



North Country Ag Advisor

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

CCE North Country Regional Ag Team

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North Country Ag Advisor

Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin,
Clinton, and Essex Counties

"The North Country Regional Ag Team is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties."

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Our Mission

"The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices, and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry."

Field Crops and Soils

Field Crops, Forage, and Soils Update for NNY

By Kitty O'Neil

NNY Weather Summary for April 1 through October 31, 2019

The 2019 growing season ended on a decidedly wet note. Despite the wet fall, more than half these listed NNY locations have 2019 precipitation totals that are below normal seasonal totals. We generalize about the long, cool, and wet spring that began the 2019 season, but some of the driest locations listed did not experience a wet spring. For those areas, spring was cool but not overly wet, and summer was then drier than normal. Average daily temperatures were well below normal for the season, resulting in base-50 GDD accumulations that are uniformly about 10% low for the season. GDD started off behind schedule and never recovered.



----- Accumulation from April 1 to Oct 31, 2019 -----							
County	Town/Village	--- Precipitation, in ---			- GDD Base 50F -		GDD Base 40F
		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Clinton	Champlain	29.40	-1.16	97	2095	-275	3921
	Ellenburg Depot	27.67	0.66	101	1851	-299	3598
	Beekmantown	26.14	-0.53	93	2141	-253	3970
	Peru	24.16	-0.10	90	2159	-222	3987
Essex	Whallonsburg	31.76	4.46	93	2261	-161	4128
	Ticonderoga	30.39	1.43	90	2343	-192	4223
Franklin	Bombay	27.57	-1.69	101	2023	-254	3844
	Malone	25.60	-3.00	104	1904	-220	3684
	Chateaugay	29.27	0.14	101	1904	-248	3670
Jefferson	Rodman	35.91	6.34	106	2048	-261	3893
	Cape Vincent	28.76	3.80	109	1966	-282	3805
	Evans Mills	34.93	6.60	116	2201	-257	4065
	Redwood	29.76	-0.81	102	2111	-217	3965
	Antwerp	30.51	2.53	103	1985	-258	3805
Lewis	Talcottville	34.23	4.63	107	1781	-158	3560
	Martinsburg	31.77	4.41	105	2027	-166	3885
	Carthage	32.13	4.44	105	2014	-228	3853
St. Lawrence	Gouverneur	28.07	-1.36	107	1897	-253	3705
	Hammond	26.53	-3.01	108	1985	-163	3810
	Ogdensburg	25.78	-3.21	97	1993	-256	3812
	Canton	27.55	-2.80	105	2030	-250	3843
	Madrid	24.55	-4.60	103	1978	-265	3777
	North Lawrence	26.12	-3.49	108	2025	-295	3844
	Louisville	23.37	-7.03	91	1977	-228	3787
Average		28.83	0.28	102	2029	-236	3851

