FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
https://www.fda.gov/fsma

Do You Still Qualify for a FSMA Exemption? FDA Updates Inflation Adjusted Cut-Offs

Most of the final rules implementing the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) have compliance dates or exemptions that are based on annual sales averaged over the previous three-year period and adjusted for inflation. These baseline values were set in 2011, when FSMA became law, but have changed every year because of inflation. The FDA has updated the applicable inflation adjusted values for six of the FSMA regulations covering 2015-2017, the most recent three years for which these values are available.

These values are particularly noteworthy for smaller businesses that may not be covered, may receive an exemption, or have later compliance dates based on their sales being less than the indicated value. For instance, farms or farm mixed-type facilities with an average annual monetary value of produce sold during the previous 3-year period of $25,000 or less (adjusted for inflation) are not subject to the Produce Safety Rule. That number, $25,000, was set as the baseline in 2011, however, the three-year inflation-adjusted average from 2015-2017 is $26,999. Therefore, if a farm or farm mixed-type facility’s three-year average is $26,999 or less, it is not subject to the Produce Safety Rule.

Certain businesses subject to the Preventive Controls for Human Food, Preventive Controls for Animal Food, Produce Safety, Foreign Supplier Verification Programs, Sanitary Transportation and Intentional Adulteration Regulations should refer to the updated values at the FSMA Inflation Adjusted Cut Offs page to determine whether they meet the cut-off value for the applicable regulation.
Complete the NY Labor Survey for Farm Owners and Managers

Do you own or manage a farm in New York? Please take the Survey of Farm Labor Management Practices. Your feedback will help the Labor Ready Farmer’s Project develop educational programs and tools to improve farm labor management skills and decision-making.

Participants can enter to win either a $100 gift certificate to Tractor Supply or a free Cornell Small Farms online agricultural course of their choice in the coming year. One winner will be selected for every 50 participants.

Please take the survey and share this link with farmers and farm owners you know: www.tinyurl.com/farmlabormanagement

If you have any questions, please contact Kat McCarthy (kmm485@cornell.edu; 607-255-9911). To learn more about the project, please visit the Labor Ready Farmer website.

Bunker Silo Covers: Know What You Are Buying When Replacing Tire Inventory

By: Karl Czymmek, Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY

New York Farm Bureau with support from Northeast Dairy Producers Association and PRO-DAIRY continue to work with NYS DEC to address challenges with the new regulations for waste tire usage. While discussions continue and progress is being made, the implementation deadline (May 2018) is approaching and many farms are taking steps to comply. We should appreciate that DEC has indicated a willingness to use enforcement discretion, meaning there will be some level of flexibility in the enforcement of this regulation, at least initially. But the lack of suitable replacement options and uncertainty about what to do with existing tire stocks on farms as well as costs for all of this present serious challenges and are part of the ongoing discussion agenda with DEC.

Caution: It is important to understand that radial tire sidewalls may contain protruding wires that present a hazard to workers and could penetrate plastic covers and contribute metal into the feed supply. Consider if this risk is worth taking with your herd. Bias ply sidewalls without wires can be purchased, but supply and availability are reported to be limited. One producer reports noticing an increase in hardware disease after cutting a number of radial tires in half, and cases declined substantially after eliminating those from use on the bunker. We are also hearing that some receivers of used tires require them to be clean - not simply rain clean, but hosed off. To avoid rejected loads, be sure you know the requirements before sending old tires for disposal. Be aware that burning and on-farm burial of used tires is not legal.

For more general information on the topic, see the article Reducing Mosquito Breeding Sites When Using Tires as Anchors for Silo Covers.

Agricultural Program Committee

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- Ariel Kirk, Agriculture Educator
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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County
Website: www.putknowledgeatwork.org

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Additional information is also provided by NYFB below.

**Waste Tire Update from NYFB - Enforcement Discretion**

On March 1, 2018, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issued an Enforcement Discretion Letter regarding the enforcement of Part 360 as it relates to waste tires used on bunk silos. The letter provides for an additional year, until May 3, 2019, for DEC to provide enforcement discretion for farmers who are in compliance with either Part 360.12 (c)(2)(iv) or BUD 1137-0-00.

The DEC letter states:

"This is to advise you, that subject to the terms set forth in this letter, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC" or "Department") will exercise its authority to utilize enforcement discretion with respect to certain provisions of 6 NYCRR Part 360, Part 361, Part 364 and Part 365 of the newly enacted Part 360 Series. The DEC will exercise this authority regarding the above provisions until either May 3, 2019 or an amendment to the present rule is promulgated, whichever is earlier. All other provisions of the Part 360 Series remain in effect and will be enforced.

