Northern NY Dairy Farms to Host Hoof Health Workshops

A diverse mix of Northern New York dairy operations will be hosting the on-farm learning sessions of the 10:30am to 3pm Northern New York Dairy Institute Hoof Health Workshops that combine classroom and on-farm training organized by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The workshops will be offered: Thursdays: October 18, 25, and November 1 and 8, at Franklin/Clinton/Essex County locations.

Herd sizes for the on-farm workshops range from 150 cow dairies to several hundred-cow operations. Those enrolling for the first class will receive a free right- or left-handed hoof knife.

“With a mix of small and larger herd operations hosting these workshops on farms across Northern New York, participants will have the opportunity to keep up with the latest aspects of hoof health that are common to all operations as well as different management techniques used by the individual farms,” says Cornell Cooperative Extension dairy and livestock educator Ron Kuck.

Farms hosting programs for Franklin and Clinton counties are Carsada Farms in Malone, Vincent Farms in Malone, Miner Institute in Chazy, and Hidden View Farm in Champlain.

A one-day dairy hoof health workshop will be scheduled for Essex County later this fall.

Those interested in attending the programs may register for one session at $35/session or for the series of four at $100/series. FSA Borrower Credits are pending. Registration one week prior to each session is appreciated. To register, contact:

- Clinton County: Kim Morrill, 518-564-0498, 315-379-9192, kmm434@cornell.edu
- Essex County: Anita Deming, 518-962-4810, ald6@cornell.edu
- Franklin County: Rick Levitre, 518-483-7403, ral334@cornell.edu; Harry Fefee, 518-483-7403, hnf9@cornell.edu

Week 1 on-farm session on October 18 will cover hoof anatomy, locomotion scoring, hoof maintenance and proper hoof trimming with John Anderson of Lake Effect Hoof Trimming Service.

Week 2 sessions on October 25 will cover hoof diseases and treatment, the causes and the cost, and how to handle lame cows with Dr. Jan Shearer of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine via weblink and on-farm with local dairy professionals.

Week 3 session on November 1 will cover animal welfare practices by applying the NYSCHAP hoof health module and Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Program protocols with Cornell University Beef Extension Specialist Dr. Mike Baker.

Week 4 session on November 8 will cover hoof problem prevention and the importance of cow comfort and body condition scoring. The on-farm session will cover how to handle lame cows with an emphasis on infectious claw disease. Jeff Wheeler of Zinpro, Eden Prairie, MN, and other agricultural industry leaders will lead these sessions. This Northern NY Dairy Institute training series is made possible with funding from local and regional agribusiness and dairy farmers.

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Hoof cont...

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities
Christmas Tree Farming Field Meeting and Workshop
Date: Oct. 12, 2012
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Red Barn
Christmas Tree Farm in Brainardsville

Christmas tree growers and those considering getting started are invited to attend a pre-season workshop on Christmas tree farming. This is an opportunity to look at stands of production trees in different stages of development, to speak with experienced growers and to ask questions of both the growers and Cornell Integrated Pest Management (IPM) specialist Betsy Lamb. Among the topics we will be discussing are site selection, obtaining and caring for planting stock, cultural practices (shaping and shearing), insects and diseases, and marketing. The workshop is free and open to the public. We hope to be able to offer one NYSDEC pesticide applicator recertification credit to attendees needing recertification credits.

To register or for more information and / or directions, please email me at rlg24@cornell.edu or call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County at 518-483-7403. And be sure to dress for the weather! Hope to see you there!

Construct a Simple, Low-cost, Low Tunnel For Season Extension
Monday October 15
10:00-2:00
Rain date Tuesday Oct 16
Cornell Research Farm
48 Sayward Lane, Willsboro

There are many sizes and types of tunnels from simple to complex to extend the growing season and protect crops from the elements. Learn first hand how to use a 6’ high, 50’ long ‘caterpillar’ type tunnel by actually setting one up. Join Adam Hainer from Fledging Crow Farm and Mike Davis from Cornell’s research farm in constructing this tunnel from start to finish. During the process we’ll discuss what crops work well with this kind of protection and learn tips and ideas from growers who have used them to help you be successful.

The program runs 10-2:00 and includes lunch. Register with Amy Ivy at adiz2@cornell.edu or 518-561-7450. Funded in part by the Northern NY Agriculture Development Program.

