Agriculture News for the North Country

Spring Beef Week meeting will be held March 12th at the Essex County CCE office.
If you are direct marketing beef, this will be a great time to learn more about marketing from Carol Gillis, Executive Director of the NY Beef Industry Council. Carol will discuss innovative ways of marketing beef in tough economic times and provide insight into what consumers are looking for, new cuts for better beef sales & how to price your beef.

If you are interested in learning more about the new slaughterhouse in the works in Ticonderoga, Peter Ward of Adirondack Meat Company to join us to discuss his plans. Dr. Mike Baker, Cornell’s Beef Extension Specialist, will also be on hand to talk about how to select a bull to improve carcass quality.

Please register in advance by contacting Peter Hagar at 561-7450 or email phh7@cornell.edu

Don’t miss !
Winter Dairy Management
March 7th
Malone

Franklin County Maple School – A Sweet Success
The Brushton Moira Central School (BMCS) Future Farmers of America, in cooperation with the recently established Franklin County Maple Association and Cornell Cooperative Extension, held their First Annual Maple School at BMCS on Saturday, Feb 2nd. More than 150 people ranging from seasoned maple syrup producers to less-experienced sugar makers to individual interested in learning the ins and outs of making maple syrup at home attended classes, which covered a wide range of maple sugar production and processing topics.

Maple syrup production is a time-honored tradition, a popular hobby and an increasingly important part of farming to many families in the northeast. The FCMA Maple School was an opportunity for those involved in maple sugaring to brush up on their knowledge of cutting edge sugarbush management and maple syrup production technologies, state-of-the-art sugaring and sugar production related equipment, machinery and tools and how to use them, and universally accepted methods for collecting sap and making high-quality maple syrup and value-added maple sugar products. At the same time, those considering becoming involved in maple sugaring were able to attend beginner sessions about getting started in maple syrup production, and to expand their understanding of large production and small farm sugaring operations and how these family run businesses produce hundreds of gallons of quality maple syrup of exceptional flavor every year.

Maple sugaring operations vary greatly. Small scale hobbyists tap only a few trees and collect their sap in pails or even gallon jugs, while large sugaring operations produce hundreds of gallons of high quality maple syrup of exceptional flavor, using the latest technology, equipment, machinery and tools. Presenters, including specialists from Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District professionals, maple syrup producers who take great pride in making only the highest quality maple products, and industry consultants, offered a noteworthy and wide-ranging variety of informational and educational classes. Presenters brought their insights, their knowledge, their experience, and their expertise to the event. And all of them were available to answer questions and address concerns.

Our northern New York maple syrup producing families work hard making, and enjoy eating the products they produce. And they take great pride in producing only the finest quality syrup, cream, sugar and candy. Most sell pure maple syrup and value added maple products all year round. Please support them. Richard Gast, CCE Franklin

Cornell Cooperative Extension - Clinton County
6064 Route 22
Suite 5
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518-561-7450
New Website: http://blogs.cornell.edu/ceecleintoncounty

Amy Ivy
Executive Director/ Horticulture Educator
adi2@cornell.edu

Peter Hagar
Agriculture Educator
phh7@cornell.edu

Kimberly Morrill
Regional Extension Dairy Specialist
kmm434@cornell.edu
Cell 564-0498

Jolene Wallace
Horticulture Program Asst.
jmw442@cornell.edu

Alexa King
4-H Youth Development
ask37@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities
### North County Agriculture Calendar of Events March 2013