**Waste tires used to secure tarpaulins**

The new Part 360 Series, which addresses the use of waste tires to secure tarpaulins in common weather protection practices, requires adjustments to better suit the needs of the agricultural community. The Department will utilize its enforcement discretion with respect to the enforcement of 6 NYCRR Subpart 361-6, as long as the use of waste tires to secure tarpaulins is done in accordance with the pre-determined beneficial use found at Part 360.12(c)(2)(iv) or BUD 1137-0-00, dated December 4, 2014, which permits the use of waste tires to anchor plastic film or other cover material for corn silage, haylage or other agricultural feeds if certain conditions are met."

Part 360.12(c)(2)(iv) states the following: (iv) waste tires required to secure tarpaulins in common weather protection practices such as agricultural storage covers and salt pile protection, provided the number of passenger tire equivalents used does not exceed 0.25 passenger tire equivalents per square foot of cover or bunker area, and whole tires are cut in half or have sufficient number of holes drilled in them to prevent retention of water;

**BUD 1137-0-00 states the following:**

*Therefore, the Department has determined that the use of waste tires for bunker silos on agricultural operations is a legitimate beneficial use pursuant to 6 NYCRR 360-1.15(d). This determination applies to any farm in New York State. The BUD is subject to the following conditions:*

1. This BUD applies when the waste tires are received at the farm. The amount of waste tires received cannot exceed the amount needed for bunker silos. Any waste tires that are not used for bunker silos for a period of more than 18 months must be removed from the farm.
2. Procedures (such as drilling holes in the waste tires), must be in place to minimize standing water and insect breeding during storage and use of the waste tires.
3. Waste tires stored at the farm, when not in use on the bunker silos, must be stored away from combustible materials and from potential ignition sources. Procedures and means to extinguish fires must be in place at all times.
4. The burial of waste tires is prohibited.
5. The burning of waste tires is prohibited.
6. No routine reporting to the Department is required. Any correspondence related to this BUD, should be sent to: Sally Rowland, Ph.D., P.E. NYSDEC Division of Materials Management Bureau of Waste Reduction & Recycling Albany, NY 12233-7253
7. The Department reserves the right to rescind or modify this BUD at any time, if it finds pursuant to 6 NYCRR 360-1.15(d)(4), that any matter serving as the basis for this BUD is incorrect or no longer valid, or the Department finds there has been a violation of the conditions of this BUD. All
administrative protocols in 6 NYCRR Parts 622 and 624 will be followed.

8. This determination does not exempt the farm from other local, state or federal requirements.

NYFB continues work with DEC to address farmers’ concerns with implementation of Part 360 as it relates to waste tires on bunk silos.

### Why Plant Buckwheat in 2018?

$23.50 CWT.

**RECORD HIGH Guaranteed Price and Market Contract at Planting time for Full production.**

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

**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** can be planted as late as mid-late July in many areas and is fast growing — 70 days from planting to harvest. **May be double cropped with winter wheat**

We think these are pretty good reasons to plant buckwheat. If you agree, 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.

**Springwater Agricultural Products**

8663 Strutt Street, Springwater NY
585-315-1094 or 607-759-0405

Crop Production Materials, Foliar Nutrition & Adjuvant Sales
SeedWay, NK&WL, Seed Sales:
Corn, Soybeans, Small Grains, Forage & Pasture Grasses
Sun up until Sun down! Dave & Penny
Farm tested with friendly farm prices.
Cornell Organic Symposium

The first annual Cornell Organic Symposium is less than a month away! It will be held April 27th from 1:00 – 5:00 PM in 148 Stocking Hall. The agenda is below.

Thirty people have already registered and 20 posters have been submitted. If you haven’t already done so, please register at [https://organic.cals.cornell.edu/content/pre-registration-2018-cornell-organic-symposium](https://organic.cals.cornell.edu/content/pre-registration-2018-cornell-organic-symposium) by April 20th. You may submit a poster title as part of registration, or there’s a link for returning to submit your poster title later. We’re hoping for a good mix of faculty, students, and Extension staff.

Those of you who have already registered will be receiving an email from Jenn Thomas-Murphy soon about how you can help us create unique and fun name tags for you! Our plan is to display posters on the walls utilizing Command strips, so varying poster sizes are OK. Feel free to re-use posters from other events!

SAVE THE DATE!

