Cost of Manure Application Study Published

Twenty-seven farms from across New York State participated in the Cost of Manure Application Study. These farms spread manure using tankers in one of two methods; either loading on a spreader at manure pit and applying directly to fields using the same equipment or loading a tanker at the manure pit and then transferring the load to a spreader at the field for application. This study captured a period of time for manure hauling on farms. The farms provided an estimate of the total liquid manure they would apply over the year. Costs per 1,000 gallons of manure spread averaged $11.31 per 1,000 gallons spread with a range of $9.49, from $7.36 to $17.05, per 1,000 gallons spread.

The full report of the Manure Application Cost Study including comparisons of two different application methods, comparisons of different types of hauling and spreading equipment, and key factors affecting manure application costs is online at the PRO-DAIRY business management page.
The shearing school will be held at Shepherds Way LLC, 623 Bird Cemetery Rd, Locke, NY 13092.

Instruction will include the shearing pattern, blade sharpening techniques, physical fitness, handpiece maintenance and more. The instructor is Doug Rathke from Minnesota. Rathke is one of the top shearers in the United States and has had extensive training from the New Zealand Wools. Rathke is skilled at both machine and blade shearing. Class size is limited to 20 participants. Participants must bring their own equipment. The registration cost is $150 per person. Deadline for registration is February 25, 2015, but the school usually fills up quickly.

If you are unable to attend the shearing school, but are still interested in learning more about sheep shearing an instructional video tape or DVD is available. This 90-minute "how-to" video is filled with useful tips and information on shearing. The cost of the video or DVD is $44.95 and may be obtained at the address below.

To register for the shearing school (or to purchase the video or DVD) send your name, mailing address, phone number and a check or money order in US funds made payable to Doug Rathke and mail to Doug Rathke, 61231 MN Hwy 7, Hutchinson, MN 55350. Call 320-587-6094 if you have any questions. For more info http://lambshoppe.com/sheep-shearing/about-doug-rathke/?utm_source=January+First+Friday+News+-+Issue+9&utm_campaign=FFNews+January+2015&utm_medium=email.

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**Finger Lakes Hops Growers Discussion Group**

March 12, 2015

6-8pm

Heavily Brewing Company,

2471 Hayes Road Montour Falls

The craft brewing industry is growing daily and the NYS Farm Brewery law is bolstering fledging hops growers. To support the new hops farmers in the Finger Lakes area, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben and Schuyler Counties is coordinating the formation of a hops grower’s discussion group.

The purpose of this group is to provide a forum for discussion amongst the growers in the Finger Lakes area to share their knowledge and expertise. Growers can ask questions of other hops farmers in the region on topics including pests, weed control, growing techniques, varietal information, harvesting and much more. The discussion group would allow growers to connect with one another to share equipment, services, and potentially market product together.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben and Schuyler County invites any current hop grower in the Finger Lakes area and Southern Tier to their first discussion group meeting March 12th from 6-8pm at Heavily Brewing Company in Montour Falls. CCE will share their purpose and goals for the hops growers discussion group. CCE will survey hops growers about topics of interest. Also, learn about the upcoming April 24th Growing Hops for Craft Brewing in the Finger Lakes conference that will be held in Watkins Glen.

---

**Agricultural Program Committee**

Bill Brown

Cathy Halm

Drew Heisey

Greg Muller

John Murphy

Bob Nichols

Paul White

Hammondsport

Campbell

Hornell, NY

Bath, NY

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Stephanie Mehlenbacher, Horticulture

Hans Walter Petersen, Grapes

Brett Chedzoy, Forestry
There is no cost to attend the discussion group however registration is required. Please register online here: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/FingerLakesHopsGrowers_244 or call CCE Steuben 607-664-2300 or CCE Schuyler 607-535-7161. Reservations are required by March 9th.

Applications sought for 2015 Dairy of Distinction Award

The New York Dairy of Distinction Program invites interested farms to apply for this year’s Dairy of Distinction award from the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program. Applications must be postmarked by April 15th.

