June is Dairy Month. Celebrate New York’s 5,000 dairy farmers who play such a huge role in New York agriculture and in our local economies. As the State’s leading agricultural sector, dairy accounts for approximately one-half of the state’s total agricultural income. What’s more, New York’s producers and processors are proud to be more connected than ever to their consumers, helping to bring... healthy, nutritious, high-quality milk and dairy products to the tables of New Yorkers in every corner of the state with many dairy products being sold nationally and internationally.

Today and every day, Cornell Cooperative Extension encourages everyone to reflect on the impact our dairy farms and processors have on our economy, and the health and well-being of our communities, and to support New York’s dairy industry!

Cornell Cooperative Extension
GARY BERGSTROM, Extension Plant Pathologist, Cornell University

Winter wheat in New York is either beginning to flower now or will do so over the next week. The triazole products Caramba and Prosaro are the most effective fungicides for suppression of FHB and DON contamination when applied at flowering (emergence of anthers on heads). There is an application window of approximately 6 days from the beginning of flowering in which reasonable FHB suppression can be expected. Fungicide products containing strobilurins should not be applied to headed wheat or barley as they may result in increased levels of DON in grain. Caramba or Prosaro applied at flowering will also provide protection of flag leaves against stripe rust (see photo) - an imminent threat at this time. Based on the finding of severe stripe rust (photo courtesy of Mark Avery of Carovail) in some fields in northern Cayuga County this week and high levels of stripe rust in much of the north central, southern and eastern U.S. that could provide spores for aerial transport into New York, I am advising New York wheat growers to consider fungicidal protection of flag leaves against stripe rust infection at this time. The variants of stripe rust being found affect wheat but not barley.

Most winter malting barley fields experienced head emergence and flowering during the past several days and many had Prosaro or Caramba applied at full head emergence. For fields less than a week after head emergence, a triazole spray may still be warranted. Other disease being observed in winter malting barley include scald, powdery mildew, and seedborne loose smut in certain cultivars.

While the current risk of FHB epidemics is low over most of the state, that risk could increase. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/) and your local weather forecast frequently as your crop approaches heading and flowering. We hope to see many of you at the Small Grains Management Field Day at Cornell’s Musgrave Farm in Aurora, NY on June 2 (see http://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/ for details).

NY FarmNet Stands Ready To Help

New York dairy farms are facing a challenging financial situation

These financial pressures have been a cyclical occurrence over the past 20 years, but the current down cycle is lasting longer than many experts predicted. (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Flickr/Creative Commons)

ITHACA, N.Y. — The cost of producing a gallon of milk in NY State is now higher than the price the farmer is paid for it on many dairy farms across the state. The continued increase in milk production with limited markets has led to an oversupply of milk as the yogurt boom has leveled out, causing some dairy co-ops to begin limiting how much milk they can take from...
individual producers, and how many farms they can service.

These financial pressures have been a cyclical occurrence over the past 20 years, but the current down cycle is lasting longer than many experts predicted. The price paid to a farmer for 100 lbs. of milk (called “a hundredweight”) is roughly the same today as it was 20 years ago; while in that time period costs of feed, fuel, labor, and other production expenses have risen dramatically. Financial pressures are increasing on farms, leading to higher stress levels for families. Increased financial stress often means many farmers are dealing with depression, divorce, and bankruptcy.

One program in NY that is ready and able to help farm families in identify options and make decisions in difficult times is NY FarmNet.

The NY FarmNet program has consultants located across NY State who meet directly with the farm family, right on the farm. There is never any cost, and the services are 100% confidential. Often, NY FarmNet is able to identify ways to overcome financial challenges through debt restructuring, cost control and budgeting to improve margins. Our consultants work with farm families to identify options to evaluate for their farm business.

NY FarmNet’s phone lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help. Farm families can also go to NYFarmNet.org and fill out a form requesting assistance there, and can expect a follow up call from a consultant to set up the first meeting within 24 hours. Our personal and financial consultants help farm families in a number of areas including, but not limited to, stress management, family conflict resolution, asset preservation, and financial analysis.

