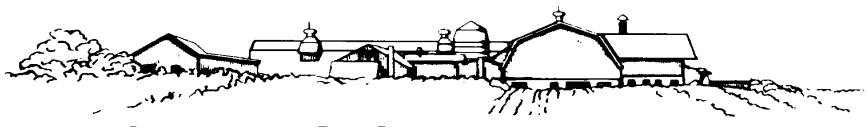

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

Schuyler and Steuben Counties

Volume 94 **December 2013** **No. 12**

Happy Holidays

As we wrap up another year here at the CCE office and are required to report our outreach and successes to Cornell I'm compelled to reflect on how we faired in 2013. The ag team (I use the term team loosely as I am not sure two people make a team) had many successes. Personally I saw a grant project that included the development of a website come to be. The MeatSuite website was developed to help people source local meats for their families. When we started getting calls from other counties and States who wanted to see the website expanded I knew we were onto something. That project website lead to another project, the establishment and installation of two meat lockers; one in Ithaca and one in Corning. I have thoroughly enjoyed the partnership we have developed with CCE-Tompkins Ag Marketing Specialist Matthew LeRoux, who is the lead on the locker project. Matt's never-ending enthusiasm for local meats and local farms has encouraged Stephanie and I to coordinate and host a multitude of local food events for the public as well as continued production focused workshops for our local horticulture and livestock farmers. As part of those efforts we hosted our 5th local foods festival in April, showcasing the wide variety of products available year round in our region. And most recently we stepped in to help keep the Winter Farmers' Market running smoothly in Corning. This market continues to grow, with several new vendor requests and a great crowd seeking out local products at the bi-monthly market. Over the course of 2013 we also saw record attendance at our tri-county livestock pasture walks, again demonstrating the growing interested in local meat production. Stephanie was kept very busy with numerous calls and site visit requests as the number of commercial fruit & vegetable growers continues to climb in our region.

In 2013 we faced our first year without our longtime mentors Carl Albers and Jim Grace. It was difficult for us to try and continue to offer the broad programming our office had provided in the past with half the staff. We struggled to offer a balanced program that included dairy, field crops, livestock, farm business management, and horticulture information. As we head into 2014 we continue to strive to meet all these programming needs and we encourage you to offer any programming suggestions to us. Steuben County is a large, agriculturally diverse county which is a blessing and sometimes a curse. The diversity keeps us on our toes as we try to keep up with new products and innovative growing techniques. 2014 looks to be the year of craft breweries; in response we will be offering a class on growing hops and malted barley in March.

2013 was also the first year we tackled Farm-City Day with a much smaller staff than in the past. We greeted the challenge with much trepidation but it didn't take long to realize that we had nothing to worry about. Nearly 100 volunteers showed up on Thursday to help with the second grade farm tours and many of them returned to do it all over again on Saturday. It was a very humbling and rewarding experience to see everyone rally around this event. And of course I can't thank all those volunteers without mentioning our great hosts Gary & Karen and Randy & Delcie Palmer. One of the greatest rewards for us in doing farm-city day is getting to know the host farm and their families better. Over the years we have developed great friendships with our hosts farms that we hope to continue for many more years (or until we ask them to host FCD again).

I hope as you reflect on the last year you consider it successful as well. We experienced a great growing season, especially compared to other areas of NY. We had record crop production and look to be in good shape for the coming year. Stephanie and I wish you a very happy holiday season and a happy New Year!

~Kerri

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Steuben County

Beef Cattle Comments

December 2013

Mike Baker, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist,
Cornell University

HOLD THE DATE – TEMPLE GRANDIN AT WINTER MANAGEMENT MEETING

The dates for the 2014 Beef Cattle Winter Management Meeting are January 17-18 and will be held at the Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Pkwy. Liverpool, NY.

The key note speaker on Friday, January 17 will be Dr. Temple Grandin, who will make two presentations: "Cattle Handling Facilities" and "Animal Welfare". Dr. Grandin is a nationally known expert on animal behavior and needs little introduction to beef producers. We are extremely excited and honored to have her on the program. Also on Friday Daren Williams, director of the Masters of Beef Advocacy program will lead a discussion on how to "Tell your beef story"; this is a very timely topic given the consumers confusion about modern beef production practices. Steve Ammerman, NY Farm Bureau will discuss the impact of social media. Utilizing risk management tools will be discussed along with a farmer's story on how it has worked on his farm. Finally, staff from the NY Beef Industry Council will provide a workshop on using face book, twitter and other communication tools.

