

*The Wyoming County*

# **FARM & HOMESTEAD**

*News*



**Cornell Cooperative Extension** | Wyoming County

**APRIL-MAY 2025 VOL 12, ISSUE 3**

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# Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County

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## WYOMING COUNTY FARM AND HOMESTEAD NEWS

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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 Association of Wyoming County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Accommodations for person with disabilities may be requested by contacting the Agriculture Program office at 585-786-2251 ten (10) days prior to an event.

# 2025 PRIDE OF WYOMING COUNTY AGRICULTURE DINNER AND AWARDS PROGRAM

*by: Donald Gasiewicz*

The 16th Annual Pride of Wyoming Agriculture Dinner and Awards Program, presented by the Charcoal Corral was a huge success. Those who participated were happy to gather as an agricultural community to support the hard work and recognition of their friends and neighbors. The event was a joint program between The Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, Wyoming County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Wyoming County Farm Bureau. All of these entities recognized local businesses, families, farms, or individuals for stand out commitment to Wyoming County agriculture.

The Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business of the Year was received by Wolcott Farms, Four Seasons of Fun. The award is given annually to an agri-business that exhibits any or all of the following criteria including expansion projects, job growth, community involvement, and contributions that strengthen the agricultural industry. The Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District also presented the annual Conservation District Farm of the Year award to Rudgers Registered Jerseys; the Ronald P. Herman Partner of the year award to Steve George of SJG Engineering, PLLC; and the Agricultural Environmental Management award to the Schie Family Farm.

In 2017, Cornell Cooperative Extension initiated the Wyoming County Friend of Agriculture Award to recognize someone who is not necessarily a farmer but works to support farmers and farm businesses in Wyoming County. The Friend of Agriculture is 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. This year, the Wyoming County Cornell Cooperative Extension Friend of Agriculture Award was given to Paul Webster.

Paul Webster exemplifies the spirit and dedication essential to supporting and advancing the Wyoming County agricultural community. With over 30 years of experience at Farm Credit East as a Portfolio Manager, Paul has cultivated a profound understanding of Northeast farmers' unique challenges and opportunities.

His expertise spans various commodities, including dairy, maple, grain, and vegetables, and he has supported multiple value-added ventures. A proud graduate of Perry Central and Cornell University, Paul began his agriculture journey during high school as a member of the National FFA Organization. Inspired by his FFA Advisor, he pursued a career in finance that seamlessly aligned with his passion for agriculture. His professional pursuits and engagement with agricultural boards and organizations reflect Paul's commitment to the industry. He has served as Treasurer for the Warsaw Ag Advisory Board and co-treasurer for the Friends of Pavilion FFA while playing vital roles on the Genesee Valley BOCES Board and as a Board Member for the Northeast Cooperative Council.

Beyond his professional and board commitments, Paul is a dedicated volunteer in his community. He serves as Financial Secretary and Trustee for the First Congregational Church of Perry Center and as a leader for the Boy Scouts. His involvement in Lead NY Class 13 has further demonstrated his dedication to enhancing regional agricultural leadership.

Outside of his professional life, Paul enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Rachel, an Elementary Principal, and their two children, Kirsten and Adam. A lover of woodworking and family travels, he cherishes visits to Walt Disney World together, creating lasting memories while nurturing their shared passions. Paul Webster's broad perspective on agriculture's contributions has cultivated a diverse and thriving agricultural community. He is an asset to Wyoming County and a true friend of agriculture.





Historically the Good Neighbor Award honors someone from the local agricultural community for their neighborliness. The Good Neighbor Award is made to an individual, farm, or family, which exemplifies the good neighbor tradition in agriculture in Wyoming County. This year, Wayne and Joan Sage of Prospect Hill Farm in Perry, were recognized as the Cornell Cooperative Extension/Wyoming County Farm Bureau's 2025 Good Neighbor Award recipient. Born in Wyoming County and ultimately settling in Perry Center, Wayne and Joan Sage have long-standing involvement in the Wyoming County community. Their commitment to service is reflected in their long-term involvement in the Wyoming County 4-H Program, where they have selflessly served as adult volunteers, program leaders, and club leaders for their children, grandchildren, and many other youth in the area. Residents of Wyoming County and across the agricultural sector have profoundly felt their collective impact over the last century.

Throughout their lives in Perry Center, Wayne and Joan have been active and caring church members, serving as deacons and on church boards. Wayne's dedication to his community extends to the Perry Center Fire Department, where he continues to serve as a fire commissioner.

Joan's passion for 4-H has spanned 53 years as a 4-H leader and 25 years as a Wyoming County 4-H Office staff member. Her 4-H leadership roles have included guiding the Dog Program, the Horseless Horse Program, and the Sewing Program, among others. Joan has also played a vital role in the 4-H Cookie Sale and judged 4-H exhibits in the youth building during the Wyoming County Fair.

Wayne has been an integral part of the Wyoming County 4-H Livestock Committee and the Wyoming County Fair Association. He passionately advocates for livestock judging opportunities for young people, which has opened doors for them to attend National Livestock Judging conventions. His involvement in the National Junior Horticulture Association reflects a commitment to nurturing the next generation, whether it's through judging youth projects or taking them to conventions.

Wayne's professional career in crop inspection has connected him with local producers and fueled his support of local businesses, where he is known by name at places like Castile Agway, Reisdorf Feed, and Kelly's Garage and Farm Equipment. With her nurturing spirit, Joan plays an essential role in the church's Care Team, reaching out to those in need by preparing meals and offering rides to appointments for those who struggle to get there on their own.

Wayne and Joan are often the first to offer a helping hand; they embody compassion and generosity. Their guidance and support for new 4-H members create a welcoming environment, ensuring that every young person can thrive and feel valued. We heartily thank them for being good neighbors.



CCE Wyoming would like to thank Wyoming County Farm Bureau President Lynelle Schreiber for helping CCE staff process nominations as well as present the 2025 Good Neighbor and Friend of Agriculture Awards to this year's recipients.

## YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED FOR CCE'S STRATEGIC PLANNING

Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Wyoming County

TO SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK,  
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE  
WITH YOUR PHONE OR USE  
THE LINK BELOW TO ACCESS  
THE SURVEY.

The CCE Wyoming  
County Board of  
Directors is seeking  
your input as they  
create their  
strategic plan for  
2025-2030

### This plan will:

- Help identify key priorities, programs, and investments for the future
- Guide the development of annual work plans
- Determine how staff time will be allocated to address ongoing, new, or emerging community needs.



