CCE – Steuben is pleased to welcome two new educators to the Ag Team. DeLisa Drum will be working in the areas of dairy, field crops and farm business management. Kelley Elliott joins the team as a Local Foods Educator with funds secured via a USDA Farmers’ Market Promotion Program Grant. For more details and information on how to contact Kelley or DeLisa read their profiles below.

Steuben CCE, welcomes DeLisa (Parnell) Drum to the Agricultural team. DeLisa lives in Leicester, NY with her husband Aaron and their son Tucker. DeLisa grew up in York, NY on her family dairy farm. DeLisa was active in 4-H and the county Dairy Princess program. DeLisa attended SUNY Alfred getting her AAS in Agricultural Business and BBA in Technology Management. Spending a couple summers working with WNY Crop Management DeLisa worked in the field scouting. DeLisa has worked for the last 7+ years with Dehm Associates, LLC doing financials with dairy farms as well as facilitating dairy profit teams. DeLisa is looking forward to assisting the Agricultural team here in Steuben County with her Dairy, Field Crops and Business Management skills. To reach DeLisa: 607-583-3359 or DP253@cornell.edu.

Steuben CCE, welcomes Kelley Jo Elliott to the Agricultural team as Local Food Educator. Kelley lives in Hammondsport, NY, with her husband Chris, their foster son. Kelley has a passion for local food and sustainable farming; recently adding chickens, two colonies of bees, a small orchard and a garden to her home. Kelley grew up in Northwestern Montana and Southern California. Kelley has a diverse employment background that includes work at restaurants, grocery stores, museums, airports, and universities. She has organized festivals, events, and exhibits, has written a book, and has worked with a wide variety of individuals around the world. She loves learning, the outdoors, and good food. She has a BFA degree in Photography from The University of Montana in Missoula, and a MA degree in the History of Decorative Arts from the Corcoran College of Art + Design and Smithsonian Associates in Washington, DC. Kelley moved to Steuben County in 2012 to work at The Corning Museum of Glass. She volunteers with the Finger Lakes Museum & Aquarium in Branchport. In her new position, Kelley looks forward to helping local producers be more profitable year round, and helping the public learn the importance of buying local. To reach Kelley: 607-583-3358 or email KJE36@cornell.edu.
Enrollment for 2016 Dairy Margin Protection Program to Begin July 1

PORTLAND, June 29, 2015 — Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden today announced that starting July 1, 2015, dairy farmers can enroll in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Margin Protection Program for coverage in 2016. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating dairy operations when the margin — the difference between the price of milk and feed costs — falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

"More than half of our nation’s dairy producers enrolled in the 2015 program, which exceeded our expectations for the first year of the program," said Harden. "We are confident that dairy farmers across the country will again take advantage of this safety net program for 2016. USDA will continue outreach efforts, including partnering with cooperative extension services, to ensure dairy producers are fully informed about the protections that this safety net program can provide during periods of market downturns."

The Margin Protection Program gives participating dairy producers the flexibility to select coverage levels best suited for their operation. Enrollment begins July 1 and ends on Sept. 30, 2015, for coverage in 2016. Participating farmers will remain in the program through 2018 and pay a $100 administrative fee each year. Producers also have the option of selecting a different coverage level during open enrollment each year. Margin Protection Program payments are based on an operation’s historical production. An operation's historical production will increase by 2.61 percent in 2016 if the operation participated in 2015, providing a stronger safety net.

USDA also has an online resource available to help dairy producers decide which level of coverage will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The enhanced Web tool, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool, allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine their unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections. Producers can also review historical data or estimate future coverage based on data projections. The secure site can be accessed via computer, mobile phone, or tablet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Dairy operations enrolling in the program must meet conservation compliance provisions. Producers participating in the Livestock Gross Margin insurance program may register for the Margin Protection Program, but this new margin program will only begin once their Livestock dairy insurance coverage has ended. Producers must also submit form CCC-782 for 2016, confirming their Margin Protection Program coverage level selection, to the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. If electing higher coverage for 2016, dairy producers can either pay the premium in full at the time of enrollment or pay a minimum of 25 percent of the premium by Feb. 1, 2016.

The Margin Protection Program was established by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to

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implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

For more information, visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy for more information, or stop by a local FSA office to learn more about the Margin Protection Program. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit http://offices.usda.gov.

