



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Northern New York Regional Ag Team



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**North
Country**

**AG
ADVISOR**

Introducing the NNY Region Ag Program Newsletter – NNY Ag Advisor

The 2016 growing season is upon us and with it comes potential for great growth and change. Cornell University Cooperative Extension's agricultural staffing and programs have also grown and changed over the past several months, as you'll see inside these pages. In 2015, the Board of Directors of the six Cooperative Extension Associations across Northern New York (Lewis, Jefferson, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Essex, and Clinton Counties) unanimously approved pooling resources to better leverage State and Federal funds to create a new NNY Regional Agriculture Program consisting of highly qualified Regional Ag Specialists. The creation of the Regional Ag Program represents a significant return on investment for participating counties and a tremendous transformation of how Extension deploys resources to better serve the North Country. Building such a team takes time, but Extension is pleased to announce that the Regional Ag Team is fully staffed effective May 1, 2016.

The NNY Regional Agriculture Program is Cornell's newest addition to its host of premier regional agricultural programs which overlay much of New York State. To effectively cover the expansive 6-county NNY region, the NNY Regional Ag Team consists of 8 specialists who are representative of the region's agricultural sectors and deployed strategically to provide producer access to the team. The NNY Specialists work together with county-based Extension educators, Extension associates, and Cornell faculty statewide to address the issues that impact the dairy, livestock, field crops, and farm business management needs of farms in the North Country. As part of the Cornell College of Agriculture & Life Sciences' PRO-DAIRY program and CCE's Harvest NY outreach program, the team will provide educational programs, technical assistance, and research projects that tackle specific challenges and needs of the NNY ag industries.

The team is pleased to launch its inaugural NNY Ag Advisor Newsletter, which is specifically designed to help farmers, agricultural businesses, and their communities remain successful and prosperous. Going forward, the team intends to use this newsletter to stay connected with farms, businesses, and communities across the North Country – providing timely and relevant management information and announcing upcoming educational programs and learning opportunities. The newsletter will be distributed predominantly by electronic means, via email and links to our website, so please be sure to update your e-mail address by completing and returning the form on the back page, or by emailing your contact information to our Administrative Assistant, Tatum Langworthy (TLM92@cornell.edu). The team will also use its new website (<http://nnyrap.cce.cornell.edu/>) to communicate important information and dates to the NNY ag community as well.

The mission of the NNY Regional Ag Program is to provide science-based information and services to producers and agri-business professionals, equipping all with the knowledge to profitably produce and market safe and healthful dairy products and crops, contributing to the viability of New York State agriculture. Specifically, our NNY Regional Ag Program focuses on providing workshops and programs like the annual Crop Congress, Dairy Institute, Beef and Sheep Week workshops, and many others, where producers, consultants, and agribusiness representatives can find timely, relevant, science-based information on today's critical topics. So, enjoy the NNY Ag Advisor, meet our staff of specialists inside, and please call on us for assistance with any NNY agricultural topic.

Patrick Ames, Executive Director, CCE St. Lawrence and
Kitty O'Neil, Team Leader, NNY RAP

"Your trusted source for research-based knowledge"

Northern New York Regional Ag Team



Kitty O'Neil, Ph.D., CCA

Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialist
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Dr. Kitty O'Neil serves Northern New York agriculture as a Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialist and is Team Leader of the Northern New York Regional Ag Team. Her work focuses on providing field crop producers, consultants, and industry representatives with the knowledge and educational resources necessary to improve crop production and management practices to implement changes enhance farm prosperity and resilience, while minimizing environmental impact = growth of ag industries Northern New York.

Kitty is also a member of the Cornell Climate Smart Farming Extension Team because her goals of improving productivity and resilience of North Country farms requires smart crop management and a keen understanding of climate-related risks to crop production and long-term soil health.

Kitty grew up on a successful family dairy farm in Cayuga County, New York and went on to receive a B.S. in Animal Science from Cornell University, her M.S. in Animal Nutrition and Plant Biochemistry from Michigan State University, and her Ph.D. in Sustainable Plant and Soil Cropping Systems from Michigan State University. Kitty is also a Certified Crop Adviser.

Prior to working with Cooperative Extension, Dr. O'Neil spent several years working at Michigan State University researching potato cropping systems, studying impacts of crop rotations, soil amendments, and cover crops on soil health and biophysics on potato farms.