The award is based on the idea that attractive farmsteads enhance consumer confidence in the wholesomeness of milk and stimulate milk sales and public support for the dairy industry. Roadside judging will take place in May. Winning farms will be notified in June, and will receive a Dairy of Distinction sign to display in front of their farm.

To download an application or to apply online visit the Dairy of Distinction website at www.dairyofdistinction.com or contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office.

If you have any questions regarding the program please contact Nancy Putman, NYS Secretary at 315-322-5493.

Cornell Cooperative Extension to Publish Steuben County Farm Guide

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County will be publishing a guide to local farms in April 2014. They are seeking farms that wish to be included in the farm guide. The guide contains a listing of local farms with agricultural products for sale within Steuben County. The farm guide is distributed to wineries, restaurants, libraries, hotels, motels, and chamber of commerce offices throughout the county.

Who would qualify for inclusion? Applications will be accepted from u-pick farms, greenhouses, fruit & vegetable producers, meat and poultry producers, maple producers, honey producers, wineries, Christmas tree growers and other agricultural enterprises located within Steuben County. Applicants should be bona fide farmers.

Those wishing to obtain an application should contact Kerri Bartlett at 664-2300 or email ksb29@cornell.edu by March 1st! Applications can also be picked up at the CCE-Steuben office at 3 E. Pulteney Square, Bath; or on the CCE website at www.cce.cornell.edu/steuben.
Equine Management Workshop

...responsible care for managing equine health through proper management of facility and pastures.

Alfred University Equestrian Center
March 17 and April 7, 2015
6 - 9 pm

Horse Owners!
Learn how to improve the operations on your horse facility for your horse's health and for the environment. The exciting workshops provide farm managers education on equine environmental stewardship. Farm managers will develop the knowledge and skills to adopt environmentally sound practices aimed at managing healthy animals, healthy farms and a healthy environment.

Topics:
- Pasture Plants & Grazing Management
- Weed & Toxic Plants: How to Keep Them Under Control
- Fertilizing Pastures & Pasture Renovation
- Manure Management

Cost: $10.00 includes all materials
Pre-Registration Required Deadline: March 10, 2015

Registration & Questions: Country Crossroads Feed and Seeds Darleen Krisher-Meehan 607-478-8858 or darleenk@frontiernet.net

Registered participants will receive:
- Soil Testing Kits
- Pasture Evaluation Tools & Disc
- Notebook - educational information and fact sheets on all topics covered during workshop
- Booklet “Common Weed Seedlings of the North Central States”

Featured Speaker: Helene McKernan, Penn State University, Extension Equine Research

Step It Up in 2015 Winter Grazing Conference
Thursday, February 26, 2015
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Byrncliff Resort & Conference Center, 2357 Humphrey Rd, Varysburg, NY 14889

Sign up Now for Annual Winter Grazing Conference in Western New York

It's time to make plans to attend the Step It Up in 2015 Winter Grazing Conference on February 26. Keynote Speaker Bruce Rivington will present “Business Side of the Grazing Dairy”. The conference, in its 6th year, will be held at a new location at the Byrncliff Resort and Conference Center, 2357 Humphrey Rd., Varysburg, NY, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Bruce and Nancy, along with their family, own and operate Red Gate Farm, which is located in the southern hills of Madison County. The colorful herd of 400 Ayrshire and cross bred cows calve seasonally each spring to take advantage of lush, fresh, grass twice daily. They supply milk to make sweet cream butter at Kriemhild Dairy Farms.

Other topics and speakers to be addressed at the conference are:
- Milking Efficiencies with Pasture Based Herds – Dr. Rick Watters, Quality Milk Production Services
- Grain vs. No-Grain – What’s Profitable? – Karen Hoffman, NRCS
- How Many Cows Can Your Farm Support – It Depends - Nancy Glazier, CCE NWNY Team

A farmer/speaker panel that will focus on improving your grazing operation will close out the day.
Vendors are invited. There will be time for them to meet with attendees and learn about their products. Registration includes handout materials and lunch. The cost of registration is $45.00 for the first person and $30 for each additional person from the same farm. A discount of $10 is available to Cornell Cooperative Extension enrollees for the first registrant, who registers by February 18, 2015. Please contact Cathy Wallace at 585-343-3040 x138 or e-mail cfw6@cornell.edu to register. A flyer and registration form is available at www.nwnyteam.org. Please register early as space is limited. For questions contact Nancy Glazier at 585-315-7746 or nig3@cornell.edu.