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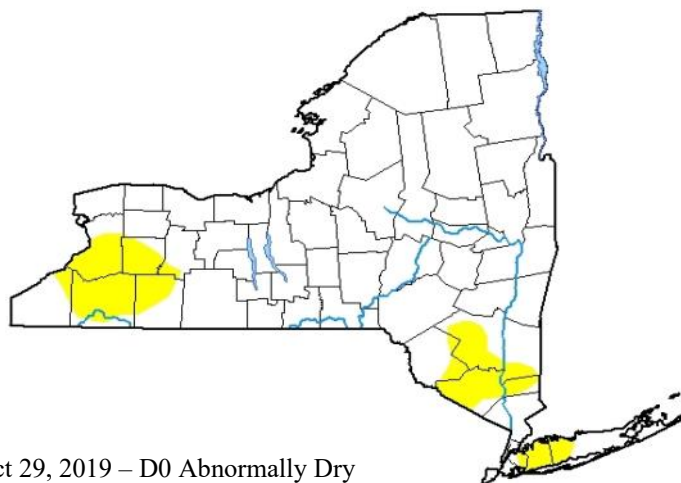
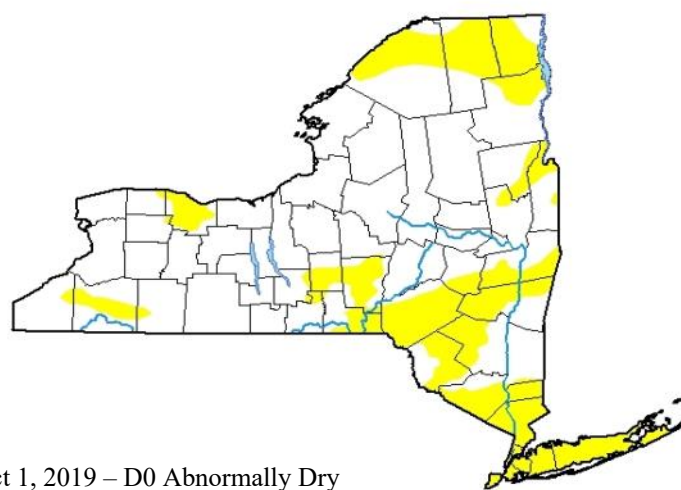
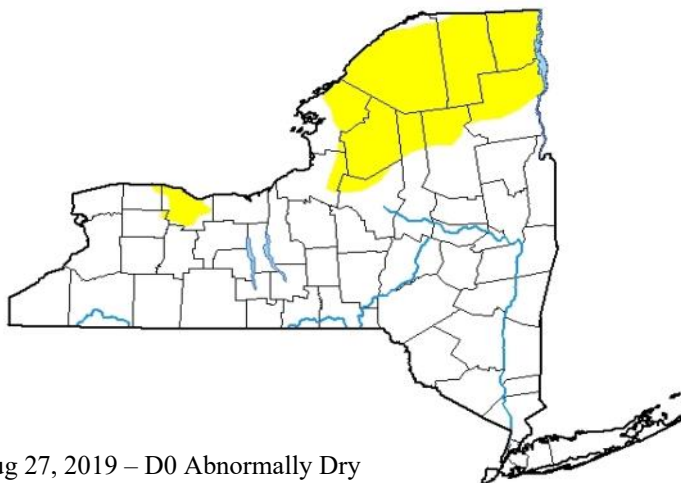
Parts of NYS were categorized as a very mild drought at times this season. The USDA and NOAA labeled portions of Franklin, Clinton, and Essex as 'abnormally dry' in early August, and this drought situation spread to most of Franklin and St. Lawrence County with bits of northern Jefferson later in the month. Rolled corn was a common observation across these areas. By the end of August and early September, this 'abnormally dry' categorization included almost all of NNY (see maps). Some rain relieved more southern margins of this dry area, but droughty weather persisted through to the first week of October when rainy weather set in all across the Northeast.

Corn harvest was interrupted and delayed with wet fall weather. As of the November 17 NASS report, just 80% of corn silage had been harvested and only half of grain corn had been harvested. The report also lists 75% of soybeans are harvested. Wet conditions continued across the state through mid-November with the majority of reports indicating surplus soil moisture.

Additional resources:

1. [Cornell Cooperative Extension North Country Regional Ag Team Web Resources](#)
2. [New York Integrated Pest Management \(NYSIPM\) Web Resources](#)
3. [Weekly Crop Progress & Condition Report. 2019. New York USDA-NASS.](#)
4. [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

For more information about field crop and soil management, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or your CCE Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialists, Mike Hunter and Kitty O'Neil.