FARM CITY DAY IS BACK AGAIN THIS SEPTEMBER TO CELEBRATE CCE STEUBEN’S CENTENNIAL!
LOOK FOR OUR FARM REVEAL AND MORE INFORMATION IN THE COMING MONTHS.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition Pasture Management Schools

May 2nd, 2018 in Steuben County at Greg Halich Farm, 6962 CR 2, Addison, NY 14801 and John Burns, 8475 Morgan Creek Road, Lindley, NY 14858 Featuring nationally renowned, pasture consultant, farmer and author, Sarah Flack. Thursday, May 3rd, 2018 in Chenango County at Allen Troyer Family Organic Dairy Farm, 583 County Rt. 36 Guilford, NY 13780. 10:00am to 3pm workshops. (Rain or Shine in the field, please dress appropriately) A donation lunch featuring homemade fare will be available. These hands-on pasture walks will focus on improving marginal pastures, how to plan out your rotations, early season grazing approaches, determining the best time to graze plants, fertility management, animal impact grazing techniques, weather related management strategies and in-field farmer training exercises to hone your grazier’s eye. Pre-registration is required to help plan for lunch and logistics. To reserve your place for this unique early season grazing event please contact: Jonathon Barter, Steuben SWCD at (607) 776-7398 Ext. 3 or Brett Chedzoy, Schuyler CCE at (607) 535-7161 and bjc226@cornell.edu for Steuben County workshop. Contact Troy Bishopp at (315) 824-9849 Ext. 110 or Troy-Bishopp@verizon.net to register for Chenango County workshop.

Farm and Food Safety Regulations-Updates and information session

April 18th 6pm-8pm- Join us at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County in the OFA (Office for the Aging) Café. The purpose of this workshop is to provide farmers and food producers an overview of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Handling Practices (GHP) and Harmonized GAP (HGAP). What are the Benefits to Food Safety Certification? Is your Farm Exempt? What are the key requirements and compliance dates? Stephanie Mehlenbacher, Horticulture Educator, of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Steuben County will be discussing all of these topics and answering your questions. This workshop is free to attend and there will be light snacks provided. Registration link here: [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/FarmandFoodSafetyRegulations_244](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/FarmandFoodSafetyRegulations_244) Contact Stephanie Mehlenbacher (CCE Steuben) sms64@cornell.edu or call 607-664-2574 on specific topic details. To learn more about the certifications and regulations please visit [https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/](https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/)
STANDARDS FOR PRODUCE SAFETY
Coverage and Exemptions/Exclusions for 21 PART 112

The Preventive Controls for Human Food rule clarified the definition of a farm to cover two types of farm operations, primary production farms and secondary activities farms. The same definition is used in the Produce Safety rule (section 112.3(c)). Below are basic criteria that determine whether an operation that meets the definition of “farm” is subject to the produce rule.

Does your farm grow, harvest, pack or hold produce?
Section 112.3(c)(4)
We define “produce” in section 112.3(c).

NO × Your farm is NOT covered by this rule.

YES

Does your farm on average (in the previous three years) have $25k or less in annual produce sales?
Section 112.4(b)

YES × Your farm is NOT covered by this rule.

NO

Is your produce one of the commodities that FDA has identified as rarely consumed raw?
Section 112.3(a)(1)
If you grow, harvest, pack or hold more than one produce commodity, you must ask this question separately for each one to determine whether that particular produce commodity is covered by this rule.

NO × This product is NOT covered by this rule.

YES

Is your produce for personal/on-farm consumption?
Section 112.7(a)(2)

YES × This product is NOT covered by this rule.

NO

Is your produce intended for commercial processing that adequately reduces pathogens (for example, commercial processing with a “kill step”)?
Section 112.3(b)

YES

NO

Does your farm on average (in the previous three years) have < $500k annual food sales, AND
a majority of the food (by value) sold directly to “qualified end-users”?
Section 112.3(a)(3)

“Qualified End-User” as defined in Section 112.3(c) means:
- the consumer of the food
- a restaurant or retail food establishment that is located—
  (i) in the same State or the same Indian reservation as the farm that produced the food; OR
  (ii) not more than 275 miles from such farm.
- The term “consumer” does not include a business.

NO

YES × Your farm is eligible for a qualified exemption from this rule, which means that you must comply with certain modified requirements and keep certain documentation, as per Sections 112.6 and 112.7.

