Watch

OCTOBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.

% Protein, Average Test of Producer Receipts Northeast Order vs. US Average



All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
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PRO-DAIRY

All Information Provided by: H. Laine Koval
Extension Support Specialist
PRO-DAIRY | Business Management

FMMO #1. Adding in PPD, which was \$1.29 at Suffolk County, MA, the SUP at average component levels was \$20.76 per cwt. Decreases in all class prices during the month contributed to a lower SUP. Looking at component prices, the butterfat price was \$1.83/lb and protein price was \$2.88/lb. This is the second consecutive month in 2025 that the protein price has been higher than the butterfat price.

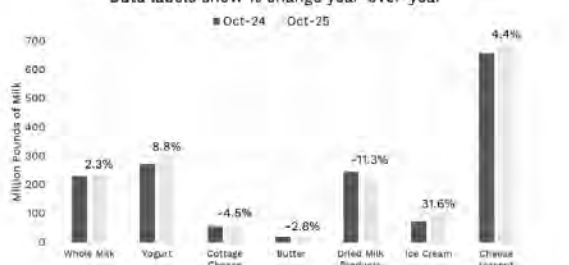
In October, the Statistical Uniform Price less PPD at average pool component levels was \$19.47 per cwt. in

Dairy Market Watch

OCTOBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.

October Milk Utilization by Product, NE FMMO #1 Data labels show % change year-over-year



All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
pro dairy@cornell.edu | Laine Koval, hlk65@cornell.edu

PRO-DAIRY

Fluid milk utilization of pooled milk in FMMO #1 increased from the month prior for all classes except Class II. According to the Market Administrator, total producer receipts and Class II utilization were the highest volumes to date in the month of October. Looking at year over year change, whole milk, yogurt, ice cream and cheese products categories increased utilization.

Dairy Market Watch

OCTOBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.

Monthly Component Prices

	BP	PRO	QS
NOV	\$2.06	\$2.07	\$2.40
DEC	\$2.01	\$1.96	\$2.45
JAN	\$2.35	\$2.31	\$2.54
FEB	\$2.62	\$2.53	\$2.48
MAR	\$2.62	\$2.46	\$2.36
APR	\$2.64	\$2.51	\$2.31
MAY	\$2.66	\$2.48	\$2.32
JUN	\$2.74	\$2.53	\$2.29
JULY	\$2.84	\$2.67	\$2.31
AUG	\$2.92	\$2.56	\$2.32
SEP	\$2.79	\$2.71	\$2.32
OCT	\$2.82	\$2.56	\$2.34

Statistical Uniform Price less PPD



All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
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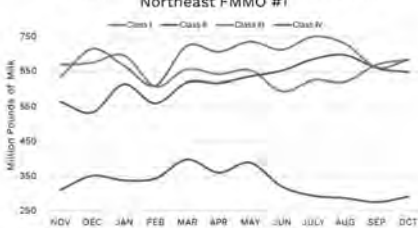
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Dairy Market Watch

OCTOBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.

Utilization by Class, Pounds of Pooled Milk Northeast FMMO #1



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Dairy Market Watch

OCTOBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.

October 2025 Utilization



Class Definitions

Class	Definition
I	Fluid milk products, cultured or flavored milk drinks, eggnog
II	Yogurt, ice cream, soft products, sour cream, bakery products, cottage cheese, frozen desserts
III	Cheese (other than cottage), condensed milk
IV	Butter, dried milk products

All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
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PRO-DAIRY

State Beef Specialist Visits Wyoming County Producers

CCE Wyoming County recently had the honor of hosting Dr. Adam Murray, New York State's beef specialist, for an in-depth visit with local cattle producers on October 15th.

Dr. Murray spent the day touring farms and sharing practical, science-based guidance on a wide range of topics important to beef operations in our region. Discussion focused on safe and efficient facilities, farm and animal safety, meat quality, disease management, animal selection, and genetics. He also reviewed best practices for vaccine protocols—information that many producers said was immediately useful on their farms.

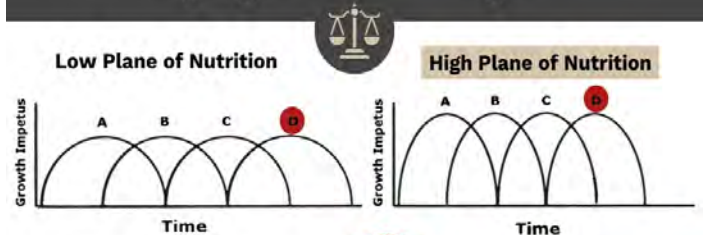
CCE Wyoming County is now exploring the possibility of welcoming Dr. Murray back next year for a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) preparation program. Area beef producers who are interested in this opportunity are encouraged to contact our office and share what timing would work best for them.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County extends a sincere thank you to Dr. Murray for his time, expertise, and willingness to learn alongside our local farmers.