MPP 2014 Comments & DMAP Tool
Andrew M. Novaković
The E.V. Baker Professor of Agricultural Economics
Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management
Cornell University

About half of the nation’s farmers chose to participate in MPP-Dairy for 2015. Each one is automatically enrolled in the so-called Catastrophic Coverage of $4 per cwt for 2016, regardless of the level they selected for 2015. For them, the enrollment period will allow them to choose a higher level of margin protection, should they so desire. For those who did not enroll in 2015, they can enroll for the first time in 2016, with all the same rules about how their Production History is calculated and so on.

Farmers who participated in the 2015 program will get an automatic increase to their Production History of 1.0261 or 2.61%. This will of course allow them to enroll just that much more milk marketings. This adjustment is across the board regardless of the actual change in marketings any individual producer actually experienced in 2015. For producers who are signing up for the first time, they will get their Production History as established according to the original rules, with no adjustment or “bump”. The process for establishing a Production History is described in the MPP tools section of www.dairymarkets.org.

All farmers, but especially those who elected buy-up coverage in 2015, should also note that the 25% discount that applied to all but the highest premiums last year will no longer be in effect. $100 is still the fixed fee for any coverage level, but farmers who elected buy-up coverage for 2015 will see that the premiums for the same coverage are essentially 1/3 greater for 2016 (and every year thereafter). It is also the case that the high margins that were available and quite appealing under LGM-Dairy last year are not available under current price relationships on which LGM-Dairy contracts are based.
As illustrated by our DMAP decision tool, current price opinions on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange suggest that dairy farmers may take a while to see above average margins, at least as measured by the national benchmark. Using recent CME prices, there is a significant probability of the national margins being below $8 for most of 2016. Of course, this value will ebb and flow as market opinions change. As we approach the Fall harvest, prices for next year’s corn and soybean crop will start to settle and milk prices will continue to evolve with world market conditions. It is too early to say what the harvest prices will be for major crops but current markets are anticipating a strong crop, but with price opinions becoming more bullish (higher). Milk prices continue to be held back by heavy production around the world and sluggish demand. As was true last year, it is entirely reasonable to expect that farmers will wait until September before they make their choices, and entirely sensible for them to do so.

DMAP will once again be engaged in various educational initiatives over the course of the enrollment period. We are adding some new features to the decision tool that should be of particular interest to more sophisticated users of risk management tools. Of course, all of the educational materials we had before remain available as well.

**Resistance to Brown Stem Rot May Be Needed in Future Soybean Varieties for New York State**

Jaime A. Cummings and Gary C. Bergstrom, School of Integrative Plant Science, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Section, Cornell University

A potentially yield-reducing disease called ‘brown stem rot’ (BSR) was confirmed for the first time in New York soybean fields in 2013, and was found again in 2014. It showed up in some plants from soybean fields in Cayuga, Herkimer, Niagara, and Yates Counties collected by Cornell Cooperative Extension Educators Kevin Ganoe, Keith Severson, Michael Stanyard, and Bill Verbeten, with support from the New York Soybean Check-off Program. The disease was diagnosed in the Field Crops Pathology Laboratory at Cornell based on characteristic symptoms and the laboratory isolation of the causal fungus and confirmation of a portion of its signature DNA sequence. So far, BSR has not been detected outside of the four counties mentioned above. It is noteworthy that BSR was not detected in soybean fields in northern New York scouted in 2013 and 2014 by CCE Educators Michael Hunter and Kitty O’Neil, with support from the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program.

Brown stem rot is caused by the fungus *Cadophora gregata* (syn.*Phialophora gregata*) and occurs in most soybean production regions of the US, but this is, to our knowledge, the first confirmation in New York or the northeastern U.S. Reported yield losses in the Midwest have ranged from minor to in excess of 25%, so the presence of the pathogen is considered a significant factor for soybean production. Yield loss is often a function of the relative susceptibility of varieties that are planted; varieties vary from susceptible to resistant. BSR is a disease of priority to soybean seed companies. Resistant varieties are widely available, and most seed catalogs provide resistance ratings for BSR. If BSR becomes more prevalent in New York, selection of resistant varieties may become more important for New York producers.

The foliar symptoms of BSR are similar to those of other soilborne diseases that restrict the movement of water and nutrients to the leaves. So BSR can be confused with northern stem canker and sudden death syndrome, all of which result first in yellowing and then browning of leaf tissues between the veins during pod-filling stages. However, not all soybean varieties exhibit foliar symptoms when infected with the BSR fungus. What is distinctive about BSR is the browning of the internal tissues of infected plants (Figure 1). This discoloration is often most obvious near...
the nodes when stems are split lengthwise. Dead leaves may remain attached to the plant. Stem discoloration symptoms may be confused with those caused by white mold, northern stem canker, or Phytophthora stem rot.