NO

YOU ARE COVERED BY THIS RULE.
Orchard Production Basics

Date
Saturday April 21, 2018

Time
9 to 11:30 am

Location
StoneyRidge Orchard and Winery
(160 Bixby Rd, Erin, NY 14838)

Are you interested in growing your own fruit trees? Would you like to see an orchard first-hand? If you answered yes to either of these questions then please join us for this upcoming workshop. The Heppner Family of StoneyRidge Orchard and Winery will be covering the basics of orchard production as well as giving a tour of their farm to see different production methods in practice. Topics to be covered include variety selection, planting, spacing, pruning, pest management, and more.

Cost: $5 per person. Children under 12 years of age are free.
Pre-registration is requested in order to ensure enough handouts and refreshments.
For more information and to pre-register, please contact Shona Ort of CCE Chemung at 607-734-4453 ext. 227 or sbo6@cornell.edu.

Note: Please dress appropriately for tour! Thermal layers, jackets, hats, gloves, and boots are recommended.

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work
Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by calling 734.4453 prior to attending a program.
Veteran Farmer Fencing Workshop

Are you an active or retired veteran interested in farming? Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County is partnering with the Farmer Veteran Coalition of NY and Cornell Small Farms Program to present a workshop about livestock fencing and a hands-on demonstration of stringing and repairing a high tensile electric fence.

Jonathan Barter from Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District will speak about pairing the correct fence type and fencing systems for your targeted livestock species. Both he and Richard Underhill will demonstrate installation and repair methods to keep your livestock secure and out of trouble. We will be working on site on Walter Palmer’s property, a retired veteran himself. We will also demonstrate how to set posts, build corners and braces and demonstrate tensioning techniques with contracting equipment. We will talk about grounding, wiring, chargers, and keeping fencing hot.

Come on out and learn the best fencing methods for your farm or future farm goals, and practice stringing fence with fellow veterans and agricultural professionals. Lunch will be provided and all are welcome. Please register by calling the CCE- Steuben office (607-664-2300) or emailing Ariel Kirk, Agriculture Educator (adk39@cornell.edu) by Monday, April 16th.

This work is supported by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and NYS Senate Agriculture Committee.

What: Veteran Farmer Fencing Workshop
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Time: 9:00 am to 12:00
Location: Walter Palmer’s Farm, 7197 SR 226, Savona, NY 14879
Cost: Free

Western Bean Cutworm and Mycotoxin Screening – 2017 New York and Vermont Corn Silage Hybrid Trials

Joe Lawrence, Gary Bergstrom, Jaime Cummings, Elson Shields, Ken Wise, Mike Hunter

Mold and mycotoxin development in corn ears and the resulting corn silage continues to be a major concern for dairy producers. Mycotoxins can result in a range of problems for livestock throughout the year as they are ingested with the feed. The presence of mold does not always have a strong correlation to mycotoxin development but it does present the chance for incidence to occur.

A number of factors influence the prevalence of molds from year to year. Conducive weather conditions for mold and mycotoxin development are outside the control of management options. But hybrid characteristics and physical damage to the ears can be managed through the selection of hybrids and pest resistance traits in the hybrids.

The presence of Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) in NY corn fields continues to expand as shown in the WBC Pheromone Trap Network coordinated by the NYS IPM program, though the insect’s apparent population varies significantly across the state (Figure 1).

Where WBC populations are high, the corresponding ear damage from WBC feeding can leave wounded corn ears more susceptible
to pathogen development, but a clear relationship between ear damage and mycotoxin development has not been documented. A number of mold species may develop on corn ears and a relatively few of these produce mycotoxins. Principal concern in New York is with the mycotoxins deoxynivalenol (DON or vomitoxin) and zearalenone, both produced by the fungus Fusarium graminearum.

While WBC damage to corn ears can be significant and may have detrimental effects on corn grain yield and quality, the economic impact on corn silage is less understood. For corn silage growers, understanding whether or not this pest significantly impacts the yield or quality of the forage is critical to their decision making for managing this pest.

Since the Cry1F protein, which has most commonly been utilized for protection against numerous corn insect pests, has been found to be ineffective against WBC, producers are left with limited management options. Currently the Vip3A trait in select corn hybrids in combination with a scout and spray program is the best option for WBC management in areas where the pest is prevalent.

The Commercial Corn Silage Testing program conducted by Cornell University in collaboration with the University of Vermont and the Northeast dairy industry offers a good opportunity to evaluate numerous hybrids for ear damage from WBC and mycotoxins. This was done in 2017 with support from both the New York Corn Growers Association and the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program.

In 2017, 49 hybrids were selected and planted in replicated plots at two locations in NY (Aurora and Madrid). Each plot was scouted prior to harvest for WBC feeding damage to the ears. Composite samples, of whole plant silage, for each hybrid were taken at harvest and submitted to the Dairy One forage laboratory for a mycotoxin screening package which included aflatoxins B1, B2, G1, G2, vomitoxin, 3-acetyl DON, 15-acetyl DON, zearalenone, and T2 toxin.