Winter Farmers’ Market coming to Bath

A new winter farmers’ market is set to open Feb 10th at the VA Medical Center in Bath! The market will feature several local farmers offering a wide selection of locally grown products.

According to the USDA data New York State leads the nation with over 180 winter markets.

A recent USDA survey shows rise in winter farmers markets according to Kathleen Merrigan, agriculture deputy secretary, the updated National Farmers Market Directory indicates that the number of farmers markets has increased by 38%. Defined as a market that operates at least once between November and March, the number has risen from 886, recorded in 2010, to 1,225. These winter markets account for nearly 17% of the nation’s 7,222 operating farmers markets.

“Consumers are looking for more ways to buy locally grown food throughout the year,” explains Merrigan. “Through winter markets, American farmers are able to meet this need and bring in additional income to support their families and businesses.”

The Bath Winter Market at the VA will feature vendors selling locally produced eggs, honey, maple syrup, fruit leather, jams, herbs, artisan breads, chicken, pork, and beef.

A winter farmers’ market offers the community the ability to purchase local food year-round. Items like local meats, eggs and cheese are available year round and often plentiful in the winter months. Other farm products that were preserved during the summer can be purchased throughout the winter like dried fruit, jams and herbs. Honey and maple syrup are very shelf-stable and are available year round.

The Bath Winter Farmers’ Market at the VA will be open the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays through the winter months, from 11:00am – 2:00pm, and will be located inside the Leisure Room (Building 92), the first building on the right as you enter the medical center. The market is open to the public. The Bath Winter Market is made possible through a Farmers’ Market Promotion Program grant awarded to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County and by the Bath VA Medical Center. For more information contact CCE at 607-664-2300.

Springwater Agricultural Products
8663 Strutt Street, Springwater, NY
Farm: 585-728-2386 Cell: 585-315-1094
Name Brand & Generic Pesticide Sales
NK, Garst, WL, Dairy Banquet & Agricultural Seed Sales
Certified Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Oats, Forage & Pasture Grasses

Open Everyday – Dave Votypka-Owner
Quality products with farmer friendly prices.
Dairy Acceleration Program
Additional Funding Opportunity

Plan for Environmentally Responsible Growth
Additional funding from the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Department of Environmental Conservation has extended the Dairy Acceleration Program. New in this round of funding is inclusion of the design of Best Management Practices.

This program is designed to enhance profitability of New York dairy farms and to maintain a commitment to environmentally responsible growth. The program will be delivered in collaboration with Cornell PRO-DAIRY and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Funding for eligible projects may be used for creation of strategic business plans focused on growth, design of new or remodeled facilities, development or updates of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) and design of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Basic program eligibility:
- Must be a dairy cattle farm shipping milk.
- Must have complete financial records for business planning.
- Must have a current CNMP if applying for funds to design BMPs.
- Preference is given to farms with under 300 cows.
- Must complete and submit an application.

Environmental planning options:
- CNMP updates for farms under 300 cows.
- New CNMPs for farms under 300 cows.
- Design of BMPs for farms under 700 cows.

Dairy Acceleration Program funding covers 80% of a project’s cost. The farm is responsible for 20% of the project cost, which is paid directly to the service provider, including any in excess of established limits.

Funding may include:
- Up to $6,000 to develop a new CNMP (farms under 300 mature cows).
- Up to $4,500 to update an existing CNMP (less than 3 yrs old and farms under 300 mature cows).
- Up to $5,000 for design of a single eligible BMP identified in the CNMP (farms under 700 mature cows).
- Up to $10,000 for design of a combination of BMPs identified in the CNMP (farms under 700 mature cows).
- Up to $2,500 for certification of existing manure storage.