For more information, or to share your interest in a future BQA event, contact CCE Wyoming County at 585-786-2251 or email wyoymingaginfo@cornell.edu.



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Select for feed efficient, heavy muscled cattle with high marbling potential
AND GROW THEM FAST!

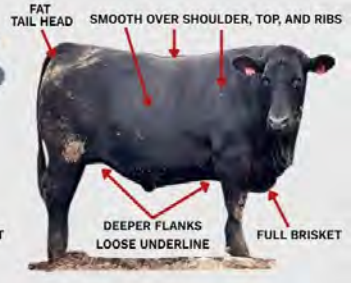


Feed represents the greatest expenditure (60-70%) in livestock production.

UNFINISHED STEER



FINISHED STEER



'WASTE FAT' VS 'TASTE FAT'

TRIMMINGS

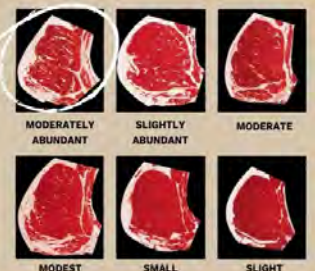
Organ, seam, and backfat are less valuable "waste fat" and are **upcycled through byproduct avenues**.



OVER-FINISHING
adds feed costs & cuts profits

MARBLING

Intramuscular Fat (IMF) is the "taste fat" we want in our meat, contributing directly to a **positive eating experience**.



Cornell CALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



PRO LIVESTOCK

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program



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UPCOMING NWNV TEAM EVENTS

We're Hiring!

The NWNV Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team is currently hiring for two positions:

Area Dairy Management Specialist

&

Small Farms and Livestock Specialist

Full position descriptions and application instructions are available at:

Area Dairy Management Specialist:

<https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/31178>

Small Farms and Livestock Specialist:

<https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/30979>



NY Annie's Project: Inspired by Annie's

How to Be a Strong Woman Farm Manager

Zoom | FREE

December 10, 2025 - 12pm - 1pm

December 17, 2025 - 12pm - 1pm

Dec 10, 12-1 pm (webinar) - Creating Stellar Employees

Onboarding, performance reviews, and giving effective feedback for women farm business owners.

Dec 17, 12-1 pm (webinar) - Becoming the New Boss
How women farm owners can successfully hire, manage, and support their first employees.

These trainings are for women who own or operate a farm in New York State. Register for one or both;

Zoom link provided upon registration.

Questions? Contact Jacob Maslyn
at jlms563@cornell.edu

LABOR ROADSHOW IX

Registration Now Open!

About Labor Roadshow IX

IN PERSON SESSIONS
In person events will run from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

GREENWICH DECEMBER 9 Elks Lodge	WATERTOWN DECEMBER 10 Hilton Garden Inn
GENEVA DECEMBER 17 Cornell AgriTech	BATAVIA DECEMBER 18 Genesee Community College

ONLINE SESSIONS
DECEMBER 1 & 22 from 12-2 PM
Zoom webinar platform - access to both webinars is included with one onsite registration!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
 \$75/person
Cash, check, and advance online payments will be accepted. Each registration includes onsite programming for one event date, access to two webinars, coffee, refreshments, and lunch provided.

Questions?
About program: cu-agworkforce@cornell.edu
About registration/payment: office@nedpa.org

Event Highlights
AWDC's Labor Roadshow IX will dig deep into pressing issues that every farm employer needs to understand. Dynamic speakers will present and take questions on topics such as the following:

- Immigration and Farm/Family Preparedness
- Compliance Updates
- Unionization
- Employee Engagement and Improving Culture
- Employee Housing Operational Costs
- Pest Management in Employee Housing
- Legality of Employee Monitoring
- How to Interact with Regulators and the Public about Labor Issues

Visit our website for registration information: agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/labor-roadshow/

REGISTER NOW!

AWDC
Agricultural Workforce Development
Council of New York State

Join NYPP for Pork Quality Assurance Training

AGES 14+ **YOUTH AGES 8-13**

FREE training for all ages!