For more information or to request services, go to NYFarmNet.org or call 1-800-547-FARM.

---

**Still Time To Plant Buckwheat**

Guaranteed Price for this year is $28.50 per cwt.

Buckwheat is fast growing—70 days from planting to harvest. It can be planted as late as mid-July in many areas, allowing for a double crop after wheat or rye.

Buckwheat improves the soil and suppresses weeds.

Buckwheat needs very little attention during the growing season.

Buckwheat makes a great rotation crop.

Buckwheat often grows well on low-fertility land.

Buckwheat is a high-yield crop. The Birkett Mills offers growers a specially developed, high-yield seed variety.

Buckwheat requires no chemicals and little or no fertilizer, producing savings in labor, fuel and chemical inputs.

There is still time to plant buckwheat. So, let’s talk. We’re looking primarily for full-production, contracted commercial, or, if you are a certified organic farm, we’ll contract organic buckwheat as well. And, for those not wishing to contract, we also offer both commercial and organic cover crop buckwheat seed.

This year start managing price stability, crop size and the changing export market, contract with The Birkett Mills, where both price and market are guaranteed before you plant.

Birkett Mills
Penn Yan, NY
Get complete info at www.thebirkettmills.com/growers
(315) 536-3311 or Fax: (315) 536-6740

$28.50 - RECORD HIGH PRICE!
A new AGES (alfalfa-grass evaluation system) app is now available. It is a web-based app that works on the computer and should work on any smart phone.

It does not work with MS Explorer (being phased out), but does work with Safari, Chrome, and Firefox. The app is currently at: http://52.90.125.233:8080/. It will eventually be transferred to forages.org.

Pure grass or pure alfalfa estimates are available, based on the old system on our website, no picture required.

For alfalfa-grass stands, a smart phone picture is automatically inserted into the program. A regular digital camera picture could be used with the program on a computer.

For alfalfa-grass fields, you take a picture and measure AMAX (maximum height of alfalfa to terminal bud), it will estimate:

- Grass%: Based on processing a photo through artificial intelligence software.
- Sample NDF: NDF concentration for parameters entered for the current sample.
- Average Field NDF: The average NDF concentration for all samples added to the current field average.
- Range in samples/field: The range in NDF concentration for the current field from minimum to maximum.
- Estimated days to harvest: Based on average field NDF, target NDF at harvest, and estimated weather conditions, this indicates the number of days to harvest to achieve target NDF.
- Target AMAX or GCPY at harvest: Target max height of alfalfa or grass canopy height to achieve target harvest NDF.

It also tells you the number of samples taken per field, that are included in the current average NDF.

Format takes a little getting used to. Range in height allowed is 16-30” for pure alfalfa, 12-30” for pure grass, and 12-40” for alfalfa-grass, although the upper/lower limits could be pushing it.

For alfalfa-grass, Grass% evaluation is based on the entire photograph. Make sure the camera is level, about 3 feet above the canopy, and entire area in the picture is of the stand.

I have tried it out on hundreds of photos I have on my computer, that were not used for app development. Seems to work well for spring harvest, good stands.

Does not work well for:
1. Regrowth harvests (we will need to sample and generate another equation for this).
2. Weedy fields, or poor stands in general.
3. Headed out grass.

NOTE: Changing the AMAX for a given picture will change the estimated grass percentage for
that picture, because “visible” grass vs. actual percent grass changes some with maturity.

**NOTE:** Changing the height that the picture is taken at will affect estimated grass percentage, be consistent and close to 3’ from canopy.

Since this is fresh from the programmers, some issues may arise. Later versions will allow results to be dumped off-site.

We will do some sample collecting this spring for validation.

We still don’t know how many pics per field are optimal. This will depend on field uniformity. Probably 6 minimum to 12 or so. You can observe the range in pics to help sort this out.

