We would like to thank Charlie Painter for the time we had at his farm. The Tri-County Grazing group hosted a pasture walk Thursday October 8, 2015 at Hillsprings Farm in Addison. At Hillsprings Farm, Charlie Painter raises 100 Angus brood cows for multiple end uses. Charlie retains all the calves; steers are raised for grass finished slaughter cattle direct sales and heifers are raised for herd replacements and to grow brood cow numbers. Charlie grazes approximately 300 total head of cattle throughout the year.

To support the herd Charlie has very recently installed a solar watering system with a 6,000 gallon storage tank. The solar pump is capable of pumping 13 gallons of water a minute. While at Hillsprings Farm we also see their covered barn yard project, handling systems, and haylage storage. Charlie discussed his varied feeding/finishing programs as well as the benefits of the herd’s aggressive AI breeding program.

This group is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben & Schuyler County and SWCD of Steuben & Schuyler County. For more information please contact Kerri Bartlett, CCE-Steuben at 607-583-3170 or ksb29@cornell.edu.
Estimating Corn Grain Yields
By: Mike Stanyard

Many growers have been asking about estimating corn and soybean yields prior to harvest to see how much the excessive rainfall has affected their crop. Others want to see how good it could be (especially if you entered the state or national corn contests).

Corn: The Yield Component Method (YCM) can be utilized as early as the milk stage of kernel development and therefore, can be utilized to determine if a crop should be allowed to be harvested for grain, or cut for silage.

1. Count the number of harvestable ears in a length of row equal to 1/1000th of an acre. For 30-inch rows, this would be 17 ft. 5 in.
2. Then, on every 5th ear, count the number of kernel rows and number of kernels per row and determine the average. Do not include kernels that are less than half the size of normal sized kernels.
3. Yield (bu/ac) = (# of ears) x (avg. # rows) x (avg. # kernels) divided by 90. The value of 90 represents an average of 90,000 kernels in a 56 lb. bushel of corn. This number can be increased to 95 in years of smaller kernels or decreased to 85 in good years with larger kernels. (85 may be more accurate this year)
4. Example: (24 ears) x (18 rows) x (30 kernels/ row) / 90 = 144 bushels/acre
5. Repeat this procedure in a couple of areas within the same field for better accuracy. This is truly an “estimate” and many references state that there can be a plus or minus 30 bushels from actual yields.

Pioneer has a handy online corn yield estimator that you can plug in the above estimates and it will calculate the bu/a under poor, average, and excellent growing conditions, https://www.pioneer.com/home/site/us/agronomy/tools/corn-yield-estimator.

MPP Dairy Registration Deadline Extended
Source: USDA News Release No. 0263.15 M

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on September 22, 2015 that the deadline to enroll for the dairy Margin Protection Program for coverage in 2016 has been extended until Nov. 20, 2015. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer. "The fall harvest is a busy time of the year for agriculture, so this extension will ensure that dairy producers have more time to make their choices," said Vilsack. "We encourage all operations to examine the protections offered by this program, because despite the very best forecasts, markets can change." Vilsack encouraged producers to use the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Agency Service (FSA) online Web resource at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation. The secure website can be accessed via computer, smartphone or tablet. He also reminds producers that were enrolled in 2015 that they need to make a coverage election for 2016 and pay the $100 administration fee. Although any unpaid premium balances for 2015 must be paid in full by the enrollment deadline to remain eligible for higher coverage levels in 2016, premiums for 2016 are not due until Sept. 1, 2016. Also,

Agricultural Program Committee
| Bill Brown | Hammondsport |
| Cathy Halm | Campbell |
| Drew Heisey | Hornell, NY |
| Greg Muller | Bath, NY |
| John Murphy | Wayland |
| Bob Nichols | Addison |
| Paul White | Cohocton |

Legislative Representatives:
| Hilda Lando | Corning |
| Bill Peoples | Addison |