The results of the WBC and mycotoxin screening project revealed large differences in the number of hybrids damaged by WBC, but surprisingly few hybrids tested positive for measurable mycotoxins (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hybrids Positive Mycotoxins DON or zearalenone</th>
<th>Total Hybrids</th>
<th>Aurora</th>
<th>Madrid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO WBC Damage</td>
<td>17 (34.6%)</td>
<td>19 (38.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC Damage Present</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most prevalent species of mycotoxin-producing mold found in the screening was *Fusarium graminearum* which can also infect corn ears through the silk channels at the time of pollination during favorable weather conditions and result in contamination of the grain and silage with the mycotoxins DON, 3-ADON, 15-ADON, or zearalenone. A review of the 2017 weather data at both trial sites showed wet conditions conducive to this type of infection. As expected for New York, no aflatoxins were detected.

While there are numerous ways in which molds can establish themselves in forages, this study reflects a common challenge researchers face while attempting to document the conditions where mycotoxin development is likely. Recognizing that results are specific to the growing season experienced in 2017, which was conducive for silk channel infections. A different relationship between WBC damage and mycotoxin development may be found during a growing season less conducive to silk channel infections. These results from one year of data do not provide strong evidence that WBC damage is a significant concern for corn silage growers who are worried about mycotoxins in their silage. Multiyear studies, including years of varying weather conditions, are required for further evaluating these risks and providing recommendations. It is also important to note that these results do not reflect what may occur in corn harvested for grain as the time between silage harvest and grain harvest offers additional opportunities for infection and growth.
Additionally, there was no correlation between crop yield or starch content with WBC damage in this study. Growers should continue to scout for this pest and weigh the cost of control with the potential for damage.

An article addressing integrated pest management (IPM) practices for WBC has been generated by the NYS IPM team.

Integrated Pest Management for Western Bean Cutworm (Richia albicosta), https://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwpr/

2-day Intensive - Vegetable Farmer Training for Veterans: May 26-27

This two-day training will be divided between classroom sessions and on-farm training with hands-on activities. Participants should be actively farming a vegetable operation, have attended an Armed to Farm event, or have significant relevant experience working on a vegetable operation. The intent of this workshop is to support farmer veterans working to improve their efficiency and productivity, enhance farm profitability, and make connections to available educational and research resources for continued success on their farms. Registration will open up in early April. Email drk5@cornell.edu for more info.

Farm Tour for Veterans

On May 2nd, 2018 at 10:00am, John and Kirsten Anderson will be giving a tour of their "Lake Effect Farms". John is a proud veteran who has a herd of milking shorthorn cattle, has traveled to cattle shows throughout the country, and is a talented carpenter and woodshop enthusiast. Following the tour will be discussion and a free lunch featuring local foods. All veterans, active servicemen/women, and family members welcome! Register online. For questions related to this event, contact Alyssa Couse at 315-788-8450 or amc557@cornell.edu.

NYS Issues Inherent Risk Guidance for Farms

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets recently released guidance that clarifies the responsibilities of agri-tourism and equine business operators and their visitors under the Safety in Agricultural Tourism Act. The guidance found here, https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/Press%20Releases/Inherent_Risk_Guidance.pdf, provides an overview of the Safety in Agricultural Tourism Act and best practices for farmers in evaluating the possible risks of the agricultural tourism activity. This guidance document is the first step to help farms meet their obligation in hopes of reducing liability insurance costs. The guidance establishes enhanced protection for farm owners from liabilities associated with inviting the public onto their farms for agricultural tourism events and activities. This includes farm and winery tours, equine activities, and u-pick operations that are conducted for educational or recreational purposes, and that benefit the farm through the sale, marketing, production, harvesting or use of the farm's products. In addition, the document describes the public's responsibilities when visiting these agri-tourism locations.