Saturday's program continues the theme of "telling your story" with topics on factors that affect animal well-being.

For more information, contact Brenda Bippert, NYBPA Executive Secretary, (716) 902-4305, nybeefproducers@aol.com or visit the website http://www.nybpa.org/.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE PRICE OF FEEDER CATTLE IN NEW YORK

This is a three year project where a technician has been trained to collect data on feeder cattle at special feeder calf sales held at Finger Lakes Livestock Exchange. Through spring of 2013 data has been collected on nearly 10,000 head and 3900 lots. Even though cattle are grouped by sex, weight and breed prior to entering the sale ring, 49% are still sold as single head lots. This presents a challenge in efficiently marketing cattle in load lots. Compared to Hereford cattle, black feeder cattle brought a premium of $12/cwt. And bulls were discounted $8/cwt. It was disappointing that preconditioned feeder cattle only brought a $2.80/cwt. Premium. Compared to prices reported on 550 lb. by CattleFax, NY steers, weighing 500-600 lbs. were priced $29/cwt. less. Obviously there is still work to do in increasing the price of NY feeder cattle. The complete article can be found at http://ansci.cornell.edu/wp/beefcattle/.

EFFECT OF DIET ON PERFORMANCE OF CATTLE FOR GRASS FINISHING.

An experiment examining the effect of winter diet on subsequent performance and carcass quality of cattle to be finished on grass was initiated in February, 2004. In keeping with the style of marketing employed by small beef farms in the northeast, this project involves

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cooperation among several groups. The cattle are provided by a beef producer in Vermont. Funding for a portion of the expenses along with providing ultrasound services is the New England Livestock Alliance. Finally the cattle were fed and managed at the Beef Unit of the Cornell University's Teaching and Research Center.

During the first phase of the experiment calves were assigned to one of four treatments: 1) hay crop silage + corn grain, 2) hay crop silage + citrus pulp, 3) haycrop silage, only and 4) medium quality dry hay. The first phase was completed April 30. The results of the 87 day feeding period are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Performance of Heifers and Steers Fed Forage Diets (87 Days)

Treatment[1]	Begin wt, lb	Out wt, lb	ADG, lb.	DMI, lb.	FE[2]
	Heifers (n=24)				
HCS + corn	535	762[a]	2.60[a]	17.40[a]	6.83[a]
HCS + citrus	506	681[a,b]	2.01[b]	14.58[b]	7.35[a]
HCS	489	603[b]	1.31[c]	12.28[c]	9.79[b]
Dry hay	534	656[b]	1.40[c]	15.93[a]	11.85[c]
	Steers (n=12)				
HCS + corn	505	743	2.73[a]	17.5	6.47[a]
HCS + citrus	580	756	2.01[b]	15.2	7.56[a]
HCS	528	658	1.50[c]	14.3	9.60[b]
Dry hay	584	689	1.21[c]	15.9	13.4[c]

[1]Treatments: HCS = haycrop silage; citrus = citrus pulp
[2]Feed efficiency
[a,b,c,]Means in column with different superscripts differ (P<0.05)

Supplementation, whether with corn or citrus pulp increased daily gain compared to the non-supplemented treatments. Whether on the all haycrop silage or dry hay diet, there was no difference in average daily gain (ADG) of the two all forage diets. The cattle supplemented either with cracked corn or citrus pulp were the most efficient. Generally, cattle that gain faster are more efficient.

Table 2 gives the pasture performance of the cattle through August 12 as affected by winter feeding regimen. As expected cattle that had not been supplemented with corn grain during the winter had the highest ADG on pasture. This is due primarily to the compensatory gain of the cattle on the lower energy diets. When ADG is evaluated over both seasons, even though the non-corn supplemented cattle gained faster during the 104 day grazing season, the higher energy ration during the winter feeding period supported a higher cumulative ADG.