Agricultural Program Staff:
| Kerri Bartlett, Dairy & Livestock |
| Stephanie Mehlenbacher, Horticulture |
| Kelley Jo Elliott, Local Food Educator |
| DeLisa Drum, Agriculture Community Educator |
| Hans Walter Petersen, Grapes |
| Brett Chedzoy, Forestry |

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County
Website: www.putknowledgetowork.org
Phone: 607-664-2300
producers can work with milk marketing companies to remit premiums on their behalf. To enroll in the Margin Protection Program for Dairy, contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit http://offices.usda.gov. Payments under the program may be reduced by a certain percentage due to a sequester order required by Congress & issued pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Should a payment reduction be necessary, FSA will reduce the payment by the required amount.

The Margin Protection Program for Dairy was made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gain in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Source: USDA News Release No. 0263.15 M

Plan For Long Term Viability and Environmental Stewardship

The Dairy Acceleration Program is an initiative of Governor Cuomo in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation designed to enhance profitability of New York dairy farms while maintaining a commitment to environmentally responsible dairy farming.

Funds may be used for the creation of strategic business plans focused on increasing the viability of the dairy, design of new or remodeled facilities, development or update of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) and the design of eligible best management practices (BMPs) identified in the farm CNMP. Farms must have lactating dairy cattle and be shipping milk.

There are funds still available, to learn more about this program please contact Kerri Bartlett or DeLisa Drum in the office at (607) 664-2300

Tile Drainage Makes Positive Difference

Eric Young, Research Agronomist
W. H. Miner Ag Research Institute

ALBANY, N.Y. — A Northern New York Agricultural Development Program project report encourages farmers to consider the benefits of tile drainage to both crop production and environmental stewardship.

The research is especially timely as farms face changes to the environmental standards they are required to meet and at a time when federal and state funding is available for installing the tile drainage.

As many states refine their phosphorus management requirements for farm nutrient management plans, it is critical that the models they use are based on representative field conditions and sound data, said project leader Eric Young, research agronomist at W. H.

Dairy Acceleration Program

Springwater Agricultural Products
8663 Strutt Street, Springwater, NY
Cell: 585-315-1094
Pesticide, Foliar Nutrition & Adjuvant Sales
SeedWay, NK, WL & Dairy Banquet Seed Sales
Certified Corn, Soybeans, Small Grains, Forage & Pasture Grasses

Open Everyday – Dave Votypka-Owner
Quality products with farmer friendly prices.
Young estimates the return on investment from installing tile drainage on farms with slow or very slow permeability is from seven to 12 percent over five to 10 years.

The goal of the most recent tile drainage research funded by the farmer-driven NNYADP was to compare phosphorus losses between tile drained and undrained test plots designed to simulate field-scale conditions typical of northern New York dairies.

Surface runoff
Undrained conditions resulted in greater surface water runoff and phosphorus losses compared to tile drained lots, Young said.

The test plots at the Lake Alice Wildlife Area, said Young, were managed as reed canarygrass in 2012-2013 planted to corn in 2014. Tile drainage and instrumentation was installed during 2012-2013 to capture real-time changes in both surface and subsurface runoff.

Automatic water samplers track changes in phosphorus concentration and sediment over storm events. The 2014 season was a wet year and included two major storm events in June, another in August, and one large precipitation and snowmelt event in December for measurement.

The vast majority of runoff that occurred in the tile drained plots was through the tiles with only three percent of the total runoff volume occurring as surface water runoff, Young said, and erosion that occurred from tile drained plots was half that of the undrained plots.

Although the trial size of only two replications limits the ability to show significant statistical differences, tile drainage showed a clear advantage in reducing surface water runoff and total phosphorus leaving the field.

Need more information
Given the multiple potential agronomic and environmental benefits of tile drainage to agricultural producers in Northern New York, and other regions, there is a critical need to better quantify the environmental aspects of tile drainage to support cost-effective best management practices to maximize both economic and environmental crop production aspects, Young explained.

Miner Institute has received a Northern New York Agricultural Development Program grant for 2015 to characterize tile drainage water nutrient concentrations and flow rates for several farms in the NNY region.