Michael Hunter

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Mike is a Regional Field Crops Specialist with Cornell University Cooperative Extension Northern New York Regional Ag Team. He has served the agricultural communities of Jefferson and Lewis Counties for over 17 years with Cornell University Cooperative Extension. He provides research-based field crop production recommendations and resources to farmers, crop consultants, and agribusinesses with the goal of improving crop production efficiency through increased yields, improved quality, decreased input costs, protected yields, and new technologies. Mike continues to be very active with several on-farm agronomic research projects each year.

Mike is a native of Jefferson County, New York, where he grew up on his family's dairy farm. He received his Bachelor of Technology degree in Animal Science from the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill and a Master of Science in Agronomy from Iowa State University. Prior to his employment with Cornell University Cooperative Extension he worked several years in agribusiness in both New Jersey and New York where he worked as a crop specialist and fertilizer blend plant manager. He has been a Certified Crop Adviser and NYS Commercial Pesticide Applicator for more than 20 years.

Mike is a member of the statewide Cornell Cooperative Extension Integrated Field Crop, Soil, and Pest Management Program Work Team. He is the Cornell University member representative on the New York State Agribusiness Association board of directors.

Northern New York Regional Ag Team



Kimberley Morrill, Ph.D.

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Dr. Kimberley Morrill is a regional dairy specialist for Northern New York. She focuses on calf and heifer management, record management, on-farm outreach programs, and helping New York dairies improve their capacity to manage the risks associated with climate change. Dr. Morrill conducted research on transition cow management, calf management, and colostrum absorption while earning a B.A. in dairy management and an M.S. in animal nutrition, both from the University of New Hampshire. Her work on neonatal development, colostrogenesis, colostrum management on dairy farms, gut development in newborn calves, and dairy nutrition earned her a Ph.D. in animal physiology from Iowa State University.

In addition to calf research and dairy management, Kimberley is a member of the Cornell Climate Smart Farming team. Kimberley also has a strong interest in women in agriculture - she is currently the President of New York Agri-women, a national director for American Agri-women, is active in Annie's Project for New York State and the Women in Ag Learning Network.



Lindsay Ferlito

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Lindsay Ferlito is a regional dairy specialist for Northern New York. She was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and received her B.S. in Animal Biology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). She worked as an intern at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and as a research assistant at the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre in Agassiz, BC, assisting with research on dairy cows and calves. In 2011, Lindsay completed her M.S. in Animal Science from the University of British Columbia Animal Welfare Program. Her thesis focused on dairy cattle welfare and feeding behavior.

For the last 4.5 years she worked for the Novus C.O.W.S.® Program conducting on-farm cow comfort assessments, seminars on cow comfort, and providing producers with herd specific feedback relative to regional benchmarks. By visiting hundreds of dairies across the country, she gained a unique perspective and understanding of cow comfort and the dairy industry both in New York and across the United States. Lindsay has a passion for cow comfort and the dairy industry at a local and international level, and she is excited to work more closely with producers in NNY as a regional dairy specialist.

Northern New York Regional Ag Team



Ron Kuck

Dairy and Livestock Specialist

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County

Northern New York Regional Ag Team

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Ron Kuck serves Jefferson County as a Dairy Educator and Regional Beef and Livestock specialist. His dairy programs, based on past experience in the A.I. and dairy feed industry, have focused on providing dairy producers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and industry representatives the knowledge and practical initiatives to improve milk and component production plus herd health all within the pragmatism of what is best for the individual producer's farm and vision. Ron was one of the initial coordinators of the popular NNY Dairy Institute which allows NNY to bring in regional speakers presenting cutting edge research. For the past six years, Ron has concentrated on providing dairy farms new and improved methods of storing forages in bunk silos so important for cost savings and most essential enhanced cow and young stock performance.

As the Northern New York Regional Beef and Livestock Specialist, Ron looks to improve the untapped resources that NNY has to offer livestock owners, specifically grazing and grasslands, ideal for profitable livestock production. The adaptation of using a Rising Plate Meter and grazing wedge has helped our grazers achieve consistent, high quality pasture at every grazing. Ron collaborates with Betsy Hodge, NNY Regional Sheep and Livestock Specialist, to begin exploration of the use of fresh semen A. I. with sheep. The semi-annual Beef Week and Sheep/Goat Week programs are popular with producers.