**Please Note:** Meetings are subject to cancellation due to insufficient registration and/or weather conditions. Please register so we can contact you if meetings are canceled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter Dairy Management</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Managing Your Dairy for Resiliency”</td>
<td>March 7th – Malone NY</td>
<td>10am—3pm</td>
<td>Moe’s Pub &amp; Grill</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell University Pro Dairy Program present a wide ranging program of topics offering practical ideas. With the potential for growing demand for milk in the next 24-36 months, are you ready to respond? Cost is $35 with pre-registration or $40 at the door. Additional per farm $25.00. Location: Moe’s Pub &amp; Grill, Route 11. Contact Kim Morrill, Regional Dairy Specialist to register. <a href="mailto:kmm434@cornell.edu">kmm434@cornell.edu</a> or cell 564-0498</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sheep &amp; Goat 101</strong></td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>10 am—3 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Farm, Canton</td>
<td></td>
<td>A class for beginners and those interested in getting into a sheep or goat operation. We will look at the basics requirements for a sheep or goat operation as well as a look at the different breeds. Betsy Hodge, CCE Livestock Educator. Cost is $10.00 per person or maximum $20.00 per family. Please register with the St. Lawrence County CCE office (315-379-9192) or email Betsy Hodge at <a href="mailto:bmf9@cornell.edu">bmf9@cornell.edu</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>Spring Beef Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;Carol Gillis, Executive Director, NY Beef Industry Council will talk about Innovative Beef Marketing during Tight Supplies and High Prices. Dr. Mike Baker will discuss “Smart Bull Selection to Produce Quality Beef”. We will also have the opportunity to talk with Peter Ward of the new Adirondack Meat Company in Ticonderoga who will discuss his plans for the first and only slaughterhouse in the Adirondack Park.</td>
<td>Tuesday March 12</td>
<td>6:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>CCE Office in Westport</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<td><strong>Adapt N Side-dress Nitrogen Program</strong>&lt;br&gt;This program will be broadcast from Ithaca to multiple locations. Ag Professional Magazine has identified Adapt-N as the Top new products for 2012. You will save the time and cost of the Ill PSNT test, and yet not over apply nitrogen to your crops either. Please bring your own lap top to use at the work shop There are 3.5 CCA credits in nutrient management for this class. Agenda: Overview of Nitrogen Concerns, Nitrogen Dynamics, Tools for Nitrogen Management, What is Adapt N and Overview, Adapt N on-farm Trials Results, Using Adapt N Effectively, Hands On Exercises. For more information and to register, contact Peter Hagar at <a href="mailto:phh7@cornell.edu">phh7@cornell.edu</a> or call 561-7450.</td>
<td>Thursday, March 21</td>
<td>10:30am to 3:00pm</td>
<td>CCE Clinton Plattsburgh</td>
<td>$10 covers lunch or BYO 3.5 CCA Credits</td>
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<td><strong>Sheep Pasture Management for Improved Herd Health &amp; Pasture Productivity</strong>&lt;br&gt;With speaker Dave Roberts, NRCS State Grazing Lands Specialist. This free meeting will be held on Friday, March 22, 2013 at 6:30pm at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building in Westport. Snacks &amp; Refreshments will be provided. Please register with Tiffany Pinheiro at the Essex County Soil &amp; Water 962-8225 or <a href="mailto:tpinheiro@westelcom.com">tpinheiro@westelcom.com</a></td>
<td>Friday, March 22</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>CCE Office, Westport</td>
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New York State Maple Weekend Open Houses
March 16, 17, 23, 24

Sugarmakers across Northern New York will offer New York State Maple Weekend Open Houses. Learn more about Northern New York maple sugar production on the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) website at www.ccenny.com or call your local CCE office: CCE Clinton County: 518-561-7450 CCE Essex County: 518-962-4810

Swine Night
Tuesday, March 26 - 6:30 pm — 9:00 pm
Ward Lumber
697 Glen Road, Jay

Presenter Steve Schaefer of Adirondack Heritage Hogs will cover a variety of advanced pig farming topics: Breeding, Birthing, Weaning, Marketing, Castration.

Steve Schaefer has been raising heritage breed hogs and piglets since 2005 in Lewis NY with his wife and three children.