Table 2. Performance of Heifers and Steers on Pasture (104 days) as Affected by Winter Feeding Treatment

Treatment[1]	Initial wt, lb.	104 day wt, lb.	104 day ADG, lb.	Cum ADG[2], lb.
	Heifers (n=24)			
HCS + corn	762	863[a]	0.97[a]	1.70[a]
HCS + citrus	681	815	1.29[b]	1.63[a]
HCS	603	752[b]	1.43[b]	1.37[b]
Dry hay	656	790	1.29[b]	1.35[b]
	Steers (n=12)			
HCS + corn	743	842	0.96[a]	1.76[a]
HCS + citrus	756	878	1.18	1.53
HCS	658	828	1.54[b]	1.53
Dry hay	689	824	1.30	1.27[b]

[1]Treatments: Diet during the winter feeding period. HCS = haycrop silage; citrus = citrus pulp
[2]Cumulative ADG from beginning of winter feeding period (191 days)
[a,b]Means in column with different superscripts differ (P<0.05)

On August 12, the cattle which had received corn during the winter feeding period were pulled from pasture and placed on a high energy finishing ration. As evidenced by the low ADG (<1.0 lb), pasture was not meeting the nutrient requirements necessary to support a higher rate of gain. Table 3 shows the performance of the cattle that remained on pasture. These cattle remained on pasture until October 13. Winter diet had no effect on subsequent performance of heifers or steers while on pasture. The cumulative ADG over the 87 day winter feeding season and 166 day pasture season was higher in heifers that were supplemented with citrus pulp.

Table 3. Performance of Heifers and Steers on Pasture (166 days) as Affected by Winter Feeding Treatment

Treatment[1]	Initial wt, lb.	166 day wt, lb.	166 day ADG, lb.	Cum. ADG[2], lb.
	Heifers (n=18)			
HCS + citrus	681	883	1.22	1.50[a]
HCS	603	802	1.20	1.24[b]
Dry hay	656	851	1.18	1.25[b]
	Steers (n=9)			
HCS + citrus	756	946	1.15	1.45
HCS	658	889	1.39	1.42
Dry hay	689	924	1.41	1.34

[1]Treatments: HCS = haycrop silage; citrus = citrus pulp
[2]Cumulative ADG from beginning of winter feeding period (253 days)
[a,b]Means in column with different superscripts differ (P<0.05)

For more information, contact Mike Baker, mjb28@cornell.edu, 607-255-5923

FEEDER'S CORNER

Effect of Simmental, Angus and crosses in feedlot and carcass characteristics.

This study was conducted to evaluate direct breed effects, maternal breed effects and individual heterosis on subsequent steer performance, carcass, and feed efficiency traits. This was a consecutive 2-yr trial using 158 steers. The same dam breeds, Angus (AN) and purebred Simmental (SM), were used both years. Also, the same AN and SM sires (n = 11) were used both years. Steers were AN, SM, or AN × SM breed composition. At weaning calves were placed on to a common ration.

Compared to Angus, the direct effect due to Simmental was a 57 lb. heavier weight at weaning and a 101 lb. heavier finish weight. In the cross bred calves, those out of Simmental cows were 53 lbs. heavier at weaning and 96 lbs. heavier at finish than calve out of Angus dams. Heavier milking Simmental cows were most likely the cause of increased weaning weight of purebred and crossbred calves and a larger mature size, which carried through to the finish weight. Individual heterosis resulted in increased weaning weight, though the increase was smaller than the direct breed effect (9 lb. vs 57 lb.).

Direct breed effects resulted in Simmental steers tending to gain more and be more efficient in the feedlot compared to Angus steers. There was no maternal effect on feedlot performance. Individual heterosis did decrease the amount of feed required for a pound of gain by 3.4%, along with some other measures of efficiency.

Angus direct breed effect increased backfat and improved marbling score from low Choice to high Choice. Simmental increased hot carcass weight 64 lb. (902 lb. vs. 838 lb.) and ribeye area 1.2 square inches (14.5 in^2 vs. 13.3 in^2). Simmental also had the most desirable yield grade at 2.74. Maternal breed effect increased HCW 55 lb. as a result of the SM dam. Individual heterosis improved marbling score.

The authors concluded that direct breed effects affected performance, feed efficiency measures, and carcass traits as expected. However the positive effect of individual heterosis on feed efficiency has not been documented before and needs further evaluation.
(Reference: Retallick,. et al., 2013. J. Anim. Sci.91:5161–5166)

TO DO DECEMBER/JANUARY

1. Take forage sample for nutrient analysis. Depending on your locality, hay may be in short supply or of poor quality. Allocating the best feed to younger, higher producing animals will stretch out your supply. If practical feed and manage separately:
    a. weaned heifer calves
    b. first and second calf heifers and old thin cows
    c. the rest of the dry herd
    d. lactating cows and their calves
    e. herd sires
2. Cows should be in body condition score of 5.0-6.0 for March calving (Smooth appearance, last 3-4 ribs are just visible, and there is some brisket fat).
3. Heifers should be in body condition score 5.5-6.5 (slightly fatter than cows, can

begin to see pockets of fat on either side of tail head).