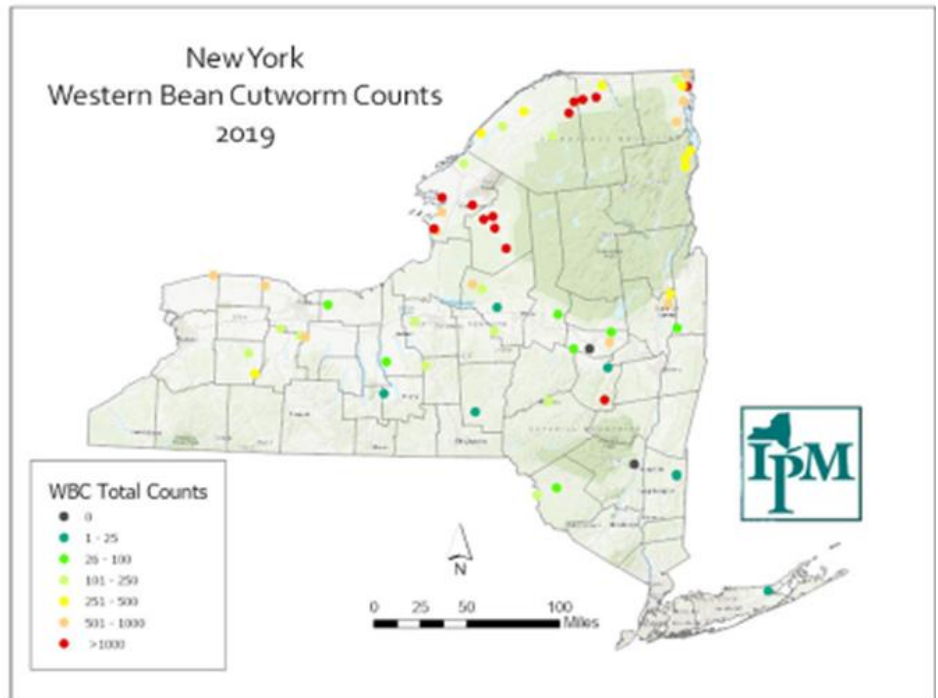


NNY Western Bean Cutworm 2019 Report

By Michael Hunter

The purpose of the Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) traps are to monitor moth presence and determine the peak flight. Traps help us identify fields at risk and when scouting should take place. We cannot use trap counts to determine when a field should be sprayed with an insecticide. Management of the WBC is based on egg masses and/or small larva found on the corn plants. It is also important to note that trap counts do not correlate to the amount of WBC damage to expect in that corn field. In fact, in 2016, we monitored a site that only caught 190 WBC moths for the entire season and that particular field had 18.75% of the ears with WBC feeding damage.

Northern NY was again the hotspot in the state in 2019, with 21 of the highest 25 WBC moth trap catches statewide (field corn monitoring sites only). There were 66 WBC traps located in 29 NYS counties in 2019 (see map). Thirty three WBC traps were monitored weekly in corn fields in NNY. The 33 WBC traps in NNY averaged 902 moths per trap which is higher than the 2018 average of 644 moths, and the 2017 average of 876 moths. This monitoring project continues to reaffirm that we have large population densities of WBC in NNY every year.



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Upcoming Meeting for Herbicide Resistant Weed Control in NNY

December 6, 2019

10:45am to 12:15pm

Smithville Fire Department

13727 County Route 63, Adams, NY 13605

Herbicide resistant marestail has been found in several fields in NNY. This weed has the potential to quickly spread to other fields and will become a much bigger problem to deal with next spring. Resistant marestail will be the most difficult to control in soybeans, but can also be a problem in corn and winter wheat as well. If you are a soybean grower, plan on attending this meeting to learn about effective herbicide-resistant weed control strategies and how to deal with resistant marestail on your farm. NYS DEC pesticide credits will be offered.

- 1.25 NYS DEC pesticide credits (categories 1A, 10, 21, 23)
- 1.0 CCA CEU

**** FREE ****

To register contact Tatum Langworthy at 315-788-8450 or tlm92@cornell.edu. Pre-registration allows us to communicate any cancellations or changes in arrangements.

Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training

December 11, 2019

12:30pm to 2:45pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County
7395 East Road, Lowville, NY 13367

Do you want to buy and apply restricted-use pesticides for your own farm? This short course will provide an overview of the certified pesticide applicator laws and regulations. It will also cover the key concepts that pesticide applicators need to learn prior to taking the applicator certification exam.

**** FREE ****

To register contact Tatum Langworthy at 315-788-8450 or tlm92@cornell.edu. Pre-registration allows us to communicate any cancellations or changes in arrangements.