Ron received his B.S. in Animal Science from Cornell University. Ron has also completed a Certificate of Training required for USDA Grading of Livestock and Market News Reporting. He was also awarded the Educator of the Year from New York Beef Producers Association.



Betsy Hodge

Livestock Specialist

Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County

Northern New York Regional Ag Team

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Betsy Hodge has worn many hats in Extension over the years (since 1984!) from Dairy and Livestock Agent to County Director. She currently wears two hats - she is Regional Livestock Educator (25%) for the NNY Regional Ag Team and is also a local educator for St. Lawrence County. In this dual role, Betsy leads the NNY Livestock Team, a group of Extension Educators from across Northern New York. Her program focuses mainly on sheep and goats, but also includes beef, poultry, swine and other livestock. Betsy provides programming on nutrition, management, marketing, rotational grazing, handling, parasite management, and more. Betsy also acts as the shepherd for the Extension Learning Farm Flock in Canton and has a small flock of hair sheep at her home farm.

Betsy has recently conducted research with sheep artificial insemination and with parasite control using high tannin forages. She also has experience working with Livestock Guardian Dogs and herding dogs including a stock dog club that meets in the summer and fall. Betsy is a member of Farm Bureau and the Empire Sheep Producers Association as well as a member of several advisory boards. She has also traveled to France to study livestock marketing, and New Zealand to observe dairy farming and grazing.

Betsy grew up in Buffalo, but spent summers near the Genesee Valley working on dairy farms and riding horses. Betsy received her B.S. from the University of New Hampshire in Animal Science and her M.S. from Cornell University in Animal Science with an emphasis on nutrition and animal behavior.

Northern New York Regional Ag Team



Kelsey O'Shea

Ag Business Management Specialist
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Kelsey is the Ag Business Management Specialist for the NNY Regional Ag Team. She originally hails from San Diego, California where she grew up next to the beach, but spent all of her time at the horse barn. She spent her youth attending and then working at an old cowboy vocational college in the hills of Temecula that turned into a children's camp in the summer time. Designed like an old western ghost town, she developed her love for livestock and horseback riding through education and experience there. Kelsey left California after high school to attend Cornell University with the intent to pursue Veterinary Sciences.

After a couple years, her interests changed and she ended up with a B.S. in Animal Science and a minor in Agribusiness Management. While at Cornell, Kelsey spent her summers working on a guest ranch near the entrance to Yellowstone National Park in Emigrant, MT.

Although she loved living out West, following graduation she took a position with Farm Credit East, working in both lending and financial services in Cortland, NY. During her time at Farm Credit Kelsey focused on being well-rounded and took on learning both sound lending practices in addition to the ins and outs of farm taxation and record keeping. Through those hands-on experiences with clients, she came to realize her strength was helping and educating farmers with the goal of increasing their profitability.

After moving to Northern NY with Farm Credit in 2013, Kelsey resumed her passion of teaching horseback riding lessons and completed construction of a barn to call her own in 2015, called Clover Luck Ranch. She is also the Young Farmer and Rancher Chair for the St Lawrence County Farm Bureau Board, a member of the Pro-Equine Group, and is involved with the Day At the Farm Event in St Lawrence County. Kelsey looks forward to working with your farm business in the near future.

Administration



Tatum Langworthy

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Tatum supports the Northern New York Regional Ag Team and its specialists all across NNY's 6 counties (Jefferson, Lewis, Franklin, Essex, Clinton, and St. Lawrence). The region is home for Tatum as she grew up on a third generation farm in Evans Mills. She continues to live in the heart of a great agriculture community in Belleville, NY.

Tatum has been with Cornell Cooperative Extension for several years and she joined the Northern New York Regional Ag Team in October of 2015. Tatum will be your contact to sign up for Regional Ag Team programs or workshops in the 6-county NNY region.

Tatum looks forward to interacting with the agriculture community throughout all six counties.

Harvest New York



Lindsey Pashow

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Lindsey Pashow is the new Agriculture Business Development and Marketing Specialist for the Harvest New York Team that is affiliated with the Northern New York Regional Agriculture Program. She'll be based out the Franklin County office, but serving Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties.

Lindsey received her Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing and Master's in Administration and Leadership

from Plattsburgh State University. She was previously part of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program as a field technician. Some of the projects she worked on were the Cold Hardy Grape project and Native Entomopathogenic Nematodes.