Infection by the fungus occurs early in the season, through the roots, from where the fungus continues to grow throughout the plant’s water-conducting tissues. Temperature has the greatest impact on disease development, and is favored by temperatures between 60 – 80°F. But, temperatures above 80°F may halt BSR development and spread. Because infection occurs at early stages (around the three leaf stage) of the crop, foliar fungicides applied during flowering and pod-filling stages will not be effective in suppressing BSR.

The fungus survives on soy residues and in the soil in the field for many years. Luckily, the pathogen survives on few other plant species, and in severely infested fields, a rotation of at least 3 years out of soybean and deep plowing of infected soybean residues would reduce the incidence of BSR in a subsequent soybean crop.

The most important thing that a New York soybean producer can do at this time is to learn to recognize the symptoms of BSR and other soilborne diseases and to get a diagnosis of problems that they observe in their fields. If BSR or other soilborne diseases are confirmed, producers should talk to their seed supplier and order soybean varieties with appropriate levels of resistance for the soilborne diseases observed on their farm.

Acknowledgements: This research received financial support from the New York Soybean Check-off Research Program, the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, and Cornell University Hatch Project NYC153473.

Cyclicity in Dairy Cows: Postpartum Blues
Andrew Sandeen, PSU Extension Educator

Understanding how ovarian follicles develop and the interplay between hormones and other health factors in a non-pregnant dairy cow can be both fascinating and frustrating. When it comes to the question of how to manage reproduction in an early postpartum cow, it pretty much boils down to one big thing: without ovulation of a follicle, reproduction is not possible. Ovulation is the critical event that must function correctly and be responded to in a timely manner in order to see a new pregnancy established.

Anovulation (literally “the absence of ovulation”) is a phase that fresh cows go through and sometimes even return to after ovulating once or twice. The duration of the phase is quite variable. On average, lactating cows ovulate for the first time at around 30 days postpartum, but that is just an average. Some will ovulate in the first few weeks; for others, first ovulation might be delayed for a much longer period of time. Anovulation may even persist beyond a voluntary waiting period of 60+ days, especially if there are problems with body condition, negative energy balance, or other postpartum health disorders.
Once first ovulation occurs, there still is no guarantee that normal cyclicity has been established. Nearly half of cows experience delays in the timing of later ovulations and/or encounter a situation where progesterone production by a persistent corpus luteum is maintained for a longer period of time than is typical in a normal estrous cycle.

One additional challenge to note is that there is an increased likelihood of double ovulation at first ovulation or any other time that preovulatory follicles develop in a low progesterone environment. This increases the likelihood of twinning, which is generally an unwanted complication in dairy herds.

For anyone managing reproduction, it is reassuring to know first ovulation has occurred and progesterone has re-established a presence so that a more predictable cyclicity will continue until pregnancy is achieved.

Waiting for a longer period of time after calving before beginning a reproductive management program could be advantageous in terms of establishing normal cyclicity and achieving higher conception rates, but there are economic implications to consider. Failing to get cows bred in a timely manner can affect long-term milk production and availability of replacements. Even fertility will eventually decline, so most managers will choose to be proactive in the management of cyclicity.

What can be done for anovular cows? There are two treatment options, neither of which include the use of prostaglandin F2α (PGF). Though PGF is one of the commonly used treatments for estrous synchronization and is effective in causing regression of a mature CL (a previously-ovulated follicle), PGF treatment has little impact on ovulation. The first treatment option for anovulation is to use a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) product, which will typically initiate the ovulatory process as long as a cow has active ovaries (she might not if negative energy balance is a problem) and is at a responsive stage of follicular development. The second option is a progesterone-releasing device. Providing progesterone for several days will generally “prime the system” and help a cow begin to cycle normally.

A proactive response to the “postpartum blues” of anovulation in an open cow may well be worth the effort, whether at a herd-wide level or on a cow-by-cow basis.

References
- Wiltbank, M.C., A. Gumen, H. Lopez, and R. Sartori. 2010. Management and treatment of dairy cows that are not cycling or have follicular cysts. http://www.extension.org/pages/11818/management-and-treatment-of-dairy-cows-that-are-not-cycling-or-have-follicular-cysts#.VS1kgvnF-So
Low Milk Prices?
No Problem for Some
Timothy Beck, PSU Educator
Heather Weeks, PSU Extension Educator,
Dairy Profitability

Most farms used the high milk prices of 2014 to make repairs or to replace machinery and equipment that were past repair. However, some farms also used this year to prepare for 2015, a year that couldn’t realistically parallel the record prices of 2014. This article presents strategies to help your business weather milk price cycles.