The New York Nut Growers Association and the Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association Joint Spring Meeting

The New York Nut Growers Association (NYNGA) and the Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association will hold a joint spring meeting at Delaware Valley University, 700 E. Butler Avenue, Doylestown, PA 18901, on Saturday, April 21, 2018, from 9:00 to 3:00. Anyone zealous about growing nut trees is welcome to come. There will be presentations in the morning session on the commercialization of Eastern hazelnuts, the Gleaning Project of South Central Pennsylvania, the Hundred Fruit Farm Permaculture CSA, the Downingtown nut tree plantings of John W. Hershey, urban
orchards and food forests, farm succession, and government resources to help farmers with legal issues. We will have demonstrations of grafting in the greenhouse in the afternoon. A block of rooms, with two double beds, has been reserved at the Hampton Inn in near-by Warrington, PA, if meeting participants need or want to reserve rooms at the Delaware Valley University corporate rate. For questions, or for possible room sharing and car-pooling, contact Jerry Henkin, NYNGA, President, sproutnut@aol.com, (914) 282-1371. Visit NYNGA's website for further details and to access the registration form.

Monitoring for Feral Swine in New York
Katie Long, USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services

Starting in 2008, The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Wildlife Services has been working on feral swine (Sus scrofa) elimination and monitoring in New York State. In 2017, the last remaining feral swine was removed from St. Lawrence County. USDA currently classifies New York as a feral swine “elimination state”, but that title does not mean WS’ monitoring efforts cease. Continued monitoring after elimination is the focus of WS’ current feral swine management efforts and the public’s help is vital in the continuing need.

Feral swine in New York have accounted for over $1 million in damage and control costs. Eurasian boars were documented in 16 counties, with established breeding populations in six counties. Because of their extraordinarily high reproductive rates, lack of natural predators, and intelligence, feral swine are extremely difficult to control once a population becomes established. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and USDA Wildlife Services took an aggressive and timely approach to managing feral swine and were successful in their elimination. In total, WS and DEC removed 209 feral swine from 2008-2014.

Feral swine, a very destructive invasive species, pose threats to many aspects of their environment. They root and wallow in crop fields and native vegetation. Their destruction eventually leads to a reduction in water and natural resource quality. Numerous New York agricultural and natural resource risks are associated with feral swine. Two main agriculture industries are pork and dairy. Feral swine are disease vectors and can transmit 37 different diseases to livestock, pets, wildlife, and humans. The dairy industry is at potential risk due to feed crop damage and disease transmission. All wetlands, which are federally protected, as well as private lands, are also at risk. Estimates suggest one feral swine can damage 10 acres of wetlands per year resulting in estimated $64,000 per acre in restoration costs.

New York now faces a monitoring challenge. The state does not want to be considered an “eliminated” state only to discover years later that wild pigs went undetected due non-existent monitoring, especially when monitoring techniques are available. We must maintain a strong early detection network and continue to educate the public about the threats posed by invasive feral swine.

Regulations are a critical component to New York’s feral swine management strategy. As of October 2013 it is illegal to import, breed or release Eurasian boars in New York. It is illegal to possess, sell, distribute, trade or transport Eurasian boars in the state. In addition, a regulation adopted on April 23, 2014 prohibits the hunting or trapping of free-ranging Eurasian boar statewide, with some exceptions provided for landowners and agency personnel.

Wildlife Services in NY also investigates every report made about potential feral swine sightings and uses these reports as part of our early detection network. If you would like to make a report or would like to learn more about feral swine in New York, please use the contact information below. Katie Long Wildlife Specialist USDA-APHIS, Wildlife Services 518-948-7743 Kathryn.k.long@aphis.usda.gov

We will have an informational session in both Lindley and Troupsburg on the 3rd and 4th of May at 6:30-8pm, with location TBA.

Silvopasturing When Planning For Profit with Livestock
North Branch Farm 208 River Road
Saranac, NY 12981
Time: 10:00-3:00
Tuesday, May 15, 2018

At this field meeting, Cornell Natural Resource Specialist, Joe Orefice and team members will be presenting at a working farm that is utilizing the silvopasture techniques. Joe has implemented this practice on his own farm and will be sharing new field management techniques, evaluating the forest as a timber resource or a feed source for livestock, identifying the plants for their feed values and tips to keep your livestock operation from eating into your forest profits. Joe will also discuss tree species selection, timber quality, canopy spacing and regenerating while grazing.

Franklin County SWCD will discuss soil sampling and its benefits and assistance and funding options available. Franklin County Soil & Water will also discuss programs that are available to landowners and farmers.

Lake Champlain Basin Program representatives will be available to discuss forage identification, nutrient management and phosphorus issues from non-point sources and TMDL’s (Total Maximum Daily Load).

Forest management is an important skill livestock farmers can add to their toolbox, to add value to their property and reduce erosion to keep Lake Champlain waters pristine. Whether you currently are practicing silvopasture or just getting started, there is something for everyone at this meeting. Lunch is included with registration.

This class is approved for 1 NYLT, 4 Category 1 SAF and 4.5 CCA Continuing Education Credits you must register and sign in to be eligible.