---

**The Pigeon Scoop**

*Kayla Hultquist, whminer*

After spending many hours on the catwalk at Miner Institute doing cow watch for behavioral research and continually hearing the flapping wings of pigeons, it got me thinking about how much damage birds really cause on a dairy farm. Dairy farms offer an easy source of food and shelter, especially during the winter months making it a perfect habitat for large populations of birds. Although small in size, birds can cause a tremendous amount of damage including consumption of feed, contamination of feed, water, and bedding, fire hazards, and facility damage. Species such as the European starling, house sparrow, and pigeon are some of the most common types of birds found on dairy farms and therefore cause the most damage. It’s estimated that starlings alone can cost U.S. agriculture $800 million annually.

Birds generally consume the grain portion of the TMR, which is the more expensive portion of the ration. Not only does this cost the farm money in lost feed but it can also lead to decreased production from cows, as the diet the cows are actually consuming differs from what is formulated for them. According to the USDA, a flock of 1,000 starlings can consume up to 40 lb of feed daily, which can add up quickly. Estimated annual feed losses were over $9,000 for dairies reporting 1 to 1,000 birds, nearly $23,000 for dairies reporting 1,000 to 10,000 birds, and over $64,000 for dairies reporting over 10,000 birds.

Birds pose a biosecurity risk as they can easily fly between farms carrying diseases such as salmonella, E. coli, histoplasmosis, cryptococcosis, and avian tuberculosis. These diseases may not only affect the cows but can also affect farm workers who come in contact with bird feces. Other concerns with birds include fire hazards and damage to facilities. Birds often nest on light fixtures and wiring, which can be a potential cause of fire. Bird nests can also plug drains and gutters. In addition, birds may cause damage to insulation, which can be a costly repair.

One of the keys to controlling bird populations is
to start preventing birds before they become a problem. This can be achieved by being persistent and using a variety of techniques such as lethal control, exclusionary devices, habitat modification, live trapping, and chemical repellants. Netting can be used as an exclusionary device to cover openings greater than one inch to prevent birds from getting in as well as to limit access to areas used for roosting, such as rafters and open ridge vents. Other potential roost sites not able to be covered with netting should be modified or angled to prevent roosting. Limiting access to feed and water is also important. Any feed spills should be cleaned up and water levels in waterers should be kept low enough that birds cannot perch on the edge and drink. Lethal control and exclusionary devices have been found to be the most effective in minimizing bird populations on the farm, while chemical repellants and live trapping are not as effective. European starlings, house sparrows, and pigeons are not protected by state or federal law as they are not native species to the U.S. but check with your local wildlife agency to determine if local ordinances protect these species.

Bird populations can cause huge economic losses on dairy farms if steps are not taken to reduce their numbers. It is important for farmers to be aware of the damage birds are causing on their farm and take action in reducing their numbers before they become an even bigger problem.

2016 GRASSTRAVAGANZA
Alfred State College - August 4,5,&6

This years keynote speaker will be Dr. Fred Provenza, Professor Emeritus, Department of Wildlife and Resources, Utah State University, who is best known for his work in managing animal behavior to interact with landscapes through grazing. Other speakers will include:

Justin Morris, NRCS Soil Health Specialist Matt Ehrhart, Director of Watershed Restoration at the Stroud Water Research Center, an independent research institution focused on stream and river ecology Dr. Hue Karreman (tentative), is a “first generation” organic veterinarian, having begun using alternative treatments in 1988 as a herdsman on a Bio-Dynamic farm

For more information go to: http://www.alfredstate.edu/grassstravaganza

Delisa’s Weekly Crop Updates

Want to get a weekly update?

Email DeLisa at dp253@cornell.edu

Or call 607-583-3359
“Putting Grazing Land Back To Work With Cattle”: Stocker Cattle Summits Offered in Southern Tier

Stocker cattle summits will be held at multiple locations throughout the Southern Tier of New York State. 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, generally are sold to other farmers that finish the animals to market weight.