The 2015 project work will assess the relative importance of nitrate-N and phosphorus in drainage water at different times of year and compare nutrient concentrations in tile drainage flows to levels in surface water runoff and any ponded water from the same field.

Funding for the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is supported by the New York State Senate and administered through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

For a complete list of NNYADP 2015 projects and results of past projects, visit the website at www.nnyagdev.org.
Northern Soft Winter Wheat Region

The majority of New York’s 2015 soft winter wheat and winter malting barley crops flowered during a fairly dry period and developed relatively few symptoms of Fusarium Head Blight, says Cornell University plant pathologist Gary Bergstrom. Some individual winter cereal lots did incur high levels of DON contamination, however. “To our knowledge, less than 10% of the winter wheat crop was rejected at elevators or flour mills due to DON levels above 2.0 ppm,” Bergstrom remarks. “Preharvest sprouting damage was a bigger concern overall, with roughly 20% of winter wheat grain lots rejected for falling number scores below 250.” Warm and extremely wet conditions characterized the mid-June through July period in New York, such that later-flowering winter cereals and many spring cereals experienced FHB development and harvested grain with DON in excess of market limits for flour and malting.

Northeastern Malting Barley Region

There presently are seven small-scale, craft malt houses buying malting barley in New York, notes Cornell’s Gary Bergstrom, with at least three more in development. “The past three-year experience shows that less than half of the barley produced will meet the quality standards for malting,” he says. “Surveys of malting barley growers and craft maltsters identified DON contamination as a top quality concern and production challenge for the fledgling malting barley industry in New York.” New York craft brewers and maltsters are showing a strong preference for two-row malting barleys of both winter and spring types, Bergstrom explains, adding that this present a significant challenge for disease management since there is inadequate FHB resistance available in two-row malting barleys adapted to the moist, humid growing environments of New York. “Barley growers are utilizing triazole fungicides for scab suppression,” he notes. “But, as a solo tool, they are still inadequate to suppress DON to under 1.0 ppm demanded for malting barley.”

Governor Cuomo Announces $1 Million in Grant Funding to Support New York Agribusiness


Applications Now Being Accepted for 2016 New Farmers Grant Fund Program and New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Program

Governor Cuomo announced $1 million in funding is available to assist new farmers begin their careers. Now in its second year, the New York State New Farmers Grant Fund will build upon a successful 2015 when more than $610,000 was awarded to 19 farms across the state in order to support the continued growth of New York’s agricultural industry.

"Farming remains an important industry in New York and an essential part of this state's economy," Governor Cuomo said. "By creating new opportunities for early-stage farmers to expand and diversify agricultural production across the state, we are bolstering the growth in this sector and helping to ensure its vitality for years to come."

The $1 million New Farmers Grant Fund will provide grants of up to 50 percent of total project costs. Funds may provide a minimum of $15,000 and maximum of $50,000 for up to 50 percent of project costs with the remaining 50 percent being matched by the recipient.

Eligible project costs include the purchase of farm machinery, supplies and equipment, and
construction or improvement of farm buildings. Empire State Development, in consultation with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, will administer the Fund which is open to New York farmers in the first ten years of having a farm operation of 150 acres or less.

The application and guidelines for the New York State New Farmers Grant Fund are available online and the deadline for submission is January 22, 2016. Click here for both the application and guidelines.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Patty Ritchie said, “Agriculture is one of New York’s leading industries, and if we want it to continue to grow, we need to make sure we’re laying the ground work for its future. As Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I was pleased to advocate for the funding of the New Farmers Grant Fund, which will help ensure those interested in pursuing farming careers are able to afford the equipment, supplies and other things necessary for them to dig in and make their agribusiness successful.”

Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair Bill Magee said, “New York consumers love our quality locally-produced food and beverages. But they can’t get that food unless we have a pipeline of well-trained young farmers with the tools they need to overcome the hurdles of starting or taking over a farm. The grant and loan forgiveness program ensure that the next generation of farmers have the help they need to succeed.”