Sponsored by: Cornell Department of Natural Resources, Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, Lake Champlain Basin Program and North Branch Farm

To Register: Contact: Kristin Ballou, Franklin County SWCD Phone: 518-651-2097 Email: kballou@fcswcd.org Pre-register by May 4, 2018, to get free lunch
AUBURN, Maine — Farm Credit’s FarmStart is a unique program that invests working capital of up to $75,000 in northeast agricultural, fishing and forest products ventures showing promise of success. Since the first investment approved in August 2006, FarmStart has invested more than $11.3 million with over 250 agricultural and fishing entrepreneurs throughout the Northeast, including Maine.

“One of those recent investments was with Steven Christianson, owner of Christianson Farm, LLC in Readfield, Maine. Christianson Farms is a diversified business growing a mix of vegetables for its farm stand, while also raising beef and hogs that are sold retail at the farm stand and direct to local customers. Steven purchased his first two cows in 2009, and today has more than 60 animals and harvests about 300 acres of corn, hay and vegetable crops. Steven turned to FarmStart after being denied commercial financing because he only had two years of crop and tax records. “Then I learned about FarmStart and they were willing to work with me,” he said. “My FarmStart advisor understands my goals and how my operation works. It’s been a very good relationship.”

His FarmStart advisor, Kathryn Bisson, explained, “As a FarmStart advisor, I have a greater advisory role with FarmStart customers when compared with traditional lending relationships. I assist in the preparation of business plans, the tracking and follow up of management goals and objectives, while also helping to connect customers with other Farm Credit East resources.”

“It is rewarding to be able to work with beginning farmers through the early stages of their business, and see how their hard work pays off over the next few years,” Kathryn continued.

“The FarmStart program is unique in its focus working with young and beginning entrepreneurs to establish successful businesses,” said Matt Senter, Farm Credit East senior vice president based in the Auburn, Maine office. “The combination of working capital and the valuable insight provided by FarmStart advisors like Kathryn Bisson provides startup businesses with much improved odds of long term success. In a business like Steven’s, his strong farm management and marketing skills are complemented by the expertise of FarmStart staff and the flexibility of repayment terms.”

FarmStart, LLP is a joint initiative of Farm Credit East, Yankee Farm Credit and CoBank to fulfill Farm Credit’s long-term commitment to support a vibrant, entrepreneurial northeast agricultural community. The program invests working capital of up to $75,000 to help beginning northeast farm, forest products and commercial fishing businesses and cooperatives become operational.

Each FarmStart participant completes a business plan and monthly cash flow to serve as a roadmap for their startup business. A FarmStart advisor works with each participant to help the new business stay on track toward achieving their business objectives. Additionally, Farm Credit East’s Knowledge Exchange program offers resources for these startup producers via hot-topic webinars and industry reports and analysis.

For more information on FarmStart please visit FarmCreditEast.com/FarmStart.

—Farm Credit East
Cheese: The cheese market tone is steady to weakening, with both block and barrel prices decreasing from the start of the week, but stabilizing later on. Northeastern weather conditions continue to affect the dairy industry throughout the region and into the Midwest. Discounted spot milk prices range from $3 to $4 under Class. Cheese production varies regionally, with contacts in the East reporting plenty of milk loads for active cheese production despite weather conditions.

Butter: With the spring holiday demand window starting to close, butter production varies per region. The majority of print butter orders needed for the holidays have been fulfilled. Butter demand is relatively steady. Inventories are mixed. Some contacts suggest that inventories are low to in balance, while others suggest that inventories are growing. While cream for Class IV remains available, large amounts of cream are clearing into Class II. The market tone is steady with bullish behavior as buyers and sellers enter a post-holiday mode.

### Fluid Milk: Reports from all areas of the country suggest higher milk outputs, as spring flush is ongoing and/or coming depending upon region. Snowstorms in the Northeast are continuing to hinder trucking. Spring break, either upcoming or already in progress, is also creating rerouting issues around the country. All reported spot milk loads headed into cheese manufacturing were discounted this week. Spot milk loads as low as $4 under Class were reported.

### Dry Products: Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) prices are mixed. Production is relatively steady. High heat NDM prices are steady to lower throughout the country. Inventories are mixed. Demand is steady to slightly higher in order to meet customers’ needs for the upcoming spring holiday baking season. The overall NDM market tone is showing signs of weakness. Dry buttermilk prices are mixed. Some processors moved from holiday churning to post-holiday demand schedules, decreasing production. The dry buttermilk market is unsettled. Dry whole milk prices held steady on a stable market. Production is slightly up ahead of upcoming spring holiday needs. For the most part, dry whey prices are unchanged. Production is active throughout the nation. Inventories are steady to growing. The market tone is unsettled to steady. Prices for whey protein concentrate 34% are relatively unchanged.
March milk prices will end up higher than February. Butter and cheese prices will average higher in March, while both nonfat dry milk and dry whey prices remain low with no increase. Higher cheese prices will increase the Class III price to around $14.30 compared to $13.40 in February. Higher butter prices will increase the Class IV price to around $13.25 compared to $12.87 in February.

While stocks of dairy products remain relatively high improved domestic sales and dairy exports helped to strengthen prices. Compared to a year ago, January 31st stocks were: butter +1.0%, American cheese +2.2%, total cheese +7.0%, dry whey +28.6% and nonfat dry milk +50.0%. Domestic commercial disappearance of butter during January was up 6.3%, American cheese up 3.0% and other cheese varieties up 2.3% while beverage milk sales were 0.6% lower. Compared to January a year ago, exports of nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder were up 3%, cheese up 19%, total whey up 18%, but butter was down 6%. On a total solids basis January exports were equivalent to 13.9% of milk production compared to 13.1% a year ago.

Milk prices for the rest of the year will of course continue to depend upon domestic sales, dairy exports and the level of milk production. With continued improvement in the economy, domestic sales should be positive for milk prices. Dairy exports will continue to face stiff competition for markets mainly from the EU as their milk production continues to show strong growth. As far as other major exporters milk production is up just slightly in Australia but lower in New Zealand and Argentina. On the positive side U.S. dairy products remain very price competitive on the world market. U.S. prices of butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder and dry whey are all lower than EU or Oceania prices. The world economy also is improving. So U.S. should see some growth in dairy exports during 2018.

So a key factor to where milk prices will be headed will be the level of milk production. Despite low milk prices milk production is not slowing down. Compared to a year ago, milk production was up 1.8% for both January and February. Milk cow numbers have increased each month since last October for a total increase of 15,000 head. February cow numbers were 45,000 head higher than a year ago for an increase of 0.5%. Slaughter dairy cow numbers are running about 3% higher than a year ago despite very unfavorable slaughter cow prices, but dairy replacements are at a level to grow the cow herd. Milk per cow was up 1.3%.

Unless milk production slows down and/or dairy exports show greater increases it appears that milk prices will continue to slowly improve. Class III could improve to the $15’s by July and possible top out near $16 by October and average for the year no higher than $15.00 compared to $16.17 last year. The Class IV price could improve to the $14’s by July but remain below $15.00 and average no higher than $14.00 compared to $15.16 last year. But, hopefully, lower milk production and higher exports will push milk prices higher.
COMING EVENTS Continued

April 18—Farm & Food Safety Regulations—Updates and Information Session—CCE Schuyler County, OFA (Office for the Aging) Café. See article in this publication for more information.

April 18—Veterans Farmer Fencing Workshop—Walter Palmer Farm, Savona, NY. See article in this publication for more information.

May 2 & 3—Upper Susquehanna Coalition Pasture Management Schools—May 2 in Steuben County at Greg Halich Farm, 6962 CR 2, Addison, NY, and May 3 in Chenango County at Allen Troyer Family Organic Dairy Farm, 583 County Route 36, Guilford, NY. See article in this publication for more information.

May 15th—Silvopasturing when Planning for Profit with Livestock—North Branch Farm 208 River Road Saranac, NY 12981 See article in this publication for more information.

May 26-27—Day Intensive Vegetable Farmer Training for Veterans, Email drk5@cornell.edu for more information.

FOR LEASE

Seeking conservation minded individual with interests in permaculture to rent 3-4 acre, gentle grade, southern exposure field for agricultural production in Steuben County, NY. Acceptable practices include organic vegetable production, small scale poultry, and organic greenhouse or high tunnel production. Other considerations will be determined by owner. Improved, uncultivated ground will require proper preparation for success. Currently no housing available on the property, but can be discussed with owner in the future. Contact CCE Steuben at 607-664-2574 for further information.

Attention Christmas Tree Farmers I have 40-60 acres to lease at a reasonable rate. The property is located in Steuben County between Bath and Hornell. Contact Merwyn Crane at 1-315-591-8104.

Attention Cattle Farmers: I have pasture/farmland for rent, 40-50 acres, reasonable rate. Located in Steuben County on State Rt. 63. Contact Marian Crawford at 585-728-5303.