Registration is required. To register, go to www.WardLumber.com or call Kim at (518) 946-2110, Ext. 120

USDA Announces Crop Insurance Deadline for New York Spring Crops

Raleigh, North Carolina, February 21, 2013--- USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds New York farmers that the final date to apply for crop insurance on most insurable spring-planted crops for this crop year is March 15, 2013. Current policyholders also have until March 15 to make any changes to their existing contracts. Crop insurance provides protection against losses due to natural perils, such as drought, hail, wind, and excessive moisture.

March 15 is the Sales Closing Date for:
Spring Barley, Cabbage, Corn, Dry Beans, Forage Seeding, Fresh Market Beans, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Grain Sorghum, Green Peas, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Processing Sweet Corn, Processing Tomatoes, and Soybeans.

Insurance is available for revenue loss caused by a change in the harvest price from the projected price for Spring Barley, Corn, Grain Sorghum, and Soybeans. Producers are strongly urged to contact a local crop insurance agent as soon as possible for premium quotes and more details.

For a list of crop insurance agents in your area, contact the local USDA Farm Service Agency office or log on to the Risk Management Agency web site at: http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/

Beekmantown Senior Wins N.Y. Farm Bureau Scholarship

Maegan Bull has been won a $1200 scholarship in a state-wide competition among high school seniors who are, or whose families are, members of New York Farm Bureau. The scholarships are given each year by New York Farm Bureau's Promotion and Education Committee. The Beekmantown senior competed against nine other finalists from districts across New York State.

Maegan Bull is the daughter of Carlton (Bucky) and Sheila Bull. She is a very well rounded student and has participated in a range of extracurricular activities. These include playing soccer and softball, serving as President of the Varsity Club, and being a member of Peer Connectors which helps students prepare for high school. She was the Operations Manager for the school store for 2011-2012 and is Co-Manager this year. In addition, Maegan is a member of the National Honor Society and has also been very active in her community.

Maegan has also been active in 4-H since 2000 where she has served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Milk Dippers 4-H Club and is currently the Vice President. While showing cattle, she has won Junior Champion and Grand Champion Holstein Awards and Grand Champion Showman.

Bull plans to attend Cornell University and major in Communications or Business in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
Eastern NY Hort Team Begins
Cornell Cooperative Extension in Clinton and Essex counties have joined the newly formed ENY (Eastern NY) Commercial Horticulture Program, a collaboration between 17 counties along the east side of NY state from Clinton to Orange counties. This merges the Northeastern NY Fruit Program, the Capital District Vegetable and Small Fruit Program, the Hudson Valley Fruit Program, and brings in a few county-based educators for full coverage of this large region and mix of commodities.

This new team consists of ten specialists, and there are plans to add a couple more positions to cover the 17 participating counties in the region. Kevin Iungerman remains the apple/grape specialist and Amy Ivy has joined the team half-time covering vegetables and season extension. We can already see the first benefits of this collaboration by the variety of programs being offered in Clinton and Essex counties in March. For more information contact Amy Ivy at adizi@cornell.edu (518-570-5991) or Kevin Iungerman at kai3@cornell.edu (518-885-8995)

Grower Events in March

March 2  Food from the Farm
2:00-5:00 – Farms set up display tables, chef prepares dishes featuring local foods
$25/table per farm, public admission
$10/adults, $5/ages 5-12
Public comes to sample food and meet farmers
Plattsburgh City Gym

March 5  Reduced Tillage and Soil Health program
Anu Rangarajan and Bianca Moebius Clune
10-2:00 free, includes lunch
Westport CCE office

March 11  Weeds, pests, diseases of sweet corn, pumpkins, potatoes -
Chuck Bornt- 10-noon $10 (or $15 for both sessions), pesticide credits
also
Berry pest update - Laura McDermott – including spotted wing drosophila
12:30-2:30 $10 (or $15 for both sessions), pesticide credits
Westport CCE office

March 16  Pre-season Market Training
9:30-3:00 $15/farm includes lunch
Keeseville Grange