Office Hours

The Farm Business

Management Specialist will be hosting regular "Office Hours" in each county! These give farmers a chance to bring their questions on any of the following topics:

- Accounting
- Financial Statements
- Budgeting
- Business Plans
- Decision Making
- Employee Hiring
- Employee Handbooks
- Human Resources
- Diversification
- Regulation
- Grant Applications
- Project Evaluation
- Book Keeping Systems
- Farm Transition Planning
- Retirement Strategies

Please note that all office hours are from 10AM to 3PM. It is not necessary to make an appointment, however, you can by contacting:

Kelsey O'Shea at
kio3@cornell.edu or
315-955-2795



Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

Clinton County

Dates: Sept 18th Oct 22nd
Nov 5th, & Dec 11th

Location: CCE Office
6064 NY-22 Suite 5,
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Essex County

Dates: Sept 16th, Oct 25th,
Nov 8th, & Dec 12th

Location: Hub on the Hill
545 Middle Road
Essex, NY 12936

Jefferson County

Dates: Sept 20th, Oct 16th
Nov 15th, & Dec 9th

Location: CCE Office
203 N Hamilton St
Watertown, NY 13601

Lewis County

Dates: Sept 19th Oct 15th
Nov 14th, & Dec 10th

Location: CCE Office
7395 East Road
Lowville, NY 13367

Franklin County

Dates: Sept 25th Oct 23rd
Nov 13th, & Dec 13th

Location: CCE Office
355 W Main St #150
Malone, NY 12953

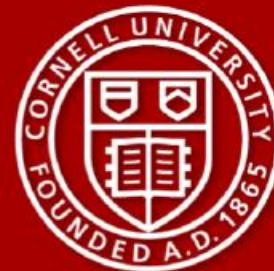
St Lawrence County

Dates: Sept 24th Oct 24th
Nov 12th, & Dec 6th

Location: CCE Office
2043B NY-68,
Canton, NY 13617

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Dairy Day



Join us for the main dairy program offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension this winter in the North Country. This 1-day seminar will provide the latest information on dairy production and management, emerging trends, local research updates, and a keynote address about milk prices and markets.

Agenda:

- 10:00am-10:45am: **Creative Feeding with Less Inventory**, *Erin Churchill (CCE Jefferson)*
- 10:45am-11:30am: **Labor Updates: Compliance and Management Strategies**, *Kelsey O'Shea (North Country Regional Ag Team)*
- 11:30am-12:15pm: **North Country Research Updates**, *Lindsay Ferlito, Casey Havekes, and Kelsey O'Shea (North Country Regional Ag Team)*
- 12:15pm-12:45pm: **Lunch**
- 12:45pm-1:45pm: **Keynote - Dairy Markets and Policy**, *Chris Wolf (Cornell University)*
- 1:45pm-2:00pm: **Update on The FARM Program 4.0**, *Lindsay Ferlito (North Country Regional Ag Team)*
- 2:00pm-2:15pm: **An International Perspective on Dairy Cattle Welfare**, *Casey Havekes (North Country Regional Ag Team)*
- 2:15pm-2:45pm: **Animal Welfare on Your Farm**, *Eileen Jensen (New York Animal Agriculture Coalition)*
- 2:45pm-3:00pm: **Wrap up**

Registration Options:

- https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/dairyday2020_10512
- Scan QR Code
- Contact Tatum Langworthy, NCRAT

Cost of program is: \$10 if pre-registered (paid prior to event) or \$20 at the door. Lunch is provided.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Dates and Locations:

January 3, 2020

10am - 3pm
Brushton-Moira Legion,
Moira, NY

January 22, 2020

10am - 3pm
Lowville Elks Lodge,
Lowville, NY

January 24, 2020

10am - 3pm
Watertown Elks Lodge,
Watertown, NY

Registration Info:

Tatum Langworthy
t1m92@cornell.edu
315-788-8450



National Dairy FARM Program Version 4.0 Updates

By Lindsay Ferlito

In October, I attended a training seminar in Philadelphia, PA, to be trained on all the updates to Version 4.0 of the National Dairy FARM Program. Version 4.0 will be in effect from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2022. This article will highlight some of the main changes with this new version.



Immediate Action

If a farm is routinely tail docking, this is now considered an immediate action. The farm will have 48 hours to comply with this standard (no tail docking), and once in compliance, they will have follow-up visits after 1 week, 1 month, and 3 months.