[https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b8zTN0GM7FPuCx0](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8zTN0GM7FPuCx0)

**SURVEY CLOSING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH**

If you have any questions,  
please reach out to Caron  
Gala, Executive Director of  
CCE Wyoming County at  
ceg256@cornell.edu or call  
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## **THE WARSAW SEED LIBRARY HAS BEEN RELOCATED TO THE AG AND BUSINESS CENTER**



With ongoing improvements to the Warsaw Library, the Seed Library now can be found at the Ag and Business Center at 36 Center Street, Warsaw, NY 14569. The Warsaw Seed Library is a project brought to you by the Wyoming County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. It has been established to make FREE seeds available to anyone. Seeds are made available through donations from community members, local businesses, master gardeners, CCE, seed companies, and seed library participants. Along with the seeds themselves you will find directions for taking and donating seeds, as well as an abundance of information on seed viability, seeds saving, seed starting at home, gardening, and much more.

## **WYOMING COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION NOW OPEN**

Call Don Gasiewicz @ 585 786-2251 or email [drg35@cornell.edu](mailto:drg35@cornell.edu) for Application Packet.

Wyoming County Farm Bureau will award 1 \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior or college student for the current school year. Scholarships may be applied to tuition, housing, books and other educational expenses.

### **To be eligible, applicant MUST:**

- Reside in Wyoming County, New York and have a parent and/or guardian that is a NY Farm Bureau member
- Be a high school senior enrolled in an approved/ accredited college or university; OR
- Be a full-time student attending an approved/ accredited college, university or vocational/ technical program; OR
- Be under 21 years of age and attending or planning to attend a CDL course in 2025
- Be pursuing an agricultural or agribusiness degree or career.

### **Rules:**

- Winner must be enrolled in an approved/ accredited college, university, technical/vocational program, or a CDL drivers class and be a full-time student each semester, unless an exception is requested in writing and approved.
- Application must be typed.
- All application materials must be received by Don Gasiewicz by May 6, 2025. Mailing address: Wyoming County CCE attn. Don Gasiewicz 36 Center St. Ste. B, Warsaw, NY 14569. Email: [drg35@cornell.edu](mailto:drg35@cornell.edu) – Title – Farm Bureau Scholarship
- The Wyoming County Farm Bureau Scholarship Committee will make the final determination on all cases concerning the interpretation of these rules. All applications become the property of the Wyoming County Farm Bureau and any content may be used in press releases.
- Winner must mail/email a copy of their academic transcript to Wyoming County Farm Bureau after completion of the Fall 2025 semester. Wyoming County Farm Bureau will review the transcript to verify winner has completed the semester in good academic standing (GPA 2.0 or higher), at which point the scholarship will be paid out to the winner.



# THE MAPLE REPORT

Caron Gala, CCE Director

Reference: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0889157520302180>

<https://extension.usu.edu/forestry/publications/utah-forest-facts/044-maple-sap-processing>

One of my favorite books growing up was “Miracles on Maple Hill” by Virginia Sorensen, published in 1956. My experience of losing my father at a young age drove me to seek a miracle cure, much like Marly, in the book, who hopes that moving to Maple Hill will help her father heal from his wartime experiences.

Fast-forward to today: Wyoming County ranks #1 in New York for maple production, with 320,339 maple taps and 115,000 gallons of maple syrup produced—making it the 10th most productive county for maple syrup nationwide, with sales hitting \$4 million in 2022 (NASS, 2022). Maple syrup is primarily made from sap from sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and the sap flows for four to six weeks in early spring.

My husband and I had the chance to meet some maple producers from Wyoming County during the last day of Maple Weekend 2025. We learned about tapping and tubing from Brandon George at Southburg Maple, discovered the history of maple syrup education at CCE Wyoming with J&J Bray and Norm Ameis from J&J Maple, and explored filtering and reverse osmosis processes with Tim Wolcott at Wolcott Maple Equipment & Products. We also gained insight into the boiling process from Hamilton Sage at Sage Family Maple, LLC.

Adam Wild, co-director of the Cornell Maple Program, noted that this past winter was consistently cold, leading to a traditional maple season reminiscent of over 50 years ago when the season began in March. The cold winter and deep snowpack insulated the ground, allowing for better sap flow, as frozen soil restricts water uptake by the roots. However, a rapid thaw later on limited sap flow and pressured producers to collect and store sap quickly.

Once raw sap is collected, it is filtered to remove solids and inhibit bacteria before undergoing a reverse osmosis (RO) process that reduces water content. The RO saves precious labor and time. The remaining sap is then boiled, sieved, and filtered again to ensure a high-quality product.

Maple syrup, a healthier alternative to refined sugar, contains beneficial minerals and bioactive phenols. While taste is the primary factor for most consumers, research has shown that syrup’s mineral components and phenolic content vary throughout the season. Early-season syrup tends to be golden or amber, while late-season syrup is darker. Research indicates that early syrup contains more vanillin and syringic compounds, while late-season syrup has higher levels of protocatechuic acid, all of which may offer anti-inflammatory properties.

Given the importance of maple syrup production in Wyoming County, our experienced Agriculture Program Manager, Don Gasiewicz, is set to lead our Maple Program moving forward. With his background in natural resources and forestry and knowledge of maple production, he will be gathering feedback on what programs maple producers seek. Tentative topics for this year include:

- Confectionary discussion and workshop (May 9),
- Hands-on maple tubing installation (Fall), and
- Marketing maple products and social media.

Visits also revealed a preference for more social media instructional videos and tours. We welcome your thoughts on these initiatives.

To round out our trip, we bought some thank-you gifts and goodies at Maple Moon Farms, LLC - Hofheins Maple, enjoyed a fabulous view at Boxler Maple, and joined an informative tour at Merle Maple Farm. We may have enjoyed ourselves a little too much because we also got some maple cotton candy from Kirsch Maple, pancakes at Sweet Time Maple, and delicious chili and maple corn muffins at Kibler’s Sugar Shanty, where I also picked up some of Lin’s Maple Treats. What can I say!? We love Maple.

Maple Weekend is an experience that every American would appreciate. Thank you to all who shared their knowledge and stories with us.



# Starting Plants Indoors

Steve Reiners, Professor, Horticulture, SIPS, Cornell University, Cornell AgriTech

A big mistake gardeners make is starting their transplants too early. The table below provides guidance on when you should start them. It assumes a last frost date of May 20th. If your last frost date is earlier or later, add to or subtract from the optimum planting dates to compensate for the difference.