“Cattle and beef values are at an all-time high, especially for locally-produced products and livestock finished on grain or grass. And there is great demand for those products from institutional buyers such as schools and hospitals,” said Senior Extension Associate Michael Baker, who will lead the initiative. “Those market developments, along with the region’s abundant high quality forage lands, make Southern Tier counties well suited to grow their position in the stocker cattle market.”

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.

The summits will describe what a stocker enterprise is, the opportunities and barriers to entering a stocker enterprise, and economics. Each location will also feature a seasoned stocker farmer who will describe their experience with a stocker enterprise. To attend any one of the summits please contact that location to make a reservation. Cost to attend is $10.00 per person.

Date: June 13
County: Schuyler
Location/Address: Tyrone Fire Hall, 3600 State Route 226, Watkins Glen
Time: 6-9 pm
Contact: 607-664-2300

Date: June 14
County: Chenango
Location/Address: CCE Chenango, 99 N. Broad Street, Norwich
Time: 10 am – 1 pm
Contact: 607-334-5841, ext. 11

Date: June 23
County: Cattaraugus
Location/Address: Randolph Fire Hall, 70 Main Street, Randolph
Time: 6-9 pm
Contact: Lynn Bliven, 585-268-7644, ext. 18 or email: lao3@cornell.edu

For more information on the Stocker Initiative, contact Mike Baker, Cornell Beef Extension Specialist, mjb28@cornell.edu, 607-255-5923.

Sample Guidelines for Human Resource Management on the Farm
By: Tom Maloney, Sr. Extension Associate, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University

We consider our employees to be the most valuable assets of our farm business. All employees involved in agricultural production will be treated with respect and dignity with emphasis on open communication between managers and employees. We recognize that motivation comes from within each employee. Each day we strive to create a work environment where employees will be motivated, satisfied, and can achieve their potential. We are proud to be in the business of producing food for the consuming public and we appreciate the critical role our employees play in that process. We adhere to the following positive and progressive set of guidelines with respect to our valued employees.

1) Open Communication with Employees We welcome feedback and encourage employees to provide suggestions on how the business can improve. We also
welcome suggestions about safety, work scheduling, housing and other working conditions. We have in place a process where employees can file an employment related grievance. Employees are encouraged to come to management with employment related questions or problems to be addressed. Where appropriate we provide employment information to employees in their native language. Employees are encouraged to come to any member of the management team at any time with workplace concerns or feedback.

2) Wages and Benefits We comply with all labor laws related to wages, hours, work breaks, and time off. We strive to make our wages competitive with other businesses to ensure that we attract the most talented and productive people. We clearly communicate performance expectations and provide appropriate wage increases as based on performance and longevity. With each paycheck employees receive a paystub detailing hours worked, rate of pay and any deductions made from the paycheck. An employee who has any questions about wage levels and how they are determined is encouraged to bring those concerns to their immediate supervisor.

3) Work Schedules and Time Off Our business operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Care of our animals and food quality are two of our highest priorities. We staff our business to ensure that both of these priorities are continually met. We strive to give each employee a minimum of one day off each week. We provide appropriate meal and rest breaks on every work shift over 4 hours. All breaks provided conform with New York State labor law. Each employee will have a minimum of 10 consecutive hours off per day to ensure adequate time for rest and sleep and to avoid fatigue.

4) Equal Rights and Freedom From Discrimination We pride ourselves on creating a workplace that is free from discrimination of any kind. Likewise, our business has a zero tolerance for harassment of any type. If an employee feels that they have been harassed or discriminated against, they should communicate the incident to a manager or supervisor immediately.

5) Housing We provide employees with housing as part of their compensation. Employee housing when provided comes with responsibilities to both the employer and the employee. Examples of employer responsibilities include, but are not limited to, adequate clean water, proper heating and cooling of the housing and adequate space and privacy for each individual. Accommodations for the health and safety of the workers housed are an important responsibility of the employer. Examples of employee responsibilities include maintaining a clean comfortable residence and notifying the employer if any of the appliances or mechanical systems in the house are not working properly. Responsibilities of both employer and employee are outlined in the employee housing agreement signed at the time of hire. When employees have visitors to farm owned housing, it is requested that the visitors sign in at the farm office.