What happened to all that cash from 2014? Farms that made a 2015 cash flow plan with the Penn State Extension “Know Your Numbers” program this winter came face to face with the reality of a breakeven year after one of record highs. “How,” they asked, “could all that cash from 2014 just disappear?” Most farms used the high milk prices to make repairs to equipment and make capital purchases to replace machinery and equipment that were past repair. However, some farms also used this year to ensure that a 2015 year that couldn’t realistically parallel the record 2014 year wouldn’t be overwhelming.

A known phenomenon exists in milk pricing: the three year price cycle has been proven to exist (Nicholson, 2015). A simple internet search pulls up articles from the fall of 2014 referencing record highs in U.S. milk prices. Only four months later the headlines turned to “Milk Price Bust Expected” and “USDA projects four years of declining milk prices.” As futures markets started to show weakness last fall even while record milk checks were still coming in the mail, some farms were able to use those record prices to position themselves to weather the current downturn we are experiencing.

When prices are high, it is tempting to succumb to the attraction of the shiny and new. First and foremost, in order to position the farm business in a good situation for the inevitable downturn, avoid the temptation that the only tax management strategy is to increase capital purchases to avoid paying taxes. It leaves the farm vulnerable to cash deficits. Stay away from strategies that move money from the operating account to capital purchases. Instead, use that cash to pay down open accounts, vendor debt, credit cards, or lines of credit.

On the outflow side, prepaying expenses not only allows the business to capture prepayment discounts, but it reduces tax liability by using cash to cover future known expenses while not moving money to the capital fund. Then, the next time cash is needed from the operating fund to cover unexpected expenses or make up for milk income, it is available. A general figure is that for a low year, a farm needs six to eight months of cash on hand. In 2009 that accounted for about $1,000 per cow per year. In 2015 some experts estimate that number at around $500 per cow per year.

On the income side of the equation, deferring income, including milk income, can be an option for farms that use a cash accounting method on their taxes.

These principles come back to the balance sheet. Paying down current debt (accounts
payable, lines of credit) strengthens the current position of the farm. Farms that have historically used this strategy have a more positive balance sheet and history that makes lenders more amenable to loaning these farms money when it is really needed. A good relationship with the lender can be invaluable. Credit cards are not viable options for financing farm operations. If a piece of equipment is really needed, finance it with the bank to keep the operating account available.

The goal is to stay solvent enough to weather the downturn and avoid major refinances after each low year.

Another strategy is to have a savings account separate from a farm checking to build a slush fund for low years. This tool is partly psychological: If it can’t be seen, it’s harder to spend. Cash kept in a checking account is easier to spend than cash kept in a separate account.

Finally, it is okay to pay taxes. While it is preferable to pay lower amounts, farms that never show a profit could send the wrong impression to lenders that may use the tax return as an indication of historical profitability.

If when assessing the farm’s income and expenses from 2014 the budget just didn’t show enough cash to use some of the strategies outlined here, then it is time to investigate where profitability leaks are occurring and make the necessary management changes. A good place to start is with a cash flow plan. After developing a plan, the farm is set to regularly track income and expenses for the dairy operation and other enterprises on the farm. Excellent farm financial accounting can sometimes be something as simple as having a good record keeping system and making sure it is up-to-date.

References


Steuben County Hops Twilight Meeting
Thursday July 30, 2015
6:00 pm – 8:00pm

Crooked Creek Hops Farm
6700 Holden Rd
Addison, NY 14801

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County and Crooked Creek Hops Farm for an on farm discussion and demonstration of hops production and harvest. Topics to be covered include hopyard design, trellising, scouting hops for pests, and harvesting. The Wolverine hops harvester will be demonstrated as well. The cost to attend is $15 which includes dinner. Registration required. Contact Stephanie Mehlenbacher or Kerri Bartlett at 607-664-2300 (or email sms64@cornell.edu) to register by July 23rd.