Additionally, the New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program, which encourages new college graduates to pursue farming careers in New York State, is now accepting applications for 2016. The Incentive Program, available through New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, provides loan forgiveness awards to individuals who obtain an undergraduate degree from an approved New York State college or university and agree to operate a farm in New York State, on a full-time basis, for five years. In its first year, funding was provided for up to 10 awards and all 10 awards were given to eligible farmers. The application for the New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Program is available online and the deadline for submission is December 1, 2015. Click here for the application.

Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky said, "The New York State New Farmers Grant Fund will support the expansion and diversification of agribusiness statewide and allow early stage farmers to take their operations to the next level."

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "As a result of the Governor’s support of our state’s agribusinesses, the industry is stronger now than ever before. The first round of the New Farmers Grant Fund is proving to be successful and now this year's program will provide the opportunity for us to extend our reach even further. We look forward to providing a boost to our next generation farmers and bridging the gap of resources need
to help build the future of agriculture across the state."

New York State Higher Education Services Corporation Acting President Elsa Magee said, "It's essential that we support the pipeline of young entrants into the farming profession, and the full utilization of Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program in its inaugural year demonstrates the need for this type of educational assistance."

New York Farm Bureau President Dean Norton said, "Beginning farmers are as an important resource to the future of New York agriculture as land and water. The grant fund and loan forgiveness program will kick start necessary investments that may be needed on growing farms and in turn support the agricultural economy statewide."

The “Calf & Heifer Congress 2015 – Manage What Matters”

To be held on December 15-16, 2015 is the fifth in a series of dairy replacement conferences presented by Cornell University Extension and the Cornell PRO-DAIRY Program.

The conference topics will cover the entire heifer growing period. This year the event will begin with an afternoon of speakers and panelists addressing facilities, environment and health. Following that will be an evening reception and a buffet dinner program dedicated to antibiotic stewardship, changing regulations and public concerns. The second full day of presentations and discussions will feature health, growth and economics.

Conference topics in chronological order will include:

- The Effects of Environment on Calf Health – Sheila McGuirk, DVM, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin
- Calf Facility Evaluation Research Project in Northern NY – Kim Morrill, PhD, NNY Regional Dairy Specialist
- Swine and Poultry Ventilation: It Works for Them, It Can Work for Us, Too! – Nevin Wagner
- Calf Housing Systems That Work: Options and Management – Curt Gooch, MS, Cornell University
- Virtual Tours and Discussion of Well-Designed Calf Barns – producer panel moderated by Chris Rossiter, DVM, Poulin Grain, Inc.
- Antibiotic Residues – Dwight Bruno, DVM, NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets
- The Bob Calf Challenge – Carol Gillis, NYS Beef Producers Association
- Metabolic Changes and Risks Associated with Dystocia – Franklyn Garry, DVM, College of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University
- Strategies and Risk Assessment for Infectious Disease – Sheila McGuirk, DVM, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin
- Identification and Management of Calf Scours – Franklyn Garry, DVM, College of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University
- A Comprehensive Approach to Achieving the Benefits of Superior Growth – Mike Van Amburgh, PhD, Cornell University
- Nutrition and Management of the Dairy Replacement from Birth to Calving – Bob Corbett, DVM, Dairy Health Consultation, Provo, Utah
- Economics of Traditional vs. Intensively Managed Heifer Programs – Bob Corbett, DVM, Dairy Health Consultation, Provo, Utah
Incorporating Conference Information into My Operation – producer panel moderated by Jason Karszes, Cornell University

The location will be at the Doubletree Inn, East Syracuse, NY located off Exit 35 of the New York State Thruway.

Extension personnel are eligible for a discounted registration fee of $225 for the conference on both days, December 15-16, 2015. You may elect to attend either day one of the Conference: “Facilities, Environment and Health” for $100.00 or day two of the Conference: “The Anatomy of a Successful Heifer Enterprise” for $125.00, a savings of $50 off the regular rates. One copy of the conference proceedings, breaks and meals are included with registration.