Workplace Health and Safety We make every effort to provide a workplace that is free from health and safety risks to our workers and our family members who work on the farm. Our farm complies with the OSHA standards for safety. In many cases we go far beyond the minimum requirements of OSHA regulations. We provide the proper equipment and facilities to make the workplace as safe as possible. We also provide extensive training on workplace safety issues such as equipment operation, pesticide use and toxic substances found on the farm. When appropriate, safety information is provided in the worker’s native language. In addition all workers on our farm are covered by Worker’s Compensation.
Adding Value to Market Cows
By: Nancy Glazier

The beef industry continues to put an emphasis on meat quality. A product of dairies is beef, an often undermanaged commodity. The latest Market Cow and Bull Beef Quality Audit showed that 18-20% of our annual beef supply comes from market or cull cows; 29-33% is from dairy cows and 9-11% is beef cows and bulls. This accounts for 4% or so of a dairy operation’s revenue, and up to 20% for a beef operation. Depending on the plant, 60-75% of the meat is processed into whole muscle cuts. It is often a misconception that the entire carcass is ground.

On average, cull cattle are discounted about $70 per head due to quality issues: injection site lesions, bruising, udders, or blemishes. Producers should work to increase their returns. Some of the ways include sufficient antibiotic withdrawal times, no lameness, adequate muscling, and proper animal identification. Culling timing is critical and protocols should be in place to assist with decisions.

Value can be gained by adding weight to cull cows. This added weight accounts for both muscle and fat, and feeding reduces yellow fat. Consumers prefer white fat; market cows tend to have yellow fat which adds to the discount. Many factors influence dressing percentage (carcass weight/body weight), such as breed, age, sex, and gut fill. Adding weight increases dressing percentage with added muscle (body condition) and fat, see table.

Feeding a cow to increase body condition from 2 to 3, roughly 125 lb in this scenario, would increase revenue by $211.25. Feed and other costs need to be considered. Each operation will need to do its own partial budget analysis to find their point when it makes sense to feed market cows, such as milk and cattle prices, production, labor, and feed costs. If milk prices are low and production falls below the breakeven point, an operation could be losing money continuing to milk her.

Cornell beef cattle extension specialist Mike Baker and others conducted a study on feeding Holstein market cows. Sixty-five cows were purchased at an auction barn. Cows were split into 2 pens with 2 treatments within pen. These were feedlot-type pens at Cornell’s old Teaching and Research facility in Dryden. Half of each pen was implanted with Revalor (Imp). One pen was fed Optaflexx (Opt), a beta agonist, for the last 28 days. Twenty-four were sent to slaughter prior to trial conclusion, primarily due to poor performance. They were fed dry hay for 8-10 days then stepped up to a high grain diet for 70 days. The diet included melengestrol acetate (MGA), mixed with feed for increased rate of weight gain, improved feed efficiency and suppression of estrus (heat). Fecal samples were collected to test for Johnes Disease and urine samples collected to test for antibiotic residues. Sixteen tested positive for Johnes, 5 tested positive for antibiotic residues.
Dairy Market Watch

<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></td>
<td>I (Boston)</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>$/gal. to farmer</td>
<td>$/gal. to farmer</td>
<td>$/gal. to farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>$2.06</td>
<td>$19.08</td>
<td>$14.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>$2.10</td>
<td>$19.39</td>
<td>$14.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>$2.11</td>
<td>$19.78</td>
<td>$14.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>$2.27</td>
<td>$19.53</td>
<td>$14.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
<td>$17.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>$2.91</td>
<td>$1.70</td>
<td>$19.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>$3.18</td>
<td>$1.32</td>
<td>$19.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
<td>$1.35</td>
<td>$19.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>$2.31</td>
<td>$1.82</td>
<td>$19.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>$2.38</td>
<td>$1.74</td>
<td>$16.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
<td>$1.92</td>
<td>$17.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>$2.23</td>
<td>$1.84</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>$2.28</td>
<td>$1.49</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May Utilization (Northeast): Class I = 31%; Class II = 25%; Class III = 26%; Class IV = 18%.