Mandatory Corrective Action Plans

Within a Mandatory Corrective Action Plan (MCAP), standards must be met within 9 months, or less. Here are some examples of MCAPs for Version 4.0:

- A written Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) and a written herd health plan that are both signed annually by the herd veterinarian
- Pre-weaned calves must be disbudded by 8 weeks of age and have access to water by day 3 of age
- Non-ambulatory animals must be moved using proper methods, provided prompt medical care, have access to feed and water, and protection from heat, cold, and predators
- Acceptable euthanasia practices, including how to identify animals to be euthanized, using AABP or AVMA approved methods, and disposing of the carcass appropriately
- Feed and water access for all animals
- Signed cow care/ethics agreement (annually) for all non-family employees with animal care responsibilities
- Continuing education in animal care and handling for non-family employees with animal care responsibilities, and job-specific training for the following topics if they apply:
 - Pre-weaned calf care
 - Non-ambulatory animals
 - Euthanasia
 - Determining if animals are fit to transport
- Written protocols for the following:
 - Pre-weaned calf care (how they are moved; how they are fed colostrum, milk/milk replacer, feed, and water; and disbudding)
 - Non-ambulatory animals (how they are moved; when prompt care is provided; and how they are provided with feed, water, protection from the elements and predators)
 - Euthanasia (how to identify animals to be euthanized; euthanasia techniques in accordance with AABP or AVMA guidelines; and appropriate carcass disposal)
 - Acceptable fitness to transport

Continuous Improvement Plan

Within a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), standards must be met within 3 years, or less. Here are some examples of CIPs for Version 4.0:

- Animal observations:
 - Body condition score: 99% or more of pre-weaned calves, weaned heifers, and lactating cows score 2 or more on the FARM 5-point scale
 - Hock injuries: 95% or more of lactating cows score a 2 or less on the FARM 3-point scale
 - Knee injuries: 95% or more of lactating cows score a 2 or less on the FARM 3-point scale
 - Locomotion: 95% or more of lactating cows score a 2 or less on the FARM 3-point scale
 - Broken tails: 95% or more of lactating cows do not have broken tails

- Providing pain management when disbudding calves (with guidance from the herd veterinarian)
- Permanent and complete drug treatment records
- Signed cow care/ethics agreement (annually) for all family employees with animal care responsibilities
- Continuing education in animal care and handling for family employees with animal care responsibilities, and job-specific training for the following topics if they apply:
 - o Pre-weaned calf care
 - o Non-ambulatory animals
 - o Euthanasia
 - o Determining if animals are fit to transport

Additionally, the number of animals scored at each farm has been revised with Version 4.0. For each of the age classes (pre-weaned heifers, post-weaned heifers, pre-fresh cows and heifers, and lactating cows), if there are <100 animals, all of them will be scored and if there are >100 animals in that age class, 100 will be scored. Locomotion will only be scored in the highest, oldest milking group.

For help understanding these updates, for paperwork review, or a barn walk through, contact Regional Dairy Specialist Lindsay Ferlito (lc636@cornell.edu, 607-592-0290), and visit the FARM Program website at <https://nationaldairyfarm.com/dairy-farm-standards/animal-care/>.



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Help Your Calves Beat the Winter Blues

By Casey Havekes

As much as we don't want to accept it, winter is just around the corner. As you start preparing your homes and cars (and maybe even your bodies) for the transition to cold temperatures, may you also consider adjusting your calf management programs to better suit their winter needs. The following four tips will help keep your calves healthy and happy during the cold winter months.

- 1) Increase their nutrition. When the temperature drops below the calf's thermoneutral zone (which is between 59 and 77°F), she will experience cold stress. In order to combat cold stress, the calf must consume more nutrients and more energy, otherwise she will have to rely on her body reserves to keep her warm. For your older calves, this shouldn't be a huge challenge – just make sure they have lots of solid feed in front of them. But for your younger calves that still rely on milk replacer or whole milk, making sure they have enough energy to meet their maintenance requirements and also grow during these cold temperatures is a challenge. The most common strategy for increasing nutrient availability to calves during the winter is to add a third feeding. If you are already feeding three times a day, you can increase the volume of milk you're offering, or switch to a different milk replacer that is higher in energy. For every degree drop below 50°F, energy requirements increase by 1%. Depending on your milk replacer and feeding rate, this can equate to a large additional energy requirement that is often overlooked. Please reach out if you need help calculating calf energy requirements and identifying a feeding program that works well for your herd.
- 2) Calves get cold in the winter, just like us, and providing them with a calf jacket is a good way to help keep them warm. Putting a calf jacket on can decrease the calf's heat loss by 15% - which means more energy can be put to growth. Before you put a jacket on a newborn calf, make sure the calf is dried off well so that the jacket doesn't trap in moisture and make her even colder. Lastly, not only is it important to provide the coat, but it is also important that the coats are washed frequently to minimize the spread of disease.
- 3) Make sure water doesn't freeze. If you are increasing the amount of milk replacer you are feeding, you will be increasing the overall solids level and this may cause calves to want to drink more water. Providing water is important not just in the summer months when it's warm