Registration deadline is on or before November 23, 2015. After that date a $50 late fee will be added.

Register on-line go to: http://www.cvent.com/d/jrq4k0

Protecting Quality of Stored Grain
Gary Woodruff, GSI

ASSUMPTION, Ill. — Low commodity prices and high yields this harvest season point to farmers storing larger quantities of grain for a longer period of time. However, capitalizing on the opportunity for higher, future commodity prices requires proper management to protect grain quality, according to Gary Woodruff, conditioning applications manager with GSI.

Woodruff advises that moisture content should not exceed 15 percent to safely store grain through next spring. Farmers planning to store grain through next fall, he says, should maintain a moisture content no higher than 14 percent, or not above 13 percent to store for one year or longer.

“Grain held above these moisture thresholds, particularly in larger bins, will experience heating and loss of grade, even if high airflow is available because there won’t be enough air to properly dry the grain,” he warns. “As a result, it will lose test weight and quality.”

His recommendations for protecting grain quality during long-term storage also include:
• Grain taken straight from the field is the most difficult to store long-term, even at 15 percent or below. Because the kernel is a live seed, insects, mold and fungus are alive. Proper drying improves storage life by reducing these threats to storage life. Market grain that was stored straight from the field first, if at all possible.
• As grain enters the bin, run aeration fans to equalize kernel grain moisture. This typically takes five to 10 days, but this year where maturity is highly variable, run fans for 10 to 15 days. This puts the grain in the best shape to store safely.
• Watch the ambient temperature and use aeration fans to get the grain temperature below 50oF as soon as possible. Nearly all insect and mold activity ceases below this temperature.
• It’s okay to leave corn cold as long as it will be marketed no later than May. For grain held past May, maintain its temperature within 10oF to 15oF of the outside air to avoid grain deterioration caused by condensation.
• Soon after harvest, pull the bins with peaked grain down so the center is just below the corn at the wall. The grain will look somewhat like the letter M from the side, promoting air movement in the center. Leveling at this point is also a good practice.
• On farms with multiple bins, don’t completely empty one bin at a time when it comes time to sell the grain. Instead, when possible, rotate the bin from which the grain is removed. This not only promotes air movement, but also reduces the risk of the discharge being blocked by out-of-condition fines.
• Check the grain weekly. Climb to the top of the bin, without entering, and observe whether there is a crust or any noticeable
smell. An increase in surface moisture usually is the first sign of problems.

- The only real fix for out-of-condition issues not stopped by aeration is to unload the bin down to where the affected grain can be removed. This likely means the grain will have to be marketed early and poor grain quality may receive a dock at the elevator.

Woodruff adds that in areas where maturity is variable, there will be a percentage of immature kernels even in grain harvested below 20 percent. This makes storage much more difficult and limits safe storage life significantly.

Safe storage, he notes, doesn’t happen by accident – it’s a matter of science. “Prevention is the key to dealing with out-of-condition grain. That takes management and planning.

**Wait Until Spring to Repair Grass Waterway Damage**

By: Peter Wright, Dana Chapman and Karl Czymmek

This past spring’s heavy and intense rainfalls on newly planted ground created new gullies and washed out old waterways. With the crop off, these eroded areas beg to be repaired. This is a difficult operation as reshaping the concentrated flow areas without adequate cover likely will set them up to erode further before a dense, healthy vegetation is established. This erosion will negate the repair effort as well as add to downstream loadings of sediment. Try a combination of these:

- Divert the watershed area out of the waterway until the vegetation can be established. This may not be practical in most cases, but there may be places where the flow path can be temporarily diked to eliminate concentrated flow, and direct it to a less damaging area. Some waterways are so long they will develop concentrating eroding flows just with the rainfall that falls directly on them.
- Reduce the watershed flow by installing a subsurface drain or by temporarily seeding the upstream watershed. A subsurface drain should contain the low flows to help the most vulnerable center of the waterway erode less.
- Install a stone center. Filling the eroded part of the waterway with stone designed to resist the velocities can be an excellent repair. Be careful to make sure the stone is shaped to keep the flows centered within the stone. Overfilling will create erosion pressure on the soil at the edges of the stone.
- Install fabric rill checks by burying erosion control fabric 1 foot deep across the upper end of the check and then laying (and stapling) the downstream 15 feet width of the fabric on the contour of the waterway. Rills that form downstream will work their way up to the fabric and then be held in check. The steeper the waterway, the more of these that should be installed.
- Wait until later in the spring to repair the waterway.
- Plant a fast growing companion crop with the seeding. At this point in October, even cereal rye will not offer much protection, but this can be a technique in the spring.
- Seeding and mulching the waterway, even using a tackifier or stapled erosion control fabric, while the waterway is subject to concentrated flow will likely fail over winter and early spring, but may work later in the spring.
- Don’t use straw bale or silt fence dams. Unless they are placed across the waterway long enough so the flows overtop the structures and don’t cut around them (and even then the overtopping can be erosive) they will just concentrate the flow as it cuts around them. When they are removed, the sediment caught behind them will need to be removed and that area reseeded.

Whether you have made repairs this fall or will wait until next year, seek help from your SWCD, NRCS, AEM planner or Agricultural Engineer to get ideas to increase the likelihood of success.
Cheese: Cheese production is generally in line with regular milk supplies. A number of plants are using manufacturer inventories to meet brisk sales orders. There is general confidence that holiday orders will be easily filled. NASS reports that total natural cheese stocks in refrigerated warehouses on September 30, 2015, 1.149 billion pounds, were down 2 percent from the previous month but up 13 percent from one year earlier.

Butter: Butter production remains active, especially for print butter. Manufacturers are not having trouble sourcing cream, as supplies have become more available, but most processors are using in-house or contracted cream supplies and not buying on the spot market. Processors and end users are careful not to keep high stock levels with the price fluctuations happening lately at the CME Group, Inc. The strong demand levels are helping to keep inventory levels in check. There are some buyers looking for imported spot loads, but are having trouble securing them with the recent tariffs that were added.

Fluid Milk: Farm milk production is following the typical season declines in most areas of the country. Manufacturing milk supplies, although limited by strong sales to Class I, are adequate for processing. Cream demand from ice cream and cream cheese accounts in the West are strong in advance of Q4 holidays. Fat and protein levels are improving.

Dry Products: Low/medium nonfat dry milk prices are lower. Current production is steady to seasonally lighter. Most buyers are hesitant to make purchases beyond covering their near term needs. Dry buttermilk prices are mixed. Producers’ dry whey stocks are limited. Resell activity has increased in the Northeast. Whey protein concentrate 34% prices are adequate for processing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk Component Prices</th>
<th>Milk Class Prices</th>
<th>Statistical Uniform Price &amp; PPD</th>
<th>MPP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Butterfat</td>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>I (Boston)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 14</td>
<td>$3.24</td>
<td>$3.49</td>
<td>$26.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>$2.85</td>
<td>$3.74</td>
<td>$27.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
<td>$3.90</td>
<td>$27.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>$2.10</td>
<td>$2.74</td>
<td>$25.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>$1.69</td>
<td>$2.67</td>
<td>$21.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>$1.83</td>
<td>$2.41</td>
<td>$19.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>$1.84</td>
<td>$2.49</td>
<td>$18.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>$1.89</td>
<td>$2.56</td>
<td>$18.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>$2.06</td>
<td>$2.52</td>
<td>$19.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>$2.10</td>
<td>$2.69</td>
<td>$19.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>$2.11</td>
<td>$2.61</td>
<td>$19.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>$2.27</td>
<td>$2.57</td>
<td>$19.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
<td>$17.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

September Utilization (Northeast): Class I = 35%; Class II = 25%; Class III = 26%; Class IV = 14%.

Class I = fluid milk; Class II = soft products, cream, and yogurt; Class III = cheese (American, Italian), evaporated and condensed products; Class IV = butter and milk powder.