Eligible BMPs include:
- 561 Heavy Use Area (e.g. concrete barnyard)
- 367 Roofs and Covers (e.g. cover over a barnyard)
- 317 Composting Facility
- 316 Animal Mortality Facility
- 635 Vegetative Treatment Area
- 360 Waste Facility Closure
- 632 Waste Separation Facility
- 313 Waste Storage Facility
- 634 Waste Transfer
- 626 Waste Treatment

For more details visit the DAP website at http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/dairy-acceleration/
Ag Weed ID App for Smartphones

Ag Weed ID is an in-hand tool developed to help producers identify weeds out in the field with common smartphone technology. The database includes information and images of about 75 of the most common weeds, and enables you to narrow the list by state, crop, and time of year. This app is available for both Apple and Androids, and is FREE.

You can compare on the spot, or use the app’s camera integration feature to take and upload photos of your weeds to identify out in the field, in your truck, back at the office, or anytime. You can also bookmark weeds to check again later, or share with your consultant, dealer, or CCE Staff to get more info and advice.

Palmer Amaranth: Coming to a Field near You!

Many producers understand how hard it is to control pigweed species once they get some growth on them, but what about a new weed to our “region” that has both prolific seed production (greater than 100,000 seeds per plant) AND has shown some potential resistance to Roundup, ALS Inhibitors (Group 2) and some Group 3 and 5 herbicides. Luckily, New York hasn’t been hit by this weed, though close neighbors in Ohio and Pennsylvania are beginning to battle with it.

Palmer Amaranth, which is native to southwestern US states and Mexico, is a summer annual broadleaf similar to its pigweed relatives. “Palmer Pigweed” as some call it is a fast growing weed that can easily outcompete soybean and corn seedlings, where most producers are finding it. It is uncertain how Palmer amaranth was introduced to farms in these states, but equipment, hay, feed (corn, cotton seed, etc.), and manure are all suspected. Paying close attention to feed quality, origin, and potential pigweed seed contamination could really be important in preventing the introduction of this weed in our region. Likewise, if you are sourcing manure from farms in these areas, be sure to watch for suspicious pigweed plants and be sure to contact CCE.

Identification is key for this species. The major difference when scouting fields is that Palmer Amaranth has hairless stems, where our common pigweed species have hairs lining the stems. Palmer amaranth also have a long seed head that can reach up to 3 feet long, which helps separate this plant from tall waterhemp. Several different publications have been made for quick identification of this weed. So this season if you notice some abnormally large pigweeds that escaped a routine glyphosate application, be sure to let Cornell Cooperative Extension know about it.
Commitment to Quality and Service

Since 1912, providing you quality feed and independent service for Western NY farmers.

- Full Line of Complete Feeds at Competitive Prices -
- “Exclusive” Extruded Full Fat Soybeans -
  - “Steamed Rolled” Flaked Corn -
- Customized Feeds and Complete Nutritional Feed Programs -
  - Dairy Production Consultant -
  - Fertilizer Blending: Liquid and Granular -
  - Custom Spraying and Crop Service -
- Exclusive Manufacturer of “Country Magic Dog and Cat Food” -
- Working Relationships with Your Vet and Consultants for “YOUR Bottom Line” -
  - PLUS Access to the Latest Technology in the Feed Nutrition Business -

See our great prices on Carhart Jackets and clothing to keep you warm this winter!

REISDORF BROTHERS, INC.