Photo Credit: Progressive Dairyman

out, but also in the winter. Staying hydrated is an important part of calf health. Replacing water daily and making sure it stays clean (and not frozen) is a good way to make sure calves are encouraged to drink.

- 4) Make sure bedding is dry and warm. Providing lots of dry bedding will help keep the calves warm so they can focus on growth. A good way to test if the bedding is dry enough is to do the 'kneel test'. If you kneel in the bedding and your knees become damp, that is a good sign that the bedding isn't dry enough for the calves.

2019 Feed Dealer Seminars

The Feed Dealer Seminars are targeted for nutritionists, veterinarians, crop and management consultants, extension educators, and dairy producers with interest in nutrition-oriented topics. They blend the latest concepts in feeding and other management aspects of dairies with field-level application.

Dec 11, 2019, 6:30-9:00pm

Miner Institute, Chazy, NY

Dec 12, 2019, 12-3:00pm

Ramada Inn, Watertown, NY

Register with Tatum Langworthy



Cornell CALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

What do Cows Want for Christmas

By Casey Havekes

With Christmas fast approaching, and people getting their Christmas shopping underway, have you asked your cows what they want for Christmas? Believe it or not, cows also have a Christmas wish list! Here are some of their top ranked items...

1. **Clean, dry living environment.** Providing cows with clean and dry bedding can help improve milk quality and overall cow comfort. As the snow starts piling in, make sure that curtains are up when needed and try to make sure the cows have sufficient dry bedding. Using the kneel test is a good way to determine if the bedding is dry enough – kneel down for several seconds and if your knees get damp, the bedding is too wet for the cows.
2. **Good food and fresh, clean water.** Providing a healthy ration is essential to cow performance and health. Avoid feeding spoiled silages and if you suspect mycotoxins are present from ensiling wet feed, get the feed tested and talk to your nutritionist about getting a binder put in the ration. Frequent feed push-ups will also help with encouraging intake, and reducing sorting. Lastly, water is the single most important nutrient for the cow. Make sure the water you are offering is clean and offered in abundance. Water is just as important in the winter as it is in the summer (even if you think they don't want to drink as much – they do).
3. **Enough space.** Recognizing that cows have social hierarchies and that these influence feeding and lying behaviors is very important. Make sure that pens aren't overstocked, and that sufficient feeding space is provided so that cows can express their natural feeding behaviors.
4. **Protection.** Does your farm have biosecurity measures in effect? Bringing family and friends to the farm is great, but making sure that disease doesn't enter the herd (or leave the herd) is even greater. Some diseases, especially calf diseases, are zoonotic which means that they are easily transferable to humans. Encourage frequent hand washing, and clean boots and clothes if people are visiting your herd.
5. **Patience.** In the hustle and bustle of the Holiday season, remember that cows will respond better to calmness. Giving them a quiet, peaceful environment will result in happier, healthier cows. Pay attention to how quiet it is in the barn as this can be a good indicator of how calm your cows are feeling.



Farm Business

What Employers Can and Cannot Say about Unions

By Dr. Richard Stup, Ag Workforce Development, Cornell University

New York farm employees will have the right to organize in unions and collectively bargain under the [state's new farm labor law](#) that takes effect January 1, 2020. Farm employers need to understand that in an environment where employees may try to organize, there are some special rules about what employers can and cannot say or do about unions. State and federal laws identify these activities as “unfair labor practices” and they may apply to employers, unions, or to employees.

The [new law permitting farm employee unions](#) is a NY state law and will be administered by the [NY Public Employee Relations Board](#) (PERB). The new law has a clause in it that says: “It shall be an unfair labor practice for an agricultural employer to discourage union organization or to discourage an employee from participating in a union organizing drive, engaging in protected concerted activity, or otherwise exercising the rights guaranteed under this article.” It remains to be seen how strictly the state will interpret and enforce this clause.

Most unions are governed by a *federal* law called the [National Labor Relations Act](#) (NLRA). We won't know with certainty exactly how the state will administer the new state law until its been in place for a few years, but we can take some general guidance from how the federal law is administered. As always, this is general guidance for educational purposes, not specific legal advice. You should seek competent legal counsel if you have specific questions about union organizing activities and your management response to it.

Two acronyms, TIPS and FOE, give employers general guidance about what they can and cannot say or do during a union organizing effort. Again, these are based on *federal* labor law.

T-I-P-S covers what employers *cannot* say or do:

- **T = Threats.** Employers cannot threaten employees with consequences if they support or vote for the union. Employers can't discipline, terminate, reduce benefits, or take other adverse action against employees because they support a union.
- **I = Interrogate.** Employers are not allowed to ask employees questions about the organizing effort, what they think about it, or the names of employees who support the union or attend meetings.
- **P = Promise.** Employers cannot promise pay increases, greater benefits, promotions or other valuable items in

exchange for keeping the union out.

- **S = Surveillance.** Using spies (whether employees or not), video cameras, or taking photos of people attending a union meeting are all banned as surveillance.
- Of course, farm employers have free speech rights under the [First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution](#).

F-O-E outlines the things that employers *can* say during a union organizing effort.

- **F = Facts.** Employers can share factual information about the union organizing process and potential collective bargaining process, and other matters such as union dues. They can talk about real, verifiable facts about the financial condition of the business and the industry and implications for employee compensation and benefits. They can also talk about how relationships between management and employees will change if a business becomes a union environment.
- **O = Opinions.** Employers can make clear their own personal opinions about a union, whether supportive or against. If an employer expresses an opposing opinion, it is important that it not be delivered as a threat. If an employer says to employees during the organizing process: “I'm not in favor of a union and I do not think it is the best thing for our business,” this may or may not be an unfair labor practice, depending on the context and whether it could be received as a threat. If the employer adds to this statement, “but I will respect the law,” then it would most likely not be an unfair labor practice.
- **E = Examples.** Employers are allowed to share specific examples such as actual union contracts that have been negotiated, news reports of other union activities, or examples of current results from managers and employees working together directly.

It is important to note that the NY state farm labor law specifically identified a few other unfair labor practices:

- Farm employees or unions are not allowed to strike or otherwise slow down farm work.
- Farm employers are not allowed to “lockout” or prevent employees from working as a result of a contract dispute.

By Richard Stup, Cornell University. Permission granted to repost, quote, and reprint with author attribution.
The post [What Employers Can and Cannot Say About Unions](#) appeared first in [The Ag Workforce Journal](#).



Cow Comfort Workshop Freestalls and Tie Stalls



The Cow Comfort Workshops are an educational program for farmers, employees, and agriservice professionals who work directly with dairy cows. The workshops will cover economics of improving cow comfort, stall design and management, stocking density, heat abatement, and effects of cow comfort on production.

Two separate sessions will be held: one to focus on freestall cow comfort and one to focus on tie stall cow comfort. Each session will include an on-farm portion where attendees walk through a facility assessment.

Each Cow Comfort Workshop is a day-long program held from 9:30 am to 3 pm. The program will be held in the classroom and on farm with a combination of presentations, farm walk-throughs, and discussion.

Freestall Cow Comfort Workshop

Featured Speaker

Rick Grant, PhD, President of Miner Institute

Dr. Grant is well-known for his research surrounding stocking density and time budgets for dairy cattle.

Tie Stall Cow Comfort Workshop

Featured Speaker

Dan McFarland, Penn State

Dan McFarland is known for his research surrounding heat stress abatement techniques and stall, barn and ventilation design.

**** COST REDUCED ****

Each course is only \$10 pre-registration or \$15 the day of the program. This low program fee is only possible because of the generous support of the NY Farm Viability Institute.



Cornell CALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Freestall Cow Comfort

Dec 6, 2019

9:30am-3:00pm

Scotty's Diner

1049 US-11, Moira, NY

Registration or Questions:

Tatum Langworthy

tlm92@cornell.edu

315.788.8450

[reg.cce.cornell.edu/](http://reg.cce.cornell.edu/freestall2019_10512)

freestall2019_10512

Tie Stall Cow Comfort

Dec 9, 2019

9:30am-3:00pm

CCE Jefferson County

203 N Hamilton St,

Watertown, NY

Registration or Questions:

Tatum Langworthy

tlm92@cornell.edu

315.788.8450

[reg.cce.cornell.edu/](http://reg.cce.cornell.edu/tiestall2019_10512)

tiestall2019_10512

prodairy.cals.cornell.edu

Winter Grain Crop Insurance Policy Deadline is September 30

Keith Severson, Field Crops Resource Educator
Cornell Cooperative Extension-Cayuga County

One day when flying out of Syracuse Hancock Field Airport, I realized how much of the agricultural ground below was growing winter grains. I knew there were significant acres planted, but did not realize how much until I was observing it from a bird's eye view. I wondered what other crops these winter grains replaced in a rotation.

Two possible scenarios came to mind for the increase in acreage of winter grains. The first is the many dairy farms that emphasize corn in a rotation, are growing fewer acres of hay, and are now using wheat straw for a home grown fiber source. The grain can then be used to provide a seed source for a fall cover crop following early corn silage harvest to capture any unused nitrogen, reduce soil erosion, and increase soil health.

The second scenario occurs when grain growers plant wheat following the harvest of an early soybean variety to extend the rotation, reduce the opportunity for developing resistant pests, and keep the soil covered to reduce erosion and boost soil health in fields that have a predominant rotation of annual crops.

After speaking with a number of farmers, many have considered crop insurance for their wheat crop as a hedge against low yields, which historically hasn't happened often but recently has been more frequent due to unusual weather patterns. Those taking advantage of crop insurance utilize it to protect their winter grain crop against yield or revenue risk, just as with any other crop they grow. Other farmers reported that the recent continuous erosion of the price of the crop tends to make commodity protection in general less valuable. In this price environment, some farmers may be considering value-added opportunities such as malting barley production. A final point of view includes a desire to include additional quality considerations as a form of insurable loss similar to the provisions for barley.

A quick way to determine provisions about these crop insurance policies is to utilize the educational information found at: agriskmanagement.cornell.edu. Once there, click the

“Project Materials” link in main menu. Barley policies have options for revenue protection, yield protection, some quality losses, and prevented planting.

There is also information on the Malting Barley Contract Price Option, if you are interested in producing malting Barley in New York. If you are interested and grow malting barley in one of the 44 approved counties, you may be able to insure at your malting barley contract price instead of the RMA price offered for regular barley policies. There are two specific fact sheets on Malting Barley at agriskmanagement.cornell.edu titled “Insuring Malting Barley” and “New York Malting Barley Contract Option Example Quality Loss Scenarios” that provide details on potential coverage from many natural causes of loss.

Wheat and Barley have similar Risk Management Agency published factsheets that cover the provisions across a number of states. These can also be found on the agriskmanagement.cornell.edu website.

Currently, a great deal of decision making related to the new Farm Bill is underway and many farmers are enthusiastic about the importance of risk management provisions in the form of crop insurance. If you have participated in crop insurance for corn and soybeans, why not consider the protection a policy on winter wheat or winter barley might provide by looking into the provisions before the September 30th sales closing date?

Cornell University delivers crop insurance education in New York State in partnership with the USDA, Risk Management Agency. This material is funded in partnership by USDA, Risk Management Agency, under award number RM18RMETS524C018

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

CCE North Country Regional Ag Team
203 North Hamilton Street
Watertown, New York 13601

What's Happening in the Ag Community

Cow Comfort Workshop Freestalls and Tie Stalls, see page 13 for more information.

Dairy Day, see page 7 for more information.

Office Hours, see page 6 for more information.

Herbicide Resistant Weed Control Program, see page 6 for more information.

Pesticide Applicator Certification Training, see page 6 for more information.

2019 Feed Dealer Seminars, see page 10 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE: Modern On-Farm Preparedness Program, 6-part series starting January 23, 2020.

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