4. Watch for lice
5. Make initial selection of replacement heifers. Factors to base selection: 205 day adjusted weight, MPPA of dam, temperament and soundness.
6. Wean calves less than 120 days old before hard winter weather sets in. They will do better on grain plus hay, than if left on their dams.
7. Calves kept over the winter should be fed to gain 1.3-1.5 lb/day. Full fed legume/grass hay plus 5-6 lbs. of grain will support this level of growth.

Decisions Determine Your Farm's Direction

Kevin Spurlin, Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Dairymen on many small to moderate size operations often assume dual roles of management and laborer−milker or feeder and CEO. Getting consumed by daily tasks can be an obstacle to effective farm management on dairies of any size.

Kevin Dhuyvetter, of the Kansas State Department of Agricultural Economics, noted that there are greater differences in profit between farms in a given year than in a single farm from year to year. (Factors Impacting Dairy Profitability: An Analysis of Kansas Farm Management Association Dairy Enterprise Data, August, 2011). The implication is that while dairy industry macroeconomic trends such as milk prices or cost of production are important, long-term business direction and profitability ultimately rest on each farm's primary decision-maker(s).

Data from the Kansas State publication indicated that of the factors studied, milk production per cow is most closely related to profitability. The most profitable herds were slightly better at cost control on a per cow basis, but spread all costs over more pounds of milk sold. In fact, more profitable farms tended to invest more in the cows in terms of nutrition, breeding, and veterinary care than less profitable farms, offsetting these investments by controlling costs not directly tied to the cows. There may be a parallel lesson here regarding time management. Dairymen should invest time in managing the key profit center on the farm. Management time should be devoted to identifying and addressing obstacles to production. Here are some questions to help refocus a manager when sitting down with their records.

Is nutrition or cow comfort limiting production? What are the production trends? Did yield change with a diet change? How many cows are lying for at least 12-14 hours per day? Does production decline significantly during hot weather?

Is fresh cow management limiting production? How are peak yields trending? Are greater than 5% of cows leaving the herd in the first 30 days, or greater than 10% in the first 90 days? What are the rates of fresh cow problems, retained placenta, metritis, and milk fever?

Is mastitis limiting production? What are current and past somatic cell count scores? Is the farm dumping milk from more or less than 2% of the cows? Are cows freshening with mastitis or do they develop it once in the milking string? Are new infections and chronic cases each <10% of the herd?

Is heifer development limiting production? Are 1st lactation cows peaking at 80% of 2nd lactation cows or 75% of 3rd and later lactation cows? Is their projected ME milk within 500 lb of older cows?

Is reproduction limiting production? Is the 21 day pregnancy rate 20% or better during most of the year?

Most of these questions can easily be answered from a simple one page herd summary such as the DHI 202 report. Once a deficiency is identified, more detailed information can be attained and action steps

taken to address it. Many farms use external experts as part of a management team, particularly if taking time with records is difficult. Choosing not to take time to manage is itself a decision, but the consequences of that choice results in a lack of direction for the farm. Make it a priority to sit down regularly to consider the farm's status and plot its future course.

Bale Grazing Popularity Continues To Grow

Jerry Lindquist,
Michigan State University Extension

The bale grazing concept of devising ways to feed and care for livestock with less labor input continues to grow in popularity and expand in creativity.

The benefits of grazing are numerous. Grazing allows animals to feed themselves in a low stress environment, lowers human labor requirements for feeding and manure management, as well as creating a more pastoral image of the animals spread out across the landscape contently grazing forages at their leisure.

In northern climates these benefits are assumed to end once the fields turn white with snow. But a growing trend in the beef cow-calf industry is to continue the benefits of grazing all winter long by using the concept of bale grazing. Bale grazing has been around for decades in one form or another. Midwestern farms often practiced it once the corn stalk fodder ran out in a corn field, others evolved into it once their cow herd grew too large to be contained in a barnyard. As a solution, they began feeding hay on adjoining pastures and crop fields that had wind breaks. With the advent of the hay round baler it became much easier to set a supply of winter hay out for the cows to consume in locations farther from the farm buildings. Then in the last twenty years this practice was refined and given a name – bale grazing. It has since been talked about in trade magazines, at educational conferences and its popularity continues to grow.