SUNY COBLESKILL-CENTER FOR AG & NATURAL RESOURCES
November 20th 6:00pm
Register at: tinyurl.com/PQACoby

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION LIVINGSTON
1 MURRAY HILL DR. MOUNT MORRIS
December 12th 6:00pm
Register at: tinyurl.com/PQALiv

SCAN ME
SCAN ME

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

2026 CORN CONGRESS

ONE DATE
01.14.26

ONE PLACE
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON,
HENRIETTA

VENDOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

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

Lodging

Holiday Inn Express
530 Hamilton St.
Geneva, NY 14456

\$119 a night

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

Call (315) 787-0530

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

EMAIL ADDRESS nysvegetablegrowers@gmail.com

REGISTER NOW NYSVGA.ORG

AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Fall Wheat Herbicide Opportunities

by: Mike Stanyard, NWN Team Leader

I have been seeing a bunch of marestail in soybean fields. The seed has been blowing and dispersing with the wind and could have ended up in your wheat field. Marestail can act like a winter annual and germinate this fall right along with the wheat. This gives it a big head start in the spring, and it gets tougher to control the bigger it gets. If there is an opportunity to spray for weeds this fall, and you have lots of marestail in your wheat, it may be worth it. Who knows what the spring weather will be like next year.

Our traditional winter annual weeds: chickweed, mustards, purple dead nettle and even wild garlic and corn chamomile have been controlled by Harmony Xtra. However, our marestail population is resistant to ALS (Group 2) chemistry herbicides. This means that Harmony Xtra will not be effective. So, what can we use to take marestail out of the wheat?

Many states are recommending mixtures of Huskie (11 oz.) or dicamba (2 - 4 oz.) with Harmony Xtra. This allows for full spectrum of broadleaf control. I have been asked about the use of 2,4-D or dicamba on emerging wheat in the fall. I know that Ohio State discourages applications of 2,4-D to emerged wheat in the fall due to the risk of injury and yield reduction but found that fall applications of dicamba did not cause injury or yield loss in their research trials. Sharpen can also be used as a burndown or pre-emergence to control many broadleaf weeds including marestail in wheat. When using Sharpen for burndown, always include MSO at 1% v/v and AMS at 17 lb. per 100 gallons of spray solution.

Making Sure Grain Bins Are Ready for Harvest

Inspection is the key first step in preventing pest infestations. Take a tour around the outside of the bin. Check for loose bolts and cracks around the base. Look for signs of rodents and woodchuck holes under the bin. Make sure there are no bird nests in the vents and nearby augers. Get inside that bin and inspect for possible openings (light coming in where it shouldn't). Are there areas where moldy grain is stuck to the side of the bin? Go inside your empty bin after a rainstorm. Is there any water on the bin floor from a leaky vent? Are there any low spots in the floor where a support has fallen?

After inspecting the structure, sanitation is crucial! Eliminate any weeds growing within 30 feet of the bin. Insects can feed on weed seeds too! Clean up any spilled corn or soybeans around the bin, fan, and augers. This provides a refuge for insects that can eventually move into a clean bin.

Clean up all remaining grain on the floor of the bin. Take a long-handled broom and remove any grain

stuck to the walls, around the door, supports, and in the fan opening. If there are a lot of fines remaining on the floor, clean up with a shop vacuum. Many fines accumulate in the space below the floor. Removing the floor and cleaning these out is not something you want to do every year! If you are continually having insect problems, seriously think about it.

There are a couple of insecticides that are labeled for empty bin treatment. These include Tempo SC Ultra, and bifenthrin products Suspend SC, D-fense SC, Centynal EC. There are also multiple modes of action products like Centynal Synergized Insecticide (bifenthrin + piperonyl butoxide), and Gravista and Diacon IGR Plus (bifenthrin + piperonyl butoxide + S-methoprene).

Soybean Harvest Aids

There are some soybean fields that just didn't get the weeds controlled in a timely manner. There have also been questions about herbicide recommendations to help dry down weedy soybeans to get wheat planted earlier. There are a couple products we can apply as harvest aids (Glyphosate, Gramoxone, Sharpen, Dicamba and Aim) but it is usually only for weed control, not speed up plant maturation. We can kill the soybean plants earlier but many of the herbicide label restrictions do not allow application until plants are fully mature. A summary of these products for soybeans is provided below.