**Table 1. When to start vegetables indoors and optimum temperatures for growth**

| Vegetable         | Outside Transplanting Date | Transplants, Indoor Planting date | Weeks Needed | Optimum Daytime Temperature (°F) |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Broccoli – spring | 4/15 to 5/15               | 3/5 to 4/5                        | 6-7          | 65-70                            |
| Broccoli - fall   | 7/20 to 8/15               | 6/15 to 7/10                      | 5-6          | 65-70                            |
| Brussels sprouts  | 6/10 to 7/1                | 5/1 to 5/20                       | 6-7          | 65-70                            |
| Cabbage           | 5/1 to 7/10                | 3/25 to 6/1                       | 5-6          | 65-70                            |
| Cauliflower- fall | 7/1 to 7/20                | 5/20 to 6/10                      | 5-6          | 65-70                            |
| Cucumber          | 5/25 to 7/15               | 5/5 to 6/25                       | 3            | 70-75                            |
| Eggplant          | 6/1 to 6/15                | 4/10 to 4/25                      | 7-8          | 70-75                            |
| Lettuce - spring  | 4/10 to 5/15               | 3/5 to 4/10                       | 5-6          | 65-70                            |
| Lettuce - fall    | 8/1 to 8/30                | 6/25 to 7/25                      | 5-6          | 65-70                            |
| Muskmelon         | 6/1 to 6/15                | 5/10 to 5/25                      | 3            | 70-75                            |
| Onions - bulb     | 4/15 to 6/1                | 2/15 to 4/1                       | 8-9          | 65-70                            |
| Peppers           | 6/1 to 6/20                | 4/10 to 4/30                      | 7-8          | 70-75                            |
| Squash, summer    | 5/25 to 7/15               | 5/5 to 6/25                       | 3            | 70-75                            |
| Squash, winter    | 5/25 to 6/20               | 5/5 to 6/1                        | 3            | 70-75                            |
| Tomato            | 5/25 to 6/20               | 4/10 to 5/5                       | 6-7          | 70-75                            |
| Watermelon*       | 6/1 to 6/15                | 5/10 to 5/25                      | 3            | 70-75                            |

\*If seedless, will require heat mats and 85°F to germinate

**Soils** – Use a synthetic seed starting mix containing peat moss or coconut coir, perlite, vermiculite and usually a little fertilizer. Don't use your garden soil or compost as it may contain plant diseases like damping off, which will kill your seedlings.

**Containers** – Lots of choices. You can buy plastic flats/plugs that vary in size that can be reused after cleaning. Or you can use egg cartons, cups, or 'peat pots'. If making your own, make sure it has drainage holes.

**Labels** – Small plants look alike. And even larger plants like cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage are hard to tell apart. Label everything using a permanent marker.

**Start warm** – Vegetable seeds don't need light to germinate. Place flats/containers in the warmest part of your house, even if it is a dark closet. Most seeds prefer 75°F to sprout. Check twice daily and move under lights as soon as the plants break the surface. Lower temperatures are better for growth (see table above).

**Lights** – A sunny windowsill will not provide enough light. Use fluorescent or LED lights and place 2-3 inches above plants. Put the lights on a timer and aim for 14 to 16 hours of light.

**Water** – When the soil starts to dry, water lightly until you see water start to run out the bottom. How often depends on the humidity, air temperature and soil texture.

**Fans** – Use a small fan to lightly blow the plants. It helps dry the soil, reduces humidity and creates a stockier plant by thickening stems. Use a timer and have it on every two hours for 10 minutes.

**Fertilize** – Most mixes have some fertilizer to start, and the seed provides nutrition for the first 7 to 10 days. Use a half strength soluble fertilizer once a week once plants have two true leaves.

**Hardening** – Get the plants acclimated to outdoor conditions. Stop fertilizing two weeks before planting, move them outside for a few hours per day and let the soil dry out a bit more between waterings.



## Small Ruminant Parasite Management and Husbandry



**Saturday, May 31, 2025**  
**10:00am- 3:00pm**

Wyoming County Ag & Business Center  
36 Center Street, Warsaw, Learning Center Room 1



**Register:** [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/small-ruminants-WYCO-2025\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/small-ruminants-WYCO-2025_256)

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Wyoming County and NWN Dairy, Field Crops, and Livestock Regional Team are hosting a workshop with Jessica Waltemyer, CCE Small Ruminant Extension Specialist from the Cornell's PRO-LIVESTOCK team.

**Parasite management and husbandry techniques are important for livestock health and well-being as well as for profitability.**

- **Parasite Management:** Fecal egg counts (FEC) can identify parasite loads in sheep and goats. Jessica will have equipment to perform the modified McMaster FEC technique, which helps producers make informed decisions and reduces the unnecessary use of chemicals that may cause resistant parasites.
- **Husbandry Techniques:** Producers will learn and participate in the Five Point Check, a comprehensive health evaluation tool incorporating FEC data, FAMACHA® scoring, and visual assessments such as body condition and fecal consistency scoring.

**Participants will become FAMACHA® certified. Registration is limited to 25 participants. FAMACHA® cards may be purchased for \$20 each, one per farm. Bring a fecal sample for egg counts.**

Jessica Waltemyer brings nearly two decades of experience working on small ruminant. She worked at Cornell University's Animal Science Department, where she managed Cornell's 250-head sheep flock, developed research projects, and instructed multiple animal handling courses.

**Participants are encouraged to brown bag their own lunch.**  
**\$10/person, \$15 per family/farm. Please bring cash the day-of.**  
**Cookies and coffee will be available.**



Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County

**Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

Resources: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/smallruminantparasites/>



## CCE Wyoming County Agriculture Program 2025 Strategic Plan Brown Bag Sessions



**CCE Wyoming County**

**12:00-1:00 PM**



Wyoming County Ag & Business Center  
36 Center Street, Warsaw, Learning Center Room 1

- Thurs., April 24 - Vegetable Production
- Tues., April 29 - Food Security/Markets/Infrastructure
- Thurs., May 1 - Dairy/Beef/Small Ruminant, Farm Planning
- Tues., May 6 - Community Gardening and Engagement
- Thurs., May 8 - High Tunnel Management + Fruit/Berries

**Please sign up for the brown bags by filling out this form or call**  
**[https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b1T8x6tgd45QHum](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b1T8x6tgd45QHum)**

Attend via Zoom,  
phone, or in-person!



**We will send you a calendar request/information as soon as we get your registration! We will serve cookies and coffee. Please bring your lunch if attending in person.**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Caron Gala, Executive Director of CCE Wyoming County at [ceg256@cornell.edu](mailto:ceg256@cornell.edu) or call 585-786-2251.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County

## Introduction to Sensor Technologies in Agricultural Production



**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**  
**6:00-8:00 PM ET**

Wyoming County Ag & Business Center  
36 Center Street, Warsaw, Learning Center Room 1

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County will host a basic, hands-on training about sensor technologies in agricultural production.



**Join us for a 2-hour session focused on sensors, computer programs, and robotics in managing agricultural and horticultural production.**

REGISTER HERE: [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/sensors-WYCO-1\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/sensors-WYCO-1_256)

On May 28, CCE Wyoming County will host

- Dr. Hunter Adams, Lecturer in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell University
- Dr. Jonathan Jaramillo, Lecturer in the Systems Engineering Program at Cornell University

Hunter and Jonathan specialize in robotics, sensor technology, and the geographic management of water, nutrients, and livestock. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn in either an adult group or a youth group.