Prior to that she worked as Human Resource Manager for Champlain Valley Specialty with a concentration in employee training programs and food safety. Lindsey also owns Adirondack View Vineyard that is located in Keeseville, New York.



Anika Zuber

Dairy Processing
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Growing up on a dairy farm, Anika always intended on pursuing a career in the dairy industry. Throughout her education, she focused her internship opportunities on dairy value addition from small to large scale manufacturing. After graduating from Cornell with a Food Science Degree, Anika became an Assistant Store Manager for Hannaford Supermarkets where she was able to gain communication and management skills. Now, as a recent

addition to Cornell's Harvest New York Team as a Dairy Processing Specialist, she has the privilege of working with a very high potential value addition region.

Roughly half of the New York State agricultural receipts come from dairy production, and about \$15 billion is generated from dairy production and manufacturing. For each extra \$1.00 in dairy industry output, \$0.42 is created in economic activity. New York leads the nation in production of yogurt, cottage cheese, and sour cream, and takes 4th place in cheese production. Even still, over 63 new value-added dairy processing facilities opened in the last 2 years state wide.

Anika's role as part of the Cornell Extension team is to assist in bringing the knowledge of regulatory agencies, suppliers, workforce development agencies, and the Food Science Team at Cornell to manufacturers in Northern New York. The North Country is a high potential area for future growth and market development. Her role will be dedicated to economically developing the North Country through dairy manufacturing operations.

Harvest New York



MacKenzie Waro

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MacKenzie serves the six northern New York counties (Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Franklin, and Essex) as well as Otsego and Schoharie Counties as the Livestock Processing and Marketing Specialist with Harvest New York. She is focused on working with processors, producers, consumers, and everyone in between to develop marketing opportunities, as well as bringing industry stakeholders

together. MacKenzie grew up near Cooperstown, NY raising sheep, beef, hogs, and dairy cattle. After receiving her Bachelors from Cornell in Animal Science, MacKenzie spent time working with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets with the division of soil and water. She then started working for Scenic Hudson as an easement specialist protecting farmland in the Hudson Valley. In 2009, MacKenzie moved back to Cooperstown to work as the land conservationist with the Otsego Land Trust working to preserve land around the Upper Susquehanna. In 2012, she received her Masters from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry in Environmental Studies with her research focusing on the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program though Fort Drum. After graduation, MacKenzie worked with the Watershed Agricultural Council protecting New York City's water supply while preserving the agricultural lands in the watershed. MacKenzie is looking forward to meeting with all who are involved in the livestock industry; Northern NY has great farms and great potential to grow.

Tell us how you would like to receive The North Country Ag Advisor.....

Please fill out information below and mail to 203 North Hamilton Street, Watertown, NY 13601, Attention Tatum Langworthy or email information to tlm92@cornell.edu.

NAME: _____ FARM NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____
ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email? Please provide your email address below.

EMAIL: _____

DO NOT have internet access and would like to receive a hard copy, please check box

What's Happening in the Ag Community

Farm Safety Day, Old McDonald's Farm, Sackets Harbor, NY - May 18, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

"How to present Animal Agriculture to the Public" by Jessica Ziehm, Executive Director of New York Animal Agriculture Coalition, Miner Institute, Chazy, NY - May 25, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

Cornell Small Grains Management Field Day, Musgrave Farm, Aurora, NY - June 2, 2016, 9:30 a.m.

Dairy Princess Festival, Canton, NY - June 4, 2016, all day

2016 Advanced Dairy Nutrition Short Course, Ithaca, NY - June 6-9, 2016
Conference website: <http://ansci.cals.cornell.edu/advanced-dairy-nutrition>

Sundae's at the Farm, Bilow Farm, Malone, NY - June 12, 2016, 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Cornell Focus Group with NNY Dairy Producers, Canton, NY - June 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Cornell Seed Growers Field Day, NYSIP Foundation Seed Barn, 791 Dryden Road, Route 366, Ithaca, NY - July 7, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Cornell Aurora Field Day, Musgrave Farm, Aurora, NY - July 14, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Day at the Farm, Windsong Dairy (Diesel and Katie Hitt), 20981 Fassett Rd, Adams Center, NY - July 30, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

2016 GRASSTRAVAGANZA, Alfred State College - August 4-6, 2016