*At a milk margin minus feed costs of $8 or less, payments are possible depending on the level of coverage chosen by the dairy producer.
Comments: With the decline of the export market, seemingly marginal changes in the domestic market can lead to large price fluctuations. Milk prices throughout this month have been “unsettled” as they respond to holiday orders of butter and cheese, decreasing export opportunities, and slowing increases in milk production. On a total volume basis, exports have continued to decline for the fourth straight month in August, our last available data set. Butter exports fell 35%, cheese was down 28%, nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder down 5%, and total whey products down 18%. As holiday orders continue to fall, both butter and cheese prices will be expected to fall lower, bringing down Class III and Class IV prices. Current butter stocks are 21% higher than a year ago, in spite of production being lower than a year ago. September milk production was just 0.4% higher than a year ago, and September cow numbers declined 5,000 head from August. (Cropp, Bob. Memo to Dairy-L. October 20, 2015).

Milk prices will decline slightly from September, where Class III price was $15.82 and will be $15.60 for October. However, we may see an uptick in Class IV prices that could reach near $16.40 compared to $15.08 in September as butter prices continue to hold. By December, we could see Class III at $15.45 and Class IV down to $14.50, and these prices will likely continue their decline into the first half of 2016. The severity of the lower prices will depend largely on milk production and domestic sales, as the export market is tied up and will continue to lack improvement until the last half of 2016. If milk production continues to increase at less than 1% going into 2016, milk prices will hold higher. (Cropp, Bob. Memo to Dairy-L. October 20, 2015).

On the crop side of things, corn and soybean markets have fallen somewhat due to good yield forecasts. The Corn Belt has recovered from wet weather earlier in the year, and excellent crops elsewhere, along with a strong US dollar, will limit export opportunities. Penn State’s measure of income over feed cost (IOFC) rose by 6.2% in September, as milk prices rose, and feed costs fell. September’s feed cost was 23 cents/cow/day more than in August, making September’s IOFC $7.28/cow/day. Income over feed cost reflects daily gross milk income less feed costs for an average cow producing 65 pounds of milk/day. (Dunn, Jim. Penn State Dairy Outlook. October 2015).

The export market has been and will continue to be in a slump, pointing to tension with China and Russia, a strong US dollar, and worldwide low dairy prices.

From a year ago, exports of butter are down 35%, cheese exports down 28%, and whey products down 18%.

Butter stocks are 21% higher than a year ago, and holiday orders are filling up, which will lead to decreased Class III and Class IV prices into the end of 2015.

September’s value of Income Over Feed Cost is $7.28 which reflects stable feed prices and slightly increased milk prices, and a 6.2% increase from August to September.

October’s Class III price will end up around $15.60, and should remain in the 15’s through the end of the year. Class IV could drop to the $14’s as the holiday orders slow.
COMING EVENTS:

December 15-16, 2015-Calf & Heifer Congress Conference
Doubletree Inn, East Syracuse, NY located off Exit 35 of the New York State Thruway.
The fifth in a series of dairy replacement conferences presented by Cornell University Extension and the Cornell PRO-DAIRY Program. The conference topics will cover the entire heifer growing period. This year the event will begin with an afternoon of speakers and panelists addressing facilities, environment and health. Following that will be an evening reception and a buffet dinner program dedicated to antibiotic stewardship, changing regulations and public concerns. The second full day of presentations and discussions will feature health, growth and economics.

Registration deadline is on or before November 23, 2015. After that date a $50 late fee will be added. Register on-line go to: http://www.cvent.com/d/jrq4k0

January-March 2015-Tractor & Machinery Operation Certification Program Offered
Youth who will be 14 and over by March 1, 2016 are eligible to take the course. Please go to the following website for more information http://putknowledgework.org/4-h-youth/club-programs/tractor-machinery or contact Kim Randall at 607-583-3185, or e-mail, ksb3@cornell.edu

TRADING POST:

For Sale: 4 x 4 round bales of mixed hay and wheat straw bound with twine. Hay has been tested. Large quantities available. Please call: 607-535-4903