Cheese: Cheese production is active throughout the country. Some manufacturers are cutting back slightly as a way to manage large inventories. Recent strength in the cheese prices has aided cheese producers. However, Western manufacturers do get the sense that buyers are shopping around, and don’t have a sense of urgency to make a purchase. Sales in the Northeast are reportedly lagging behind production rates, causing stocks to accumulate. Inventories are mixed. Some market participants believe the price difference in cheese between U.S. and world competitors is too large for domestic cheese to compete in the international markets. Therefore, exports are light.

Butter: Butter churning is generally below plant capacity in much of the country. Spot cream availability is tighter. Some manufacturers are also reluctant to purchase cream at current premiums and are content to calibrate churning to contracted cream supplies. International interest is quiet, as U.S. butter prices are currently not competitive in the world market.

Fluid Milk: Hot humid temperatures across the U.S. are affecting cow comfort and in some cases, causing noticeable decreases in milk production. Northeast and upper Midwest contacts, however, indicate that milk production outputs remain strong. Butterfat levels are trending seasonally lower. Ice cream production is seasonally strong, causing cream to tighten. Cream spot loads are increasingly difficult to come by.

Dry Products: Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk prices are mixed this week. Some market participants anticipate prices to continue to climb and are making forward purchases. Other industry contacts believe firming prices to be short lived, and are taking the wait and see approach. International interest is reportedly stronger than domestic in a steady to firm market. Dry buttermilk prices are higher in the Central and East regions but unchanged in the West. Production slowed for many manufacturers as cream cleared into alternative dairy processing use. Production is intermittent in a mixed market. Dry whey prices are steady to higher. WPC 34% prices are steady to higher. Strong sales to both domestic and international outlets have tightened inventories and firmed up the market. Lactose prices are unchanged in a firm market. Supply is limited outside of contracts. International interest is strong. Seasonal changes are limiting casein supply and driving prices for both rennet and acid casein higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday CME Cash Prices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese (40# Blocks)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fluid Milk: Farm level milk production is higher in most regions of the country as favorable weather conditions to dairy herds are boosting their comfort. Nationwide, manufacturing milk volumes are moderate to heavy. Bottled milk sales vary throughout the country depending on the current buyers needs in every region.

Cream volumes are mostly moving into butter manufacturing. However, ice cream makers continue pulling moderate cream loads as the summer season approaches.

Dry Products: The low/medium heat nonfat dry milk market undertone is weak. Spot sales in the f.o.b. market are light to moderate. Production is active as condensed skim volumes continue to increase with heavy seasonal milk output. Drying schedules for high heat nonfat dry milk are irregular as production is mostly driven by contractual needs. Spot prices for dry buttermilk are steady to lower in the East and Central region, but steady in the West. The market continues weakening. Prices for dry whole milk are mixed on an unsettled market. Demand from the confectionery sector is active. Prices for whey are unchanged in the Central region,

Comments: Maybe it was the push for “June is Dairy Month” or an early summer bringing the ice cream crowd out early, but last month’s prices did not drop as far as expected and remained steady. The future of dairy prices look much brighter than it did a month ago for several reasons and considerations in spite of strong milk production, increasing domestic product stocks, and a weak export market. We should see June’s Class III price to be around $13.25, as compared to May’s low of $12.76. June’s Class IV price should round out around $13.79, compared to May’s $13.09. If these dairy product prices hold, or, probably a bit too optimistically, increase...milk prices will remain much higher than they were forecasted at the beginning of 2016.