Bale grazing is the practice of spacing apart individual round bales of hay across a field in strategic lines looking much like a checkerboard from the sky. The entire supply of hay to be fed through the winter is set out at one time in the fall. Then once hay feeding begins a single strand of electric portable fence is strategically set across the field giving the cows access to only a small portion of the bales at one time. After so many days of feeding by the cows, once the hay is cleaned up, the electric wire is re-set to feed off another portion of the bales. Once the bales are initially set in place in the late summer or fall, a tractor may not be needed to feed the cow herd for the rest of the winter. The hot wire and portable posts can be moved by hand thus avoiding jelled fuel lines, dead batteries, snow plowing and cold weather engine wear and tear on the tractor.

Bale grazing of winter hay has many benefits. As long as wind breaks are accessible, the cows prefer being outside. Even in stormy weather, when they have access to the shelter of a barn, they will tend to stay near wind breaks in the open air environment. Environmentally, when managed properly on frozen ground, bale grazing is better than feeding in a confined dirt lot area, as the manure and urine are uniformly dropped across the landscape as the cows follow the rows of hay bales across the field. Once dropped these nutrients are absorbed by the root system of the sod that is still active under the snow. These sod fields are a much better location for the nutrients to be deposited rather than in a barn yard that has few growing plants. These concentrated barnyards with only a soil base quickly turn to mud and become a nutrient sinkhole. The nutrients leach to the subsoil before mechanical scraping captures them in the spring.

Labor requirements for pasture bale grazing are less during the cold winter period, as all that is required is the fence and possible feeder ring movement. Contrary to popular belief, a pasture or hayfield on which bale grazing is practiced is not destroyed by the hoof action. When bales are set out properly across the field and feed locations are constantly moved, there is little permanent sod damage. The resulting nutrient application along with the wasted hay adds forage seeds and organic matter back to the field rejuvenating old low yielding fields into highly

productive stands after just a few years of bale grazing.

All that is needed for bale grazing is a sod field with water drainage and wind protection. Temporary fencing can be installed if necessary. Water sources can be developed if travel back to a frost proof water source is too far for the cows to walk. Electricity for pumping water and charging the fence can be improvised with solar collector panels and battery storage so few fields are off limits for bale grazing. Even grain stubble fields can be utilized as long as thawing soil conditions are closely monitored to avoid soil compaction.

Think your winters are too severe for bale grazing? Bale grazing is often used in most of the Canadian Providences with cow herds ranging up to 800 cows or more where winters are longer and more severe than most of the lower 48 United States.

Bale graziers are innovators and have not stopped at just figuring out ways to make winter feeding less costly. Some are seeding cover crops into wheat, sorghum or corn stubble and grazing the cover crop first and then setting bales on the field to be grazed along with the cover crop regrowth later. Others take a late first cutting of hay in mid-summer, never remove the bales from the field, let the second cutting growth stock pile for winter grazing and bale graze the bales and the stockpiled regrowth that winter. This is a winter feeding system with the following benefits: very little machinery labor as no bales are hauled; a big first cutting yield of low quality hay; a good stockpiled second cutting growth of quality forage that combined with the hay meets the nutritional needs of the gestating beef cow; and a field that will respond very well with yield the following year as a lot of seed will be dropped as well as manure nutrients.

Some bale graziers are even taking this a step further, and are not weaning their calves in the fall! They have begun letting the nursing calf stay on the cow well past seven months of age bale grazing the cow and calf into March. They are finding the calves stay healthy, grow surprisingly well without grain and virtually self-wean themselves by March at which time the cows and calves are finally separated.

Thin body condition cows of four or less, or cows that are heavy milkers are not good candidates for this, but most other healthy cows seem to maintain body condition at acceptable levels to rebreed properly the next summer. One change these farms have made for this system to work is to move their calving date back into May and June. This allows them to calve in sequence with spring grass growth and to give the cows an approximate 60 day dry period before the next calf is born. Research will be needed to test the economics of this system but many times the innovators lead the research.