March 25  Trac Software –
Juliet Carroll 1:00-4:00 $15 – register by March 20
Plattsburgh CCE office (and other dates, locations too)
Trac software is a pesticide spray record-keeping program built in Excel. It will automatically generate your reports. Learn more about it at www.nysipm.cornell.edu/trac
Please register in advance with Marcie in Renssalaer County mpp74@cornell.edu – mostly of interest to apple growers

March 27  Berry Pruning Demonstration –
Laura McDermott
10:00-12:00
Peru – Location and cost TBD
Farther away but worth the trip:

March 19  2nd Annual Garlic School –
Crystal Stewart, George Abawi, Steve Reiners
10:00-2:00 $20, includes lunch – preregistration required
CCE – Albany County in Voorheesville - contact Marcie mpp74@cornell.edu)
From insuring against weather-related perils to protecting the margin between milk price and feed costs, a range of crop insurance programs can help dairy farmers manage risk.

**Corn Grain & Silage** crop insurance may provide coverage for unavoidable causes of loss for grain or silage with yield protection or revenue protection with or without harvest price exclusion. The 2012 projected price for corn silage was $50 per ton, and grain corn was $5.68 per bushel. The 2013 price election for corn silage will be available January 31. The 2013 insurance-related revenue prices for grain corn are announced the first week of March. Policy costs are subsidized and can be further reduced through the use of enterprise units. Coverage is now available up to 85% of the value of the crop. **Late and prevented planting coverage** is included, and multiple levels of coverage are also available.

*Sign-up/policy change date is March 15.*

**Soybean** crop insurance is available in 38 counties in New York. Coverage is for multiple unavoidable causes of loss. **Late and prevented planting**, with multiple levels of coverage, is available. Soybeans may be covered with yield protection or revenue protection.

Coverage is now available up to 85% of the value of the crop. The 2012 projected price for soybeans was $12.55 per bushel.

The **crop insurance related revenue price is announced the first week of March in advance of the March 15 sign-up/policy change date.**

**Winter wheat** coverage is available in 27 counties, and there is coverage for **winter and spring barley** in 15 counties. The 2013 projected price for wheat is $8.57 and $6.10 for winter barley (announced annually in advance of enrollment).

Policy costs are subsidized and can be further reduced through the use of enterprise units.

*The enrollment date for winter wheat and barley is September 30 for coverage for the following harvest season.*

**Forage Production** insurance provides yield coverage from unavoidable causes of loss. The insured forage crop may be either a stand of Pure Alfalfa, or Alfalfa and Perennial Grasses in which alfalfa comprises more than 25 percent but less than 60 percent of the ground cover. Forage production is insurable in eight counties. The 2013 projected price is $165 per ton.

*Sign-up/policy change date is September 30. Forage Seeding** coverage is for a forage mixture containing at least 50 percent alfalfa, with the remaining comprised of clover, birdsfoot trefoil or any other locally recognized and approved forage legume species. The program is available in eight New York counties. The coverage for 2013 provided a guarantee of up to $275 per acre.

*Sign-up/policy change date is March 15 for Spring seeded Forage and July 31 for Fall-seeded Forage.*

**Hay and Pasture Crop Insurance** is available in all New York counties. This Group Risk Protection forage insurance program, called the **Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Rainfall Index**, is providing from about $89 to $287 of protection per acre for hay land acreage, and approximately $21 to $60 of protection per pasture acre, based on county by county data for the 2013 crop year. This insurance coverage is only for a single peril – lack of precipitation. No reporting is required; payments are based on the difference between long-term average precipitation and actual precipitation for every two-month time period insured by the producer, and hay prices in your county.

*Sign-up/policy change date is November 15, 2013.*

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The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has partnered with USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to provide crop insurance education to New York State farmers. For more information, please visit the NYS Crop Insurance Education website at www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CropInsurance.html or call 518-457-4531 or 800-554-4501. The RMA website is: www.rma.usda.gov. To find a crop insurance agent, ask a neighbor for a recommendation, contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office or use the USDA RMA crop insurance agent locator tool on the web at www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html