Each group will participate in a one-hour session led by Hunter and Jonathan. During these sessions, they will explain how sensor technology works based on the application areas they work in. They will demonstrate applications and discuss innovative strategies that managers can use to improve efficiencies of managing livestock, field crops, and horticultural crops. Each hour will include hands-on learning experiences.

*This is the first in a series of workshops that CCE Wyoming County is offering to "get our hands dirty" by learning about and utilizing sensor technologies.*

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.

## The Game of Logging Training Chainsaw Safety Training Level 1

**Monday, May 12, 2025**

**8:00am - 4:30pm**

Tentative location - Merle's, Attica, NY

**Discounted Cost: \$75.00**

*Session will be offered at ½ price with CCE Wyoming covering the balance.*

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County will host Game of Logging Training Chainsaw Safety - Level 1.

The Game of Logging (GOL) is widely acknowledged as the premier chainsaw safety and productivity training program in the country, offering hands on chainsaw safety training in a competitive environment.

Level 1 focuses on introducing the participant to open face felling and the development of techniques to safely use it. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength.

**Instructor: Bill Lindloff of Procuts**

Pre-Registration is required by calling CCE Wyoming County at 585-786-2251 or email [wyoymingcountycce@cornell.edu](mailto:wyoymingcountycce@cornell.edu)

**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.



# DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN INSPIRES OVER 400 ATTENDEES AT PERRY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Perry, NY: Over 400 attendees, primarily producers and livestock raisers, gathered at Perry Senior High School for an inspiring talk by Dr. Temple Grandin, an internationally renowned professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Dr. Grandin is widely recognized for her groundbreaking contributions to livestock handling, animal welfare, and autism awareness.

The event was made possible through a collaboration between the Wyoming County Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension – Wyoming County, and the Perry Central School District.

During the event, Dr. Grandin captivated the audience with her insights on animal handling. She emphasized the importance of understanding livestock flight zones and handler positioning to ensure cattle's humane and efficient movement. Dr. Grandin urged attendees to view facilities from the animals' perspective and shared the personal experience that shaped her work, which included visiting 20 feedlots during a transformative summer in Arizona early in her career.

In a discussion with Caron Gala, Executive Director of the Wyoming County Cooperative Extension, Dr. Grandin provided valuable commentary on technological advancements in livestock transport, facility design, sensor technologies, artificial intelligence in the dairy industry, and drone monitoring for herding.

She said that, above all, management is the most important component of an operation. "What would I rather have a state-of-the-art facility with bad management or make it just an all-right average facility with superb management.?" Dr. Grandin said rhetorically, "I'll take the average facility with superb management.," Now, you do have to have at least adequate facilities."

"Wyoming County is a county of innovators and tinkerers," said Caron Gala. "We need to develop programs that cater to these thinkers."



Dr. Temple Grandin,  
Colorado State University  
and Caron Gala, Cornell  
Cooperative Extension –  
Wyoming County

"Yes, we need to consider mechanical aptitude, not just the mathematical aspects of engineering and design," Dr. Grandin noted, highlighting the importance of diverse thinking in problem-solving. She referenced her designs as evidence that visual thinkers possess significant problem-solving skills that are as important as mathematical ones. "Please follow the drawing on my website; please don't modify it, as you will just mess it up," Dr. Grandin advised.

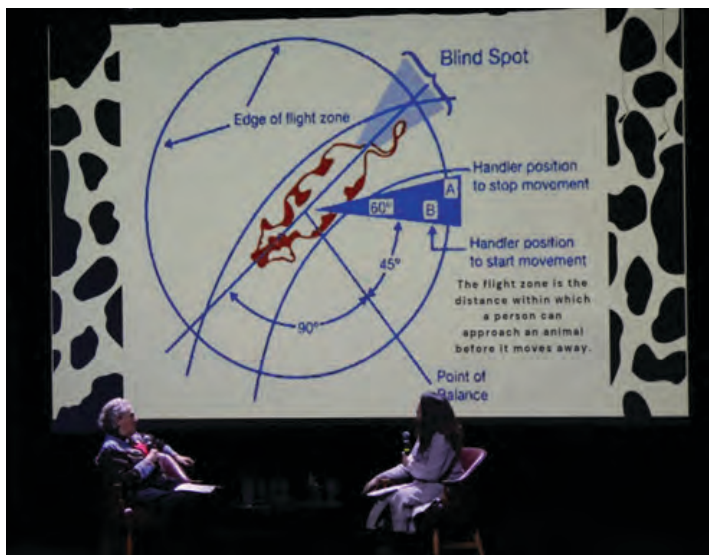
Dr. Grandin's innovative design drawings for livestock facilities, available on her website (<https://www.grandin.com/>) and in her books, have revolutionized the meat industry and influenced the welfare auditing systems for major brands such as McDonald's and Wendy's.

She also pointed out that 4-H and Cooperative Extension are excellent venues for hands-on learning. "These activities are beneficial for kids who think differently. When I was bullied in school, I took horseback riding with 4-H; it was the one place where I could escape that," Dr. Grandin stated.

Wyoming County proudly thanks Dr. Temple Grandin for her remarkable contributions to the industry and her ongoing commitment to shaping the future of animal agriculture.



Dr. Temple Grandin,  
Caron Gala, Lynnell  
Schreiber (President  
of Wyoming County  
Farm Bureau), Noelle  
Milhollen, Hannah  
Rowley, Hayden Ayers,  
Emily Harwood







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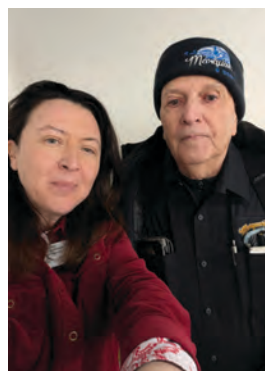


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Dr. Temple Grandin visits Wyoming County on March 28th.

Thank you to Derek Rechberger, Marty Krause and Ron Hotis for  
your time and resources hosting workshops this winter!



# Growing Mushrooms at Home

by: Don Gasiewicz

CCE Wyoming Counties outdoor mushroom growing workshop continues to be popular. Our next mushroom workshop on 4/25 is already beginning to fill up. Most attendees, past and present, are gardeners and hobbyists interested in trying their luck cultivating fungus for the first time. In talking with folks, mushroom production can be intimidating due to the fact there are wild inedible and poisonous mushrooms growing naturally in our ecosystem. My hope with this class is to spread the word that cultivated edible mushrooms are vastly different than the wild dangerous inedible mushrooms. Planting mushrooms at home is simple, economical, and a rewarding addition to your home gardening adventures. Mushrooms are a great nutritional addition and provide a cultivation opportunity when it's a little too early to be out working in the vegetable or flower garden.