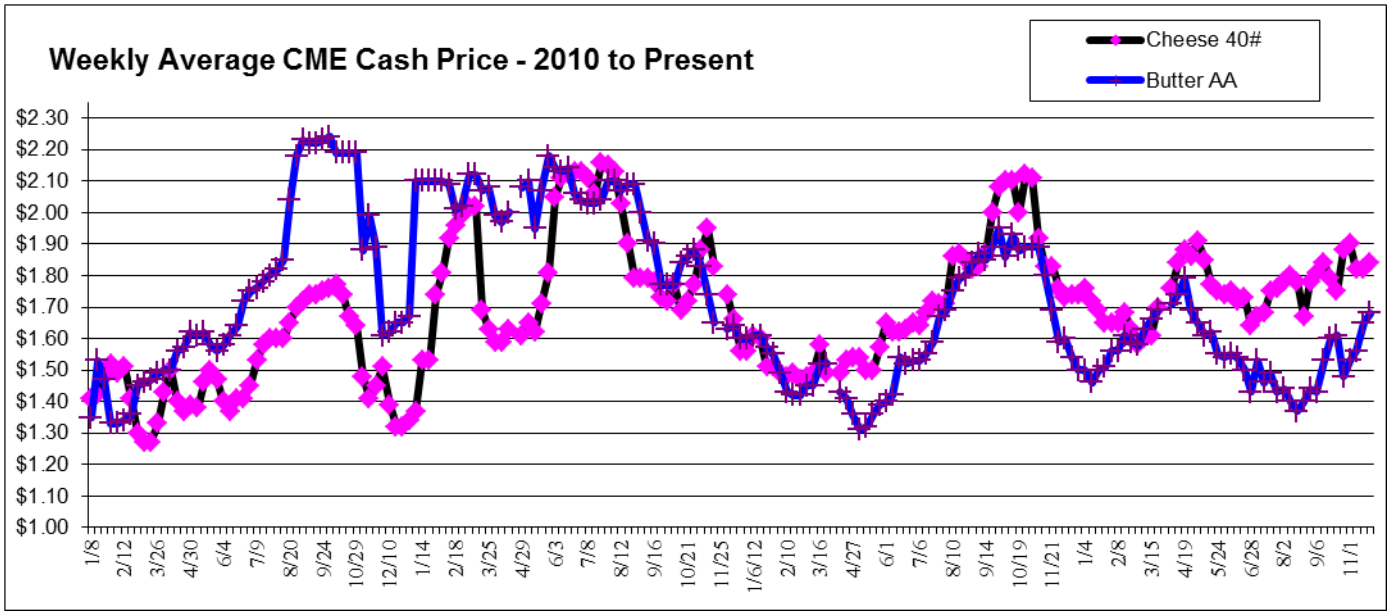
Partially out of economic necessity and partially out of wanting a better quality of life, beef cow calf innovators are making the bale grazing craze continue to grow and expand its possibilities!

DAIRY MARKET WATCH

Milk Component Prices			Milk Class Prices				Statistical Uniform Price & PPD		
Month	**Butterfat**	**Protein**	**I(Boston)**	**II**	**III**	**IV**	**Jamestown, NY**	**Albany, NY**	**Albany $/gal. to farmer**
Oct12	$2.11	$3.73	$22.13	$18.44	$21.02	$18.54	$19.63 -$1.39	$20.23 -$0.79	$1.74
Nov12	$2.02	$3.72	$23.95	$18.81	$20.83	$18.66	$20.20 -$0.63	$20.80 -$0.03	$1.79
Dec12	$1.73	$3.31	$24.64	$18.30	$18.66	$17.83	$19.50 $0.84	$20.10 $1.44	$1.73
Jan13	$1.62	$3.29	$22.22	$18.19	$18.14	$17.63	$18.58 $0.44	$19.18 $1.04	$1.65
Feb13	$1.66	$2.96	$21.46	$18.49	$17.25	$17.75	$18.28 $1.03	$18.88 $1.63	$1.63
Mar13	$1.75	$2.82	$21.05	$18.82	$16.93	$17.75	$18.17 $1.24	$18.77 $1.94	$1.62
Apr13	$1.82	$3.01	$20.91	$18.73	$17.59	$18.10	$18.35 $0.76	$18.95 $1.36	$1.63
May13	$1.79	$3.36	$21.01	$18.43	$18.52	$18.89	$18.63 $0.11	$19.23 $0.71	$1.66
June13	$1.66	$3.35	$22.18	$19.14	$18.02	$18.88	$19.05 $1.03	$19.65 $1.63	$1.69
July13	$1.57	$3.23	$22.16	$19.22	$17.38	$18.90	$19.03 $1.65	$19.63 $2.25	$1.69
Aug13	$1.51	$3.48	$22.13	$19.27	$17.91	$19.07	$19.13 $1.22	$19.73 $1.82	$1.70
Sep13	$1.52	$3.54	$22.41	$19.78	$18.14	$19.43	$19.43 $1.29	$20.03 $1.89	$1.73
Oct13	$1.66	$3.41	$22.45	$20.56	$18.22	$20.17	$19.73 $1.51	$20.33 $2.11	$1.75

October Utilization (Northeast): Class I = 40%; Class II = 26%; Class III = 27%; Class IV = 7%

[Class I = processed as beverage milk; Class II = soft products, cream, yogurt and cottage cheese; Class III = cheese (American, Italian), evaporated and condensed products, Class IV = butter, nonfat and whole milk powder.]