6:00 – 7:00pm Hopyard Design, Trellising, Scouting – Chris Holden/ Stephanie Mehlenbacher
7:00 -7:30 Dinner
7:30- 8:00 Wolverine Hops Harvester Demonstration

Questions and more discussion to follow.
Steuben County Late Blight Update

The first late blight report on potato in NY State has arrived in a neighboring county. It’s no wonder with the very wet weather we have been getting. It was found in a few hotspots in a field. Spots were killed with Gramoxone. The rest of field was sprayed with Ridomil, Previcur Flex and Bravo. Spores had plenty of time to spread from there on winds, especially with the cloudy weather we’ve had! LB spores have been known to travel 30 miles on winds, when it’s dark or cloudy.

This sample was submitted to the USAblight.org reporting system and sent to the Cornell Plant Pathology Lab for diagnostics and sensitivity testing to Ridomil. You can also report to the USAblight.org reporting system or view the disease occurrence map on the regular basis.

Visit the website here http://www.usablight.org
If you suspect late blight and need a sample submitted to the Plant Pathology Lab feel free to contact Stephanie Mehlenbacher at 607-583-3240 or sms64@cornell.edu for assistance.

Late Blight Alert! Last year a new strain of LB was detected in Allegany County and western Steuben County. It was determined last winter in plant pathologist Bill Fry’s lab that the new strain originated from the crossing of two LB strains that were A1 and A2 LB Mating Types. This means that LB oospores may have overwintered in the soil, a very unusual occurrence in the U.S. (In all other cases LB can only overwinter in live host tissue, such as in potato culls, seed or volunteers.) In addition to destroying all potato culls and volunteers from last year, growers in this area should scout potatoes and tomatoes carefully starting from potato emergence or tomato setting, and in the next few weeks, for signs of stem or foliar infection. This could occur anytime, well before 18 LB SVs are reached, since oospores in the soil infect plants directly. If you see suspicious symptoms contact Stephanie Mehlenbacher at 607-583-3240 or sms64@cornell.edu

This may be the year to sign up for the Decision Support System! If you haven’t already go to http://blight.eas.cornell.edu/blight/ or contact Ian Small at ims56@cornell.edu to learn about the system or to sign up.

Late blight (LB) Blitecast severity values (SV) have been accumulating since May 13, the date of 1st potato sprout emergence on the muck and upland in Wayne County. Check your potato cull piles NOW to be sure they’re covered with at least 2 ft. of soil! Culls need to be buried, fed to livestock, etc. ASAP, and potato volunteers need to be controlled, so they don’t serve as a source of LB for your potato or tomato crop!

*** Maine Potato Report***
Colorado Potato Beetle, European Corn Borer, Potato Leafhopper, and many aphids are on a steady increase in population now. Most of Maine is on a 5 day Late Blight spray recommendation.
Cheese: Cheese production remains strong, with ample milk supplies. But change is in the air, with less surplus milk now available than in recent weeks, with less price discounting. High heat in the West is expected to soon reduce milk production volumes and hence, cheese production. Warming weather in the Northeast is also mentioned as likely to reduce milk supplies and cheese production in that region. Cheese manufacturers recognize these changing conditions as expected seasonal indicators which will be followed by less intense plant schedules, a time when deferred maintenance can be undertaken and workers can enjoy a reprieve from heavy work schedules.

Dry Products: The prices for nonfat dry milk are generally lower this week. The market tone for NDM remains weak for all regions. The production is mixed. Prices for dry buttermilk are lower in the East and steady to lower in the Central and West regions. Dry whole milk prices are higher on the top of the range. Whey protein concentrate 34% continues to be weak with a lower price range. Lactose prices held steady with a weak market tone. The casein market undertone remains weak and prices steady.

Friday CME Cash Prices

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Butter</th>
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Butter: Production is active for bulk and print butter in the East, trending lower in the Central Region, and steady to lower in the West. Cream availability/pricing for butter churning show more tightness in the Northeast and Central regions than the West, where some manufacturers are selling cream to ice cream producers. There is a mixed picture surrounding inventory building, with some manufacturers building and others focusing production schedules on contract fulfillment.

Fluid Milk: Milk production is mixed, transitioning to lower levels. The prolonged hot and humid conditions are decreasing milk volumes and component levels in the Southern tier of states across the U.S. and in parts of the Pacific Northwest. Milk production in the upper Midwest and Northeast regions is strong with most manufacturing facilities operating near capacity. Bottling demand is mostly steady across the nation. Demand for cream has increased across the nation with strong pulls from ice cream and frozen dessert manufacturers.

Production: According to NASS, May milk production for the 23 surveyed states totals 17.2 billion pounds, 1.4% higher than a year ago. Monthly milk production per cow for the 23 surveyed states was 1,990 pounds. Milk cow numbers on farms