For those who have attended a past mushroom workshop and to those who may not have had the opportunity, I felt it necessary to provide some answers to some of the most asked questions. Before doing so I'll give a little context to the mushroom cultivation process we cover and provide some resources on where to go to get all your mushroom cultivation questions answered.

The mushrooms we educate on in this spring workshop are grown outdoors on wood. That wood is typically planted (inoculated) in the spring as well. For the most part these mushrooms will not be confused with common dangerous mushrooms, simply because they grow on a wood substrate. Growing mushrooms outdoors is one cultivation method. Mushrooms can also be grown indoors. Indoor mushroom production requires more input than outdoor. Great information, including videos, on all aspects of mushroom cultivation can be found at <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/mushrooms/>

**Q:** Where do you get materials to grow mushrooms?

**A:** All mushroom growing supplies, including tools, come from mushroom cultivation supply companies. Many have become a one stop shop and can mail you almost everything, depending on your cultivation method. A list of suppliers can be found on the website above.

**Q:** Since the mushrooms grow on wood can I use old down trees and logs from my woods.

**A:** No. The mushrooms require a clean substrate to grow on and consume. Optimally, you want to choose fresh dormant wood as a suitable species for the type of mushroom you want to grow. Old wood is likely compromised by natural fungi and moisture levels are not optimal for growth.

**Q:** How do we know the mushrooms that grow aren't poisonous?

**A:** The reason we use fresh wood is to minimize competitive fungus. You are putting a large amount of mushroom spawn in each log, so the log gets colonized by the cultivated variety. There is a minute chance an alternative species will be able to survive and compete with the favorable species.

**Q:** What species of wood can be used to grow mushrooms?

**A:** Each type of mushroom can grow on several wood species, but each mushroom has a preferred species or two, in which they are more successful and produce prolifically. You can find a list of wood types each mushroom prefers at the website above, as well as in many of the mushroom supply company catalogs and websites. These lists are typically ranked from most suitable to least suitable.

## MYCOLOGY 101

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/mushrooms/>

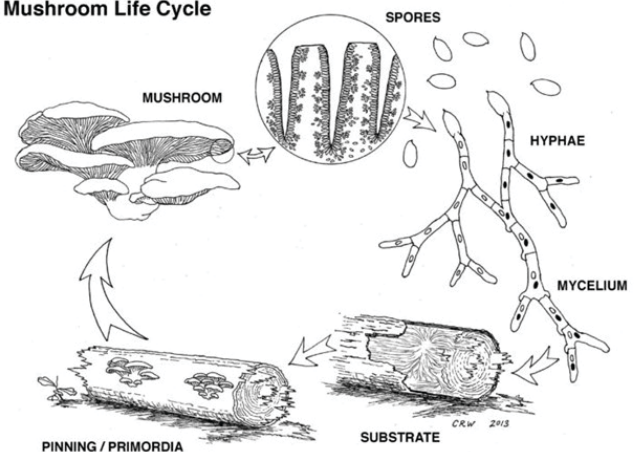
Mushroom forming fungi are a subset of the fungal kingdom that include an estimated 1.5 - 5 million species.

About 20,000 species of fruiting mushrooms have been identified, of those only 200 species have been cultivated, with about 20 reaching large scale cultivation. There is plenty of room for discovery in both the field of taxonomy and cultivation when it comes to mushroom producing fungi.

All mushrooms are fungi, but not all fungi are mushrooms!

The word mushroom refers to the fruiting body of certain fungi that can be seen by the naked eye and picked by hand.

Mushroom Life Cycle



Continued on page 15...



Continued from page 14...

Mushrooms can grow from many different substrates and occupy many different ecological niches. There are countless different shapes, colors, and morphological characteristics that mushrooms express. Many times mushrooms have a very short lifespan so they can be difficult to study in the field. A mushroom is only one piece of the larger fungal life cycle. (See image on page 14).

The main body of the organism is known as mycelium, which grows in multiple directions as it seeks food to digest. All fungi digest food in their environment with enzymes that are produced by the mycelium. Mycelium only has one cell wall so it is extremely sensitive to moisture loss. Because of this to find mycelium in the wild you need to roll over logs or dig into the leaves where moisture content is higher.

Mycelium is what cultivators need to grow before fruiting mushrooms. Any good tomato grower knows they need to grow healthy plants to produce beautiful tomatoes. Likewise a mushroom farmer must cultivate healthy mycelium FIRST and then create a favorable environment for mushrooms to fruit.

When the environmental conditions are right, mycelium will form mushrooms. Some fungi are very particular in what they need to switch over from mycelial growth to producing a mushroom. The most commonly cultivated mushrooms do not require much to induce fruiting. The mushroom's main role in the life cycle is to produce spores.

Spores are similar to seeds in that they are the reproductive elements of the organism. They are microscopic packets of genetic material that are distributed by insects, rain, wind to hopefully find a new food source. Spores are produced by mushrooms in the tens of thousands. In fact every breath we take on this planet we inhale mushroom spores.



# GROWING MUSHROOMS AT HOME

**Friday, April 25, 2025**

**4:00PM - Indoor Presentation**

**5:15pm - Outdoor Inoculation**

**Wyoming County Ag & Business Center,  
36 Center Street, Warsaw, Learning Center Room 1**

**Don Gasiewicz, Ag Program Manager, Cornell**

Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County will be teaching how to grow your own edible mushrooms at home! He will cover the basics on how to grow shiitake, lions mane, oyster, wine cap, and nameko mushrooms.

This presentation is designed for those who wish to produce on a hobby level, but will provide detail and resources to address commercial cultivation practices. Following a presentation on home-grown mushroom cultivation techniques and log maintenance, we will inoculate logs with mycelium that will produce edible gourmet Shiitake mushrooms for years.

You will be able to take your own Shiitake log home - this project can get messy so dress accordingly.

**All materials provided.**

*Prepaid registration required. Class size is limited to 30 participants.  
Register early, Class fills quickly!*

Registration form - Mail with payment to CCE Wyoming County, 36  
Center St, Suite B, Warsaw, NY 14569 OR  
Register online at:  
[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/MushroomInoculation2025\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/MushroomInoculation2025_256)  
OR by phone at 585-786-2251

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**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.*



# BIRD HISTORY...AND A SEMINAR!

BY MASTER GARDENER

There's probably no better or beautiful sign of spring in the bird world than the arrival of the Eastern Bluebird – our NYS Bird!

You may not have ever seen a Bluebird, but you probably have, but just didn't realize that's what it was because you weren't close enough to see its color. A Bluebird is a sparrow-sized bird – not to be confused with the much bigger and bolder Blue Jay.