Dairy Commodity Markets (USDA Dairy Market News):

Butter: Friday CME cash prices: 10/25 $1.48, 11/1 $1.53, 11/8 $1.56, 11/15 $1.65, and 11/22 $1.68. Cream is the biggest topic in the butter industry this week as supplies are tight across the U.S., resulting in churn operators paying top dollar for cream. Some butter manufacturers in the Northeast are selling cream with the plan to produce more butter over the holidays when cream is more readily available. Demand is strong domestically as well as being good internationally. Butter stocks are tightening as product moves into the retail stores, food service accounts and export markets.

Cheese: Friday CME cash prices (40# blocks): 10/25 $1.88, 11/1 $1.90, 11/8 $1.82, 11/15 $1.82, and 11/22 $1.84. Cheese prices dropped in mid-November, helping to spur activity on the cheese market for last minute Thanksgiving orders. Cheese production is mostly steady. Some plants are running at less than capacity due to seasonally low milk output.

Dry Products: Prices for nonfat dry milk (NDM) continue to climb higher as spot sales and index prices increased. NDM supplies are tight and pricey throughout the country, making it difficult for buyers to secure product. Dry buttermilk prices moved higher due to tight supplies and good demand as buyers look for alternatives for NDM.

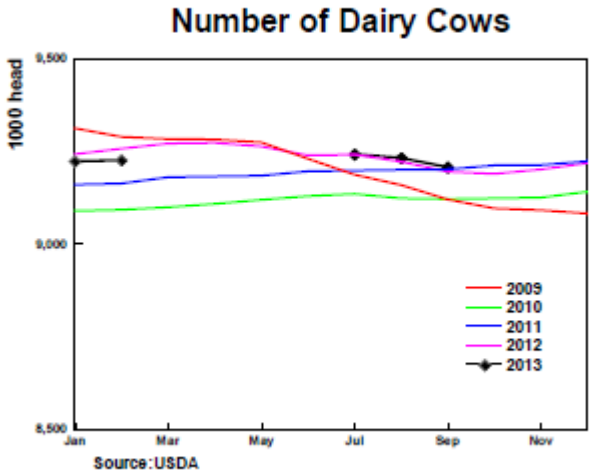
Fluid Milk: Milk production is mixed with increasing rates in the Midwest, the East, California, and Arizona while rates are flat or reduced in the Pacific Northwest, Utah, Idaho, and New Mexico. Milk supplies are tight as milk processors across the U.S. are focusing on meeting and fulfilling strong holiday bottling demand.

Milk Production: Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 15.4 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from October 2012. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,806 pounds for October, 14 pounds above October 2012. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.50 million head, 36,000 head more than October 2012, but 2,000 head less than September 2013.

Comments:

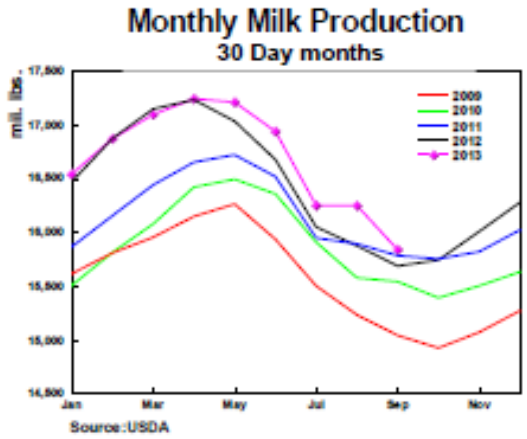
The USDA's milk production report showed a surprisingly small increase in milk production in the past two months (0.9% in September and 1% in October) compared to a 2.4% increase in August. With improved margins, early predictions had cow numbers increasing at a greater pace and higher increases in milk per cow (University of Wisconsin Dairy Situation and Outlook Report. Cropp, Bob. 19 November 2013). Many would speculate that this trend might not hold forever as better margins continue to provide opportunities for dairy producers to increase milk production, either through more cows or increases in milk per cow. The graphs to the right reflect the decrease in the U.S. dairy herd, as well as the seasonal decrease in monthly milk production (Penn State Dairy Outlook, November 2013).