- **Dicamba** - apply 8 - 32 oz/A (4 lb./gal products) as a broadcast or spot treatment after soybean pods have reached mature brown color and at least 75% leaf drop has occurred; soybeans may be harvested 14 days or more after a pre-harvest application.
- **Sharpen** - apply 1-2 oz/A at least 3 days prior to harvest, or 10 days for most effective desiccation. Soybeans should have at least 65% brown pods and 70% leaf drop with seed moisture of 30% or less.
- **Gramoxone** - can't be applied until 65% of the pods are brown or seed moisture is less than 30%. It also has a 15-day preharvest interval.
- **Aim** - apply 1-1.5 oz/A at least 3 days before harvest.
- **Glyphosate** - apply to soybeans 7 to 14 days before harvest (varies with product) after pods have lost all green color.

Wyoming County Ag Producers/ Entrepreneurs

Are you in the

EAT FRESH BUY LOCAL database?

It's time to
UPDATE YOUR LISTING



Contact the CCE Wyoming County Office
Call: 585-786-2251
Email: wyomingcountyce@cornell.edu

or Go Online to the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce



CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING

Launched in 2015, the [Climate Resilient Farming \(CRF\) Program](#), helps to reduce the impact of agriculture on climate change and to increase the resiliency of New York State farms effected by a changing climate. The program is administered by the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee, in coordination with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

CRF Grant Program provides cost-share assistance to farmers to reduce GHG emissions and increase resiliency through Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) using three funding tracks:

Track 1: funds **manure storage cover and flare systems** to reduce methane emissions and increase the farm's resiliency to major precipitation events.

Track 2: funds **water management projects** to prepare agricultural producers for two experienced and anticipated impacts of climate change: flood events and drought. Includes best management practice systems which stabilize and reduce flows, store water, and conserve water through high-efficiency irrigation systems.

Track 3: funds **Healthy Soils NY** projects to improve soil health on farms and enhance a farm's resiliency to the impacts of climate change. Soil health management practice systems create carbon sinks, increase water holding capacity of the soil, and improve recycling of nitrogen by crops, thereby mitigating GHG emissions.

CRF Grant Program Impact

- **\$12 million** awarded since 2015
- **\$8 million** available for Round 6 to be awarded 2022
- **27** Soil and Water Conservation Districts received grants to date
- **200** Farms assisted through five rounds of funding
- **26,000** acres of cover crops planted reducing GHG emissions by **6,845 metric tons CO₂e/yr.***
- **320,000 metric tons of CO₂e/yr. emissions reductions** for all projects, equivalent to removing **69,500 cars from the road** for one year*

[NY Soil Health Initiative](#)—Partnership with Cornell University

- **\$1.2 million** since 2017
- Developed NY Soil Health Roadmap, factsheets for GHG benefits of soil health management practice systems in NYS, developed a technical report on the Characterization of Soil Health in NYS, performs applied research and continues to support soil health training and outreach.

Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project

- **\$400,000** for May 2020 – December 2023
- Pilot project to implement regenerative agricultural practices on farms in the Hudson Valley.
- Promotion and outreach of the benefits of regenerative agriculture and soil health practices through field demonstrations, virtual outreach events, and multi-media communication tools.

*Calculated with COMET-Planner, IPCC calculations for methane, and the US EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator.

It's time to re-enroll! We want to thank you for your past enrollment with CCE Wyoming County and we hope you have enjoyed the workshops and information we have offered!

Please let us know if you are looking for specific classes and/or workshops!



2026 Enrollment Wyoming County Agriculture Program

Name: _____

Business/Farm: _____

Owner ☐ Employee ☐ Consultant ☐

Address: _____

Business ☐ Home Address ☐

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____



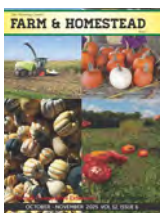
GO GREEN!

Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletters and updates through the email provided.



Enroll in the **2026 Agriculture Program** and receive notifications on classes and events that you have interest in, discounts, and more!

6 Issues



Enrollment **\$45.00**

Plus **Free** Subscription
to Farm & Homestead with
\$45 Enrollment!



Enroll in the **2026 NWN Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team!** Includes access to regional specialists and an **emailed AgFocus newsletter**. Paper copy of AgFocus available for an additional \$35.00.

(Additional - digital copy)

\$65.00

(Additional - mailed paper copy)

\$100.00

12 Issues



Small Farm Quarterly Subscription \$ **\$5.00**



Tax Deductible Donation \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

**** Please make checks payable to
CCE Wyoming County.**

Please complete reverse side

Receive announcements about upcoming classes
and current developments of interest to you
by checking the topics below.