The Bluebird is a member of the Thrush family of birds – just like the American Robin is. These birds eat insects and other grubs and worms. Robins and Bluebirds do eat seeds in the form of Sumac seeds and various wild and ornamental berries such as crabapples, winterberry, June berry, mountain ash, and several others. They do not eat wild bird seed. Feeding mealworms – especially live ones – is a good way to attract Bluebirds to your yard.

Bluebirds prefer to feed and nest in open country areas such as pastures, lawns, golf courses, or places with short grass and scattered trees. Long ago, before we humans started putting up Bluebird nest boxes, Bluebirds nested in hollow cavities on farms that had open pastures with hollow wooden fenceposts and the older version of apple trees that often had natural hollow cavities. Well, agriculture has changed significantly over the last several decades!

Today it's hard to find a pasture with hollow wooden fenceposts or an old apple orchard with hollow trees which were perfect places for the Bluebirds to nest in. Furthermore, if there are hollows, invasive species of birds often take those available nest sites.

Today there are fewer and fewer dairy farms – and most dairy cattle are kept inside all day long. Do you ever see dairy cattle out on pasture anymore? So, there are hardly any fences with hollow fenceposts! The good news is that fenceposts today make a good place on which to mount a man-made Bluebird nest box. Bluebirds require a hollow cavity, unlike their cousins the robins which nest on branches and ledges.

Yes, the Bluebird population took a major nose dive in the mid-20th century and started rebounding in the 70's and 80's due to the placement of nest boxes. Today, it is likely that well over 90% of all bluebirds either use a nest box or were raised in a nest box! This is a great example of human intervention and citizen science successfully bringing back a distressed bird population. And these Bluebirds will need us well into the future. Bluebirds are thriving. So, there's a little history. From here on, it's our duty

as homeowners and conservationists to keep helping the Bluebirds with our continued providing of Bluebird nest boxes. We need to teach our next generations how easy it is to help the Bluebirds!

You can read much more on Bluebirds in many publications but especially the NYS Bluebird Society's (NYSBBS) website. I'm very active with the NYSBBS and we are always looking for new members to support this most beautiful bird!

Right now, is the beginning of Bluebird nesting season and the season will last well into summer. If Bluebirds have no interruptions in nesting, they generally will have 3 broods; however, interruptions are a major challenge for Bluebirds. If a pair can successfully have one or two broods, that's great. Bluebirds' competition is from English (House)

Sparrows – vicious predators of the Bluebirds as they fight for nesting sites.

There is so much to learn about Bluebirds, but a good start is to at least get a couple of bluebird nest boxes for your yard as long as you have plenty of open space away from hedgerows and shrubbery. Once you become Bluebird "landlords" you learn so much more and can refer to several Bluebird resources or you can reach out to me for help! We have barely scratched the surface on Bluebirds, but once you get started, you'll be hooked and will learn so much! Even if you have experiences with Bluebirds, there's always more to learn – I'm still learning all the time!

**Bluebird Seminar! On Saturday morning April 12th from 9 till 11.** I will be hosting a Bluebird Seminar here at our home farm at 6340 LaGrange Road, Wyoming, NY 14591. There is no fee for attending nor is pre-registration required. Cancelled only if very inclement weather!

Bring a friend and your questions. We will cover many Bluebird topics and will watch Bluebirds (and other birds) in action! Any questions about Bluebirds or the Seminar feel free to reach out to me via text or cell at 585-813-2676.

Think Spring – Think Bluebirds! See you soon!







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# DHIA REPORTS

JANUARY 2025

FEBRUARY 2025



#### File for Wyoming County NY January 2025

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

""COVISTA HOLSTEINS""; 33643, 1496, 4.4, 1091, 3.2  
""PINGREY, DONALD""; 30094, 1316, 4.4, 995, 3.3  
""ARMSON FARMS""; 29329, 1326, 4.5, 953, 3.2  
""SILVER HAVEN FARMS""; 28868, 1258, 4.4, 950, 3.3  
""SILVER HAVEN FARMS""; 27245, 1222, 4.5, 916, 3.4  
""FARYNA, WALTER""; 27335, 1125, 4.1, 873, 3.2  
""BOLDER DAIRY BECKER FARM""; 27282, 1312, 4.8, 848, 3.1  
""RUDGERS REGISTERED JERSEY""; 21949, 1123, 5.1, 821, 3.7  
""PINGREY DAIRY FARM LLC""; 25205, 1093, 4.3, 812, 3.2  
""SILVER HAVEN FARMS""; 20317, 1067, 5.3, 768, 3.8  
""CHAMBERLAIN, DAVE & GREG""; 20061, 1099, 5.5, 738, 3.7  
""SALTY ACRES FARM LLC""; 22645, 956, 4.2, 724, 3.2  
""LEX NICKERSON""; 18815, 813, 4.3, 621, 3.3

#### File for Wyoming County NY February 2025

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

""COVISTA HOLSTEINS""; 33489, 1486, 4.4, 1089, 3.3  
""PINGREY, DONALD""; 29933, 1314, 4.4, 994, 3.3  
""SILVER HAVEN FARMS""; 29178, 1270, 4.4, 961, 3.3  
""ARMSON FARMS""; 29435, 1334, 4.5, 958, 3.3  
""SILVER HAVEN FARMS""; 27499, 1232, 4.5, 925, 3.4  
""FARYNA, WALTER""; 27738, 1135, 4.1, 884, 3.2  
""BOLDER DAIRY BECKER FARM""; 27303, 1323, 4.8, 855, 3.1  
""RUDGERS REGISTERED JERSEY""; 21962, 1123, 5.1, 819, 3.7  
""PINGREY DAIRY FARM LLC""; 25205, 1093, 4.3, 812, 3.2  
""SANDIMEADOWS DAIRY LLC""; 23577, 1040, 4.4, 798, 3.4  
""SILVER HAVEN FARMS""; 20476, 1076, 5.3, 773, 3.8  
""CHAMBERLAIN, DAVE & GREG""; 20061, 1099, 5.5, 738, 3.7  
""SALTY ACRES FARM LLC""; 22645, 956, 4.2, 724, 3.2  
""LEX NICKERSON""; 18807, 819, 4.4, 624, 3.3



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Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

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**Session Three: Grazing Management Strategies & Weed & Pest Management**

**4/16**

**Session Four: Manure & Nutrient Cycling & Seasonal & Long-Term Pasture Maintenance**

**4/30**

**Session Five: Real-World Applications \*on-farm site TBD\* & Expert Insights & Conclusion & Actionable Steps**

# AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE, THE POULTRY PERSPECTIVE

*Nancy Glazier*

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza continues to cause major losses. As of April 4, 37.93 million birds have been affected by the disease so far in 2025. Since the start of the outbreak in February 2022, over 168 million birds have been affected in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. That's a lot of lost birds.