There are several reasons that prices rallied, what little they did, and sales of butter and cheese have been good and look like they'll remain steady. Exports remained low, but there seems to be some unrest around the world due to weather conditions and the effect of low prices getting to our international competitors. China may start to increase imports later this year, and New Zealand, Australia, and the EU look like they are slowing down production. High grain prices and hot, humid weather in the U.S. will also lower milk components and decrease milk production per cow. Although milk production in New York jumped 4.9% in the past month, nationally the trend is slowing with only an additional 3,000 cows being milked as compared to a year ago.

Class III and Class IV futures have responded to this month’s higher dairy prices. Future for Class II show prices as $15.05 for July, in the $16’s for August through November, and ending the year in the high $15’s. Class IV futures show $15.59 for July, and steadying in the $16’s for the rest of the year. These number are looking much better as far as forecasting goes, however the prices of corn, soybean meal, and alfalfa have all increased – tightening the margins on dairy farms even further. (Cropp, Bob. Memo to Dairy-L. June 21, 2016).

While we’ve still got a tough year ahead for the industry, this past month has given prices some hope that we all need to get through the summer season while dealing with the hot, humid weather, and ever-demanding crops. Hang in there – and Happy “June is Dairy Month”. Thank you for all that you do to provide the world safe, wholesome dairy products!

Price have remained steady and things are looking like we’ve hit the low. June’s Class III should be around $13.25 and Class IV should be around $13.79.

Cow numbers and milk production have started to slow, which should help to even out the supply domestically.

The weather is playing a big role this year – production per cow increases are slowing, feed prices are rising, and milk components will continue to drop as farms back off on feed additives and forages.

Looking like we’ll be up in the $15’s for Class III and the $16’s for Class IV to round out this tough year of 2016.
COMING EVENTS:

**June 9 Twilight Pasture Walk.** 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Join the Tri-County Graziers for their first pasture walk of the season at Fieldstone Acres; 5363 County Route 12; Campbell, NY 14821. Fieldstone Acres is an expanding grass-fed beef and animal welfare certified grazing operation that utilizes a variety of innovative pasture improvement and herd improvement strategies. Come network with other graziers, and share your thoughts and ideas with local experts from Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. This pasture walk is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County at: 607-583-3170, or by email: ksb29@cornell.edu

**June 13, 14, and 23 Stocker Cattle Summit** - See page 7 for locations, time and contact information.

**June 22 Summer Dairy Reproduction Update**, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., CCE-Wyoming Co. Agriculture & Business Center, 36 Center St., Suite B, Warsaw. Cost: $5.00, Please RSVP by: June 20. For more information contact: Libby Eiholzer at 607-793-4847 or geg24@cornell.edu

**June 30 Soil Health & Cover Crop Workshop**, 9:00 a.m. - Noon, Elba Fireman’s Recreational Hall, 7143 Oak Orchard Rd., Elba. To register for this FREE event, please contact: Dennis Kirby at 585-589-5959 or Dennis.Kirby@ny.nacdnet.net

**June 30 Manure Gas Safety Demonstration**, 7:00 p.m., Eugene Zimmerman Farm, 484 Middle Rd., Rushville. For more information contact: Nancy Glazier at 585-315-7746 or nig3@cornell.edu

**July 7 Seed Growers Conference**, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., NYSIP Foundation Seed Barn, For more information contact: Margaret Smith at 607-255-1654 or mes25@cornell.edu

**July 14 Aurora Farm Field Day**, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., 1256 Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora. DEC & CCA credits will be available. For more information contact: Jenn Thomas-Murphy: 607-255-2177 or jnt3@cornell.edu

**July 16 Management of Internal Parasites in Sheep & Goats**, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., CCE-Ontario County, 480 North Main St., Canandaigua. To register contact: Nancy Anderson, 585-394-3977 x427 or nea8@cornell.edu, see page 17 for more details.

TRADING POST:

**For Rent:** 3 acres that was in CRP and mowed annually, most of it level, additional adjacent 2 acres that was not mowed. Located on Willey Road, South Dansville, 585-729-6635

**Removal:** Need two silos to be removed as soon as possible. Contact Dana or Gail Sgrecci at 607-594-4169 or 607-742-5248