AG INTERESTS

Product Development, Marketing & Management

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agri-Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Value-Added Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up Small Scale Farming |

Livestock

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backyard Livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry-Eggs/Meat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bees / Honey | |

Crops / Homestead

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berries | <input type="checkbox"/> Hops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Flower Production | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Gardener |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Certification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Crops | <input type="checkbox"/> Season Extension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry / Natural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Fruit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables |

NWNY Team Enrollment Interests

*The Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team offer updates and technical assistance for producers and their employees and workforce development modules for the western new york dairy industry. Please check subjects that interest you.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef | <input type="checkbox"/> Grain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Business Mgmt | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forage/Hay | <input type="checkbox"/> Swine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goat | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Enrollment Benefit:

Crop Production Guidelines, Dairy Business Summaries, and Pest Management publications available upon request at a discounted price.

Mail completed form & payment to:

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Wyoming County**

Agriculture Department
36 Center Street, Suite B
Warsaw, NY 14569
Phone: (585)786-2251

Continued from page 12...

Please RSVP before November 30th: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA4A722A6FBC07-59370943-potluck>. The speaker will be Mark Lavatelli, an educator and artist who works in encaustic media (beeswax and pigments) to create his paintings. The event is hosted by the Western New York Honey Producers Inc.

The next Wyoming County Beekeepers Club meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20th from 5:00-6:30 PM ET. We may be joined by Master Gardeners so that we can collectively plan the calendar for the next year. Also, (tentative) save the date for an announcement of a wax art presentation on *January 24th from 10 AM-12 PM at the Wyoming County Ag and Business Center in Warsaw, LC5A.*

Sources

- PSU Photo Archive: <https://pollinators.psu.edu/resource-library/image-library>
- Bischoff K, Baert N, McArt S. Pesticide contamination of beeswax from managed honey bee colonies in New York State. *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*. 2023;35(6):617-624. doi:10.1177/10406387231199098
- Utah State Extension Publication: <https://extension.usu.edu/beekeeping/research/processing-and-using-beeswax>

CCE WYOMING COUNTY IS HIRING!

AG IN THE CLASSROOM EDUCATOR

- Lead Farm-to-School education through Rooted in Learning, drawing on CCE Allegany County as a model.
- Develop and deliver Dairy in the Classroom lessons on economics, markets, and food processing.
- Collaborate with local Central School Districts; prior teaching or camp experience required.
- Support youth-focused STEAM projects in the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, especially Goal 4: Hands-on Innovation.

Applicants **must** hold at least a bachelor's degree and have a minimum of four years of relevant experience. (Master's degree in relevant subject is listed under requirements.)



Applications will be accepted until 11:59 PM on December 15, 2025

Apply by **scanning the QR Code** or **visit:**

<https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/jobs>

Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County



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Today, there are plenty of distractions in agriculture to sway producers and their partners from the task at hand. But Farm Credit East maintains the same mission-driven strength that helps both our teammates and customer-owners stay focused on the future. We're proud to meet the credit and financial needs of Northeast farming, forestry, fishing and agribusiness, all while gaining new perspective ourselves.

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Beginning Farmer Programs

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Date	Event Information (visit wyoming.cce.cornell.edu)	Event Location
December 2, 2025	Ag Sensor Technology - see page 8	CCE Wyoming Warsaw, NY
December 5, 2025	New York Smalls Summit - see page 19	Virtual or Alfred State College Farm
December 9, 2025	Master Gardener Meeting	CCE Wyoming Warsaw, NY
January 2026	Master Gardener/Beekeeper Social	CCE Wyoming Warsaw, NY
Weekly January 6 - February 3, 2026	CCE Winter Cut Flower Webinar Series - see page 19	Virtual
January 14, 2026	Corn Congress - see page 23	Double Tree by Hilton Henrietta, NY
February 25, 2026	DEC Pesticide Refresher and Examination - see page 17	CCE Wyoming Warsaw, NY
March 7, 2026	Pride of Agriculture Dinner & Awards Presentation - see page 3	North Java Fire Hall North Java, NY
March 7, 2026	Rural Landowners Conference - see page 11	Pioneer Central School Yorkshire, NY



2025 Officers of the Wyoming County CCE Association

Louise Herrick	President
Alton Rudgers	Vice President
Shirley Spencer	Treasurer
Kathy Parker	Secretary

2025 Agriculture Program Committee

Derek Rechberger (Perry)	Megan Burley (Warsaw)
Daniel Chasey (Perry)	Robert Ressler (Arcade)
Eric Dziedzic (Arcade)	
James Kirsch (Sheldon)	