Where does New York fit into the outbreak? There have been 27 confirmed cases since January 1 and 53 flocks since the beginning of this outbreak in February 2022. The biggest loss was to a duck farm on Long Island where 101,000 ducks were euthanized in January this year. They had been in business since 1908 and are unsure if they will restart the farm after this devastating loss. This farm practiced stellar biosecurity, and they are unsure how the ducks became infected.

The NYC live bird markets have had several outbreaks so far this year. The first started early February. February 7 all bird markets were shut down by NY Ag & Markets so they could be sold down, cleaned, disinfected, and remain empty for 5 days. This order impacted approximately 80 markets. Outbreaks were again detected and confirmed March 3-10 in Kings, Queens, Bronx, Richmond, Counties, and again starting March 26-April 2. There was an outbreak of the live bird market in Syracuse, too, in March.

There have also been recent cases in backyard flocks in Ulster, Delaware, Putnam, Suffolk, Madison, and Westchester Counties this year.

Mortalities in disease outbreaks need to be handled carefully and properly. Current control is euthanasia. Disposal is either by composting on-site or sent to landfills.

What's odd about this outbreak? There has only been one month in the past 38 months when there has not been a confirmed case in poultry across the country. There were no outbreaks in NY for 11 months, February 2024-January 2025.

Remember to practice food safety with poultry to always cook eggs and meat to 165 degrees. This ensures that no virus will survive.

Always practice biosecurity if you have poultry or will be visiting poultry farms.

- Discourage unnecessary visitors and use biosecurity signs to warn people not to enter buildings without permission.
- Ask all visitors if they have had any contact with any birds in the past five days.
- Forbid entry to employees and visitors who own any kind of fowl.
- Require all visitors to cover and disinfect all footwear.
- Lock all entrances to chicken houses after hours.
- Avoid non-essential vehicular traffic on-farm.
- After hauling birds to processors, clean and disinfect poultry transport coops and vehicles before they return to the farm.
- Report anything unusual, especially sick or dead birds, to Ag & Markets.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, poultry owners should keep their birds away from wild ducks and geese and their droppings. Outdoor access for poultry should be limited. Be cautious walking fields with migrating waterfowl. Clean your boots when returning to the farm. Thankfully, the waterfowl migration this spring is winding down. There is potential risk yet from resident Canada geese that may have visited the same fields as the migratory birds. This risk will decline as we get into warmer and sunnier weather conditions.

To report sick domestic birds, unexplained high number of deaths, or sudden drop in egg production, please contact the Department's Division of Animal Industry at 518-457-3502 or the USDA at 866-536-7593. If you find sick or dead wild birds call NYS DEC at 518-402-8883, or report on their online form, <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/dee381c0ee8a4114a83dc1892fc0f7ed>. Do not pick up any dead birds (wild or domestic) without personal protective equipment – gloves, mask, eye protection, and boots. Clean and wash thoroughly when done. You are the best protection to keep your birds safe from disease.







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| <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"/> Food Preservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Production     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Crops                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Certification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry / Natural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Season Extension        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Gardening               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Fruit              |
|   | <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

## Dairy manure management – an update on the basics of manure composition and practices

By Lauren Ray, Sr. Extension Associate, Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY



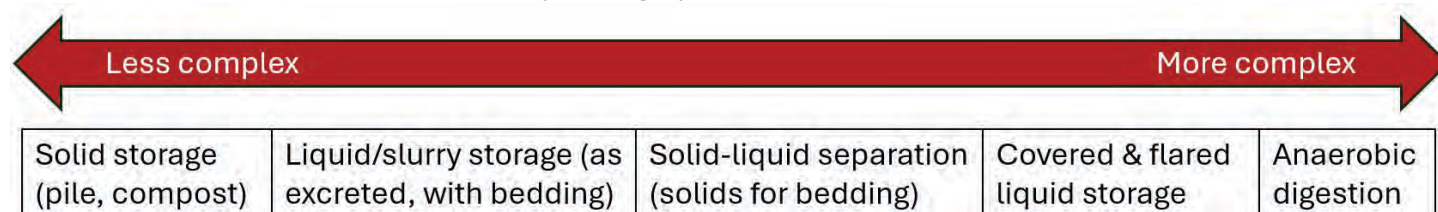
One thing we can be sure of is that dairy production efficiency continues to climb year over year. That means we are getting more milk from each cow and herd. So how does that affect the manure composition and production? Table 1 provides daily cattle (dairy and beef livestock) manure production and analysis, including the impact of dairy lactating cow milk production efficiency.

Table 1. Daily cattle manure production and analysis (all units per head, as excreted).  
Reference: *Manure Basics* by T. Terry and P. Wright, Oct 2020, <https://hdl.handle.net/1813/102718>.

| Animal            | Body Weight<br>(lbs.) | Total Manure<br>(lbs.) | Nutrient Content (lbs.) |                               |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
|                   |                       |                        | N                       | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O |
| Dairy             |                       |                        |                         |                               |                  |
| Calf              | 250                   | 20                     | 0.11                    | 0.02                          | 0.09             |
| Heifer            | 1000                  | 60                     | 0.30                    | 0.10                          | 0.31             |
| Lactating Cow:    |                       |                        |                         |                               |                  |
| 75 lbs. milk/day  | 1400                  | 143                    | 0.93                    | 0.48                          | 0.53             |
| 100 lbs. milk/day | 1400                  | 160                    | 1.04                    | 0.54                          | 0.59             |
| 125 lbs. milk/day | 1400                  | 177                    | 1.15                    | 0.60                          | 0.65             |
| Dry cow           | 1700                  | 87                     | 0.51                    | 0.18                          | 0.40             |
| Veal              | 250                   | 6.6                    | 0.03                    | 0.02                          | 0.05             |
| Beef              |                       |                        |                         |                               |                  |
| Calf              | 450                   | 48                     | 0.20                    | 0.09                          | 0.16             |
| Finishing         | 1100                  | 54                     | 0.40                    | 0.12                          | 0.25             |
| Cow               | 1000                  | 92                     | 0.35                    | 0.18                          | 0.29             |

Dairy manure management practices are also changing rapidly, although still rooted in the water quality best management practice (BMP) of long-term storage of manure to manage nutrient application on the landscape. All NY concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), qualified as managing 300 or more mature animals, are required to maintain comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs) written by state-AEM Certified Planners that prescribe how the farm's manure may be land-applied based on CAFO regulations. No farms of any size are permitted to impact NY's water resources. Non-CAFO dairy operations can get funded assistance with developing a CNMP and implementing BMPs through the [Dairy Advancement Program](#) (email: [dap@cornell.edu](mailto:dap@cornell.edu)).

Dairy farms have several options for managing manure that can benefit their operation in a sustainable way (Figure). All of these are currently being used within NY and more information on each is available on [PRO-DAIRY's website](#), which is always being updated with new research and case studies.