Figure 3: Cows



Exports are at a new record high in 2013, and have been a positive factor supporting dairy product prices, with exports during September compared to a year earlier up 40% for cheese, 36% for nonfat dry milk, 41.7% for dry whey, and 720% for butter. On a total solids basis, exports were equivalent to 17.5% of September milk production, and for the January through September period, 15.5% of milk production compared to 13.5% last year (University of Wisconsin Dairy Situation and Outlook Report. Cropp, Bob. 19 November 2013).

Figure 2: Monthly Milk Production



Looking forward to 2014, it is expected that butter and cheese prices will decline, lowering the Class III price from the $17.80 to $17.90 range in December down to the low $17.00 range in the first quarter of 2014. How far all-milk prices are likely to decline will hinge on milk production and export levels. Currently, dairy exports are not projected to decline much in 2014, especially for the powder markets, bolstering Class IV prices.

Virginia Carlberg
Extension Community Educator

January 13, 2014 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program Offered
Youth who will be 14 and over as of March 1, 2014 can take the course for certification. Participants who want to earn their certification must pass both the written exam and the driving test. The cost for this course is $15.00 for 4-H members to cover the cost of materials and is payable to CCE by **Monday, January 6th.** Non 4-H members are eligible to take this course but in addition they will need to complete a 4-H enrollment form and pay the $5.00 4-H enrollment fee.

Classes begin Jan 13, 2014. For more information and a detailed agenda contact Kim Randall at 607-664-2300 or ksb3@cornell.edu.

January 21 – Factors Affecting the Price of Feeder Cattle in NYS
Mike Baker, Cornell Beef Cattle Extension Specialist and Matthew LeRoux, CCE-Tompkins Ag market specialist, will discuss the three year project where they collected data on feeder cattle at special feeder calf sales held at Finger Lakes Livestock Exchange. Through the spring of 2013 data was collected on nearly 10,000 head and 3900 lots. They found that preconditioned feeder cattle only brought a $2.80/cwt. Premium. Compared to prices reported on 550 lb. by CattleFax, NY steers, weighing 500-600 lbs. were priced $29/cwt. less. Obviously there is still work to do in increasing the price of NY feeder cattle. Mike and Matt will share all the details they learned about marketing feeder cattle in our area. 6-8pm, Steuben County Civil Defense Center, 7220 State Route 54, Bath. RSVP's appreciated; contact CCE-Steuben at 607-664-2300 or email ksb29@cornell.edu.

This event is sponsored by the Tri-County Graziers, with support from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben and Schuyler Counties, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, and the NYS NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.

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TRADING POST:

Wanted: Subsoiler for primary tillage. Farmer in Hammondsport seeking to rent subsoiler with 1 or 2 shanks, minimum depth of 12". Relatively small parcel being tilled, only need for a weekend at most. If interested please call Peter at (914) 588 2860.

For Sale: 7' Bushhog 287, Excellent condition, $1,850 or BO. Phone: 607-776-1711

Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Steuben County
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Permit No. 133

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COMING EVENTS:

January 3 & 4 - New York State Maple Producers Winter Conference
The 2014 New York State Maple Producers Winter Conference Has Plenty on Tap for You! *A producer-focused 2014 NYS Maple Conference with practical and hands-on sessions for maple farms to enhance existing and expanding operations.* January 3rd and 4th will be here before you know it so be ready by planning to attend the 2014 New York State Maple Conference. The 2014 Maple Conference will be held in the same great location, the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School in Verona, New York on Friday evening January 3rd and all day Saturday, January 4th. Opportunities include having access to the large trade show with many exhibitors. For a complete agenda and registration information, visit: www.cornellmaple.com

January 10, 2014 – Southern Tier Crop Congress, Belfast Fire Hall,
Sign in will begin at 9:00am, and light morning refreshments will be available for you as you walk around our trade show. At 10:00am, we will begin our morning season, breaking for a complementary lunch at 11:45am. At this time, you will have an opportunity to speak with industry representatives before we start our afternoon session from 1:00-3:00pm. It is a $20.00 fee per person for those who are enrolled in Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany/Cattaraugus Counties and prepay by Jan 6th. Those not enrolled in our program who prepay before our deadline pay $25.00 per person to register. Any late or walk-in registrations will be accepted with a $35.00 per person fee. Contact Aaron Santangelo at 585-268-7644 ext 32 for questions.