Your Complete Farm Store & Feed Mill
1830 Perry Road • North Java, NY 14113
Toll Free: 1-800-447-3717 • (585) 535-7538 • Fax: (585) 535-0470

Please visit our web site:
www.reisdorfbros.com
Milk Component Prices | Milk Class Prices | Statistical Uniform Price & PPD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Butterfat</th>
<th>Protein</th>
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<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>Jamestown, NY</th>
<th>Albany, NY</th>
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<td>$2.05</td>
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**December Utilization (Northeast):** Class I = 37%; Class II = 21%; Class III = 24%; Class IV = 18%

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

**Butter:** The butter market is mostly steady. Buyers are generally looking to fill near-term needs at this time and are waiting for opportunities to purchase ahead. Cream is readily available while spot decisions vary from plant to plant on buying and selling. Export interest is improving as U.S. prices are now below the Global Dairy Trading market. Inventories are growing gradually. This week, a cooperative export assistance program accepted requests for 1.80 million pounds of butter.

**Cheese:** Cheese inventories are trending upward due to continuing volumes of milk moving into cheese plants, as well as some buyers moderating orders hoping for further price weakness. Decreasing export demand is also a factor contributing to inventory increases.

**Dry Products:** Low/medium nonfat dry milk prices moved lower as various indexes and spot sales weakened. Production is active and supplies are increasing. Dry buttermilk supplies continue to exceed demand, softening prices for the most part. Dry whey prices are softening on a weakening market with increasing supplies. Prices of whey protein concentrate 34% declined considerably, shadowing the weak NDM market and increasing supplies available for the spot market. Lactose prices moved lower on active discounting in the spot market as manufacturers look to lower inventories.

**Fluid Milk:** Milk production across the nation is mostly steady to slightly higher with many milk handlers noting production above year ago levels. Many processing facilities are hovering near capacity levels for milk intakes. Bottling sales are steady to improving with most educational institutions back in session. Class II demand is mixed. Interest for dips and sour cream are increasing as the Super Bowl nears, while requests for ice cream and other novelties are seasonally lower. Cream is available with a majority of interest coming from butter churn operators.

**Milk Production:** Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 16.2 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from December 2013. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,886 pounds for December, 35 pounds above December 2013. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.61 million head, 107,000 head more than December 2013, and 16,000 head more than November 2014.

**Friday CME Cash Prices**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Butter</th>
<th>Cheese (40# Blocks)</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>$1.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>$1.55</td>
<td>$1.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Another year is in the books, and it will certainly be remembered as a year that the dairy industry thrived. 2014 brought record milk prices – Class III averaged at $22.34 for 2014, $4.34 high than 2013 and peaked in September at $24.60; Class IV was $3.04 higher than 2013, averaging at $22.09 and peaking in August at $23.89. The US All Milk Price averaged $23.97, a $3.92 increase from 2013 and peaked at $25.70 in September.

Unfortunately, as we look towards the coming year, prices in 2015 are expected to be much lower than 2014. Class III will likely be around $16.00 for the month of January, and will continue to decline towards the low $14’s March through May. Price forecasts indicate, though, that after the early quarter lulls, the price may reach the $16’s again by the last quarter of the year. Class IV prices will be taking an even bigger hit, dropping to $13.50 for January and not recovering to the low $16’s until November. The All Milk Price will be near $17.45 this month, and is expected to drop into the $16’s. If the All Milk Price follows what is seen in 2015 projections, the price will average $7 less than 2014. It is important to remember, however, that these are only projections, and there is a lot of uncertainty as to how low prices will actually get in 2015. The drop in upcoming milk prices can be largely attributed to increased milk production in the U.S. and a decrease in dairy exports, and the upcoming year’s prices will reflect any increases or decreases in these variables (Cropp, Bob. Memo to Dairy-L. January 22, 2015).

Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers sign up for 2015 is complete, and earlier this month USDA released preliminary enrollment numbers. 23,807 licensed dairy herds have enrolled, which accounts for 51% of our nation’s dairy farms. This number is one third lower than the 35,411 dairy farms that previously participated in the Milk Income Loss Contract in 2013. In New York, approximately 2,414 farms enrolled, accounting for 48% of dairy operations. Of those who enrolled in NY, 57% opted to increase their coverage above the $4 catastrophic level. The figure below shows participation percentages by state.