# THE BEE REPORT

## How to Capture and Manage Swarms

Swarming is a significant challenge in bee management, impacting honey production and pollination services. It typically occurs in strong colonies that begin by the queen laying fertile eggs in queen cups. About 16 days after laying, new queens emerge, and workers collect honey before a swarm leaves the hive, often clustering nearby.

While swarming may seem problematic, it signifies a healthy colony and is essential for population growth. Key factors influencing swarming include the colony's brood and adult population, queen substance availability, and hive environment.

Preventive measures to avoid queen cell development include:

- Providing ample space for egg laying in the brood nest.
- Ensuring sufficient nectar storage from late April to mid-August.
- Maximizing sunlight exposure early in the season while providing shade later.
- Ensuring good ventilation.
- Using young queens in colonies.
- Removing queen cells as they appear.

Resources:

U of Delaware: [https://canr.udel.edu/maarec/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2010/03/Swarm\\_Prev\\_Control\\_PM.pdf](https://canr.udel.edu/maarec/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2010/03/Swarm_Prev_Control_PM.pdf)

Cornell CCE: <https://cornell.app.box.com/v/what-to-do-swarm-honey-bees>.

## Fruit Tree Production and Honeybees:

### How to Manage for a Robust Crop

Segment taken from: <https://extension.psu.edu/orchard-pollination-strategies-for-maintaining-pollination-services-in-tree-fruit>

*Because of Wyoming County's unique farming community, in addition to swarm, hive, and honeybee product management, CCE Wyoming County is also going to give the non-honeybee producer some ideas on how to work best with honeybees to maximize crop production.*

Managed honeybees can be essential to supplement the pollination services of wild bees depending on the type of tree fruit that is targeted and the landscape context of the orchard. Apples only need about 2 to 5% of the flowers/tree pollinated, while cherries need 80% of the flowers pollinated.

While the pollination needs of apple, pear, apricot, and peach trees are lower, managed honeybees may be necessary at the center of orchards where wild bees may not be able to fly to (most wild bees have flight ranges of 1,500 ft or less). The number of necessary hives will depend on the size and spatial arrangement of the orchard, but the rule of thumb is, to begin with, one colony per acre and modify as needed.

Strong, healthy colonies are key to maintaining the high pollination activity in tree fruit that is cross-pollination dependent such as sweet cherry and apples. Before, during, and after bloom, pome and stone fruit trees are susceptible to various pests and pathogens that require the application of pesticides and fungicides for effective control.

Insecticides should never be applied during bloom of any fruit crop, and care must be taken to limit petal fall applications to when almost all the bloom is complete, as most orchard pollinators have only a single generation a year and can easily be wiped out from a late pink bloom/king bloom application in apple.

When pollination relied on honeybees that can be moved out of the orchards after peak bloom, petal fall was defined as 80% of the flowers falling. However, when relying on alternative managed bees or wild pollinators, a single early petal fall spray on the 20% bloom can wipe out an entire generation of solitary bees Integrated Pest and Pollinator Management (IPPM) is critical.

Orchard Pollination: <https://extension.psu.edu/orchard-pollination-honey-bees>

Tree Fruit Production Guide: <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-fruit-production-guide>

Cornell Hard Cider Resources: <https://hardcider.cals.cornell.edu/>



**Beekeeper Club  
Wyoming County, NY**

**Club Events Occur the Third  
Tuesday of Each Month**

**Free to Join**

Register for the club here:  
[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/beekeeper-WYCO-2025\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/beekeeper-WYCO-2025_256)

The public is welcome to join the Wyoming County, NY Beekeeper Club by registering [here](#) for the 2025 program year. You may register anytime during the year. All events are at Wyoming County Ag & Business Center - 36 Center Street, Warsaw, Learning Center Room 1

Anticipated events:

- **Tues., April 22:** 4:00–5:00 PM ET – Splitting Hives/Swarm Control
- **Tues., May 20:** 4:00–5:30 PM ET – Bee Genetics Discussion
- **Tues., June 24:** 4:00–5:30 PM ET – Yard Walk & Hive Inspection
- **Tues., July 22:** 5:00–6:30 PM ET – Open Discussion
- **Tues., Aug. 5\*:** 5:00–6:30 PM ET – Honey Production & Fair Prep
- **Sept:** No meeting
- **Tues., Oct. 21:** 4:00–5:30 PM ET – Winterizing Hives
- **Tues., Nov. 18:** 5:00–7:00 PM ET – Beekeeping Products & Art

In addition to signing up for the club (no requirements), register for individual events by emailing Caron Gala at [ceg256@cornell.edu](mailto:ceg256@cornell.edu).

Thank you!

\*Note that this meeting is first Tuesday of August.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension | Wyoming County**

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling the 885-786-2251 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.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

| Date              | Event Information<br>(visit <a href="http://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu">wyoming.cce.cornell.edu</a> ) | Event Location                                  |
|-------------------|--|---|
| April 11th        | Garden Talk- Community Gardens   | Warsaw YMCA                                     |
| April 16th        | NWNY Manure and Nutrient Cycling and Seasonal and Long-Term Pasture Maintenance                    | Register on the NWNY Team Page                  |
| April 22nd        | Splitting Hives/Swarm Control  | CCE Wyoming County<br>Warsaw, NY                |
| April 22nd        | Brown Bag Session: Community Gardens & Local Engagement  | CCE Wyoming County<br>Warsaw, NY                |
| April 25th        | Outdoor Mushrooms: Cultivation and Harvesting Class  | CCE Wyoming County<br>Warsaw, NY                |
| April 25th & 26th | NWNY Beef and Dairy Reproduction and AI Training   | Mulligan Farm, Avon                             |
| April TBA         | Energy Informational Session   |   |
| April TBA         | High Tunnel Class: Installing New Plastic on your High Tunnel                                      | CCE Wyoming High tunnel 36<br>Center St. Warsaw |
| April 30th        | NWNY Science Based Strategies for Equine Management<br>Session 5: Real World Applications          | Farm Site TBD                                   |
| May 12th          | Game of Logging Safety Workshop for Safe Timber Harvesting   | Merle Maple                                     |
| May 17th          | Garden Day & Plant Sale  | CCE Wyoming County<br>Warsaw, NY                |
| May 27th          | Using Sensors in Ag. Enterprises w/ Cornell Engineering/<br>CAST for the Farm of the Future        | CALS Cornell                                    |
| May 28th          | Introduction to Sensor Technology and Ag Production  | CCE Wyoming County<br>Warsaw, NY                |
| May 31st          | Ruminant/Livestock w/ Nancy Glazier of CCE NWNY DLFC Team  | CCE Wyoming County<br>Warsaw, NY                |
| May date TBA      | Maple Discussion: Maple Confection   | Merle Maple                                     |

## 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)   |                         |