

STOCKER CATTLE SUMMIT COMING TO DELAWARE COUNTY ON JULY 25TH

Putting Grazing Land Back to Work with Cattle

ONEONTA, NY – July 11, 2016 – CADE ([the Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship](#)) has partnered with Cornell Beef Extension Specialist, Mike Baker, to host a Stocker Cattle Summit. The Summit will be held on Monday, July 25th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Watershed Agricultural Council's first floor conference room at 44 West Street, Walton, NY 13856.

The Summit will introduce participants to the Stocker Cattle Initiative, which was recently awarded \$627,055 from New York State Agriculture & Markets. The Initiative being led by Mike Baker through Cornell will provide Southern Tier farmers interested in raising stocker cattle with training and resources.

In addition, Ken Jaffe of Slope Farms will share his experience as a beef farmer, aggregator and marketer. Jaffe currently works with approximately 20 stocker farms and sees great and growing opportunity for new and transitioning farmers in Stocker Cattle.

Stocker cattle operations can increase a farm's income while bringing idle pastures back into production. Stocker cattle are typically acquired as young lightweight calves that spend a summer grazing on pasture lands, which allows them to add weight inexpensively. At the conclusion of the grazing season, the stockers, as they are referred to, are usually sold to other farmers that finish the animals to market weight.

A major appeal to growing stocker cattle is that the venture requires minimal investment in machinery and buildings, creating a low barrier to entry. The only major requirements are access to grazing lands, which can be leased, and the capital to purchase cattle.

“This project is especially exciting to me, because the stocker cattle enterprise is one of the few agricultural businesses that beginning farmers can get involved in without a lot

of overhead. What they do need is training and this project will provide intensive training to increase their opportunity for success,” Baker said. “I think it will also appeal to farmers looking to transition out of dairy production.”

There is NO COST to attend, but registration is REQUIRED. Register at www.stockercattlesummit.eventbrite.com. Food and beverage will be served.

For more information on this event or about CADE, please contact Sonia Janiszewski, Program Manager, at sonia@cadefarms.org or 607-433-2545.

For more information on the Stocker Cattle initiative, please contact Mike Baker, Cornell Beef Extension Specialist at mjb28@cornell.edu or 607-255-5923.

CADE, the Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship is a non-profit organization established in 1991 with a mission to increase the number and diversity of successful farm enterprises and related businesses in New York. CADE connects producers of farm products to markets by providing professional, individualized and confidential business and marketing consulting to agricultural entrepreneurs. CADE works to build a vibrant local food system, in which locally owned agricultural businesses thrive and consumers are nourished by healthy sustainably produced food. With a knowledgeable staff supplemented by consultants experienced in production, business development, marketing and distribution, CADE is a catalyst for strengthening multiple sectors of regional food systems. Learn more at www.cadefarms.org.