It looks like there will most likely be a MPP payment for producers who signed up for protection above the $6 level. Below the $6 margin has a low probability as of now for payments, although it could change in the coming months. This year’s milk prices will be sensitive to small changes in milk production, domestic sales, and dairy exports (Novakovic, Andrew et. al. Comments on Summary Enrolment Data for MPP-Dairy. January 21, 2015).
February 21 - The Peter Levatich Winter Seminar for Rural Landowners.
Saturday, February 21st from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Spencer Van-Etten High School; SR 34 in Spencer This year’s theme is: “Our Constantly Changing Woods: What We Can Do To Make A Bad Situation Better”. Mark Whitmore and David Weinstein from Cornell’s Department of Natural Resources will share their insights on some major challenges and solutions to the health and sustainable productivity of private woodlands. This popular annual seminar is hosted by the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of the NY Forest Owners Association (www.nyfoa.org) Attendance is free and the public is welcome – no rsvp’s are required. Light refreshments will be served. In the possibility of a severe weather cancellation, notification will be posted by 10:00 pm on Friday, February 20th at Cornell Cooperative Extension’s forestry forum: www.cornellforestconnect.ning.com Other questions can be directed to: Brett Chedzoy by email: bjc226@cornell.edu, or by phone: 607-742-3657 (cell).

February 24 – Crop Symposium
Civil Defense Center, Bath
10:00am – 2:00pm
NY & PA approved. DEC Pesticide Applicator Recertification Credits: 1.5 DEC Pesticide Applicator Recertification Credits are available for Categories: 1a, 10, 21, and 23 Three (3) CCA CEU Credits are available: 1 PM, 0.5 SW, 1.5 CM
You must be present at 10:00 AM & have your Applicator ID with you to receive credit!
Pre-registration is requested by Friday February 20th; contact CCE at 607-664-2300 or by email ksb29@cornell.edu. Lunch will be provided. Cost to attend is $15 per person.

February 25 - Pesticide Applicator Recertification Course
Country Crossroads Feed and Seeds 9:30am – 2:00pm
3186 County Rd 61
Andover NY 14806
607-478-8858
Lunch provided
Sponsored by Country Crossroads & Seedway
NY and PA approved. RSVP BY February 20, 2015

March 12 – Finger Lakes Hops Growers Discussion Group
6-8pm
Heavily Brewing Company, 2471 Hayes Road Montour Falls
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben and Schuyler County invites any current hop grower in the Finger Lakes area and Southern Tier to their first discussion group meeting. The purpose of this group is to provide a forum for discussion amongst the growers in the Finger Lakes area to share their knowledge and expertise. Growers can ask questions of other hops farmers in the region on topics including pests, weed control, growing techniques, varietal information, harvesting and much more

There is no cost to attend the discussion group however registration is required. Please register online here: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/FingerLakesHopsGrowers_244 or call CCE Steuben 607-664-2300 or CCE Schuyler 607-535-7161. Reservations are required by March 9th.

March 27 – Locally Grown Food Festival
5-8pm
Union Hall, Corning
This event features dozens of Finger Lakes farms and their products. Sample locally produced meats, vegetables, fruits, cheese, wines and much more! There is no admission charge so bring your family and friends for a fun evening out!
COMING EVENTS:

February 19 - Potato Grower-Processor Meeting
Club 57, Hornell
Program
12:30-1:30  Registration
1:30  Update on the USPB-SFA Chip Trials
      Donald Halseth, USPB
      NCPT, Innate Gen 2, and update on Cornell Chip Breeding
      Walter De Jong, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Cornell
      Update from the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
      Commissioner Richard A. Ball, NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
      New Strains of the Potato Late Blight Pathogen
      William Fry, Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell
4:30-5:00  Hospitality and Socialize
5:00  Dinner

The Grower-Processor meeting provides an excellent opportunity to visit with processors and brokers, and to reinforce the importance of New York State potatoes to the health of their businesses. The cost is $50 per person – please pay at the door. We would appreciate knowing if you plan to attend by Tuesday, February 17, 2015 so we can plan for dinner. To make reservations please call Robert Mahany at 585-335-2391 or Jim McCormick at 585-322-7274.