2012 Northern NY Dairy Institute
Hoof Health Workshops
Oct 18, 25 & Nov 1, 8
10:30am to 3 pm
Locations in Franklin & Clinton County

Dates: 10/16 – 11/9/2012
Time: 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Both Classroom and On-farm sessions will be held.

Four weekly sessions. Register for one or for all. Each session stands alone. $35 per session; $100 for all four sessions (FSA Borrower Credits pending)

Contact Peter Hagar at CCE Clinton 561-7450 or Rick LeVitre at CCE Franklin 483-7403 for more information.

NENY Maple Producers Meeting
Saturday, November 3
2:00 to 4:00 pm
Wild Center, 45 Museum Road, Tupper Lake.

The Wild Center on 45 Museum Road in Tupper Lake, has offered to host our next meeting. David St. Onge, Facilities Director, and Jen Kretser, Director of Programs and Education, will be on hand to tell us about their community maple program. The sugar house exhibit will be available for viewing as well.

You do not have to be a NENYSMPA member to attend. Entry to the meeting is free and includes access to an extensive gift shop as well as the cafeteria area. Attendees wishing to arrive early to tour the facility will receive the group discount. Discount rates are: $15 for adults, $14 for Seniors and $10 for children 4-14. Wild Center hours are 10:00 to 5:00 that weekend.

PLEASE RSVP TO NENYSMPA@HOTMAIL.COM OR 846-3192 BY OCTOBER 29.
Rounding up the Profit

There’s an old saying: “Another day, another dollar” Whether you are spending it or making it, every dollar is crucial in the long term sustainability of your farm operation. In the beef business, there are a lot of dollars left unrealized for a myriad of reasons.

While raising beef cattle is done by many small farmers as a hobby, there is no reason not to try to maximize your potential return. A recent speaker at one of our beef meetings offered an amusing comparison. He said your beef farm can either be an entertainment center or it can be a profit center.

If you are running a cow-calf operation, there are many ways of adding value to your calf crop that will return far more than the cost.

Firstly, breed for and raise a calf that fits the market you have decided to enter. A lot of folks put a lot of emphasis on the breed of cattle, but you should really want to find a cow that will thrive on the conditions on your farm and breed her for a calf that will sell for the best price.

Breed your cows to calve in a 4-6 week period. A group of uniformly sized calves will be more attractive to a buyer who wants to fill a trailer fast.

Tag, worm and vaccinate your calves. Proper identification allows for better record keeping, worming will ensure faster growth and vaccination will prevent disease once the calf leaves the farm and enters a totally new and stressful environment.

A recent study showed that castrating, dehorning, and vaccinating feeder calves can add an average of $12/cwt for male feeder calf For a $10-$15 investment, that can mean a potential profit of $50 on a 500 lb. calf.

Wean your calves before taking them to the sale or selling them to a buyer. Weaning is stressful and stress makes for sick calves. Sick calves at auction sell at a discount of $10 to $38/cwt!

Unfortunately, too many feeder calves are not preconditioned. When you check out the auction price ranges after a feeder calf sale, you can be sure that the highest prices went to those that were.

For information about vaccination protocols and basic handling facilities needed to perform these crucial tasks, call me at 561-7450 or email phh7@cornell.edu

Peter Hagar, Livestock Educator, Clinton County Cooperative Extension

Does your farm have a safety net? Farming has always been a risky business.

Crop Insurance helps level the playing field by protecting you and your family from substantial losses.

In 2011, of the more than 10,500 insured farm units in New York State, 2502 received indemnity payments totaling more than $45 million. That’s $4.22 for each dollar paid in premiums.

Crop insurance is a wise investment for your peace of mind, and a valuable financial planning tool for your farm.

Don’t have an agent? Ask a neighbor who they use, or visit www.rma.usda.gov, and use the agent/company locator tool.

New crop insurance products are being offered to producers in New York State every year. The Department has partnered with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to provide education opportunities to producers about crop insurance and risk management.

Throughout the year, concentrated in the winter months, Cornell Cooperative Extension staff are offering workshops on crop insurance topics and are available at booths at all major trade shows in the state. In addition, educators can be scheduled to make presentations to producer groups upon request.

For more information or assistance, contact Peter Hagar at the Clinton County Cooperative Extension 561-7450 or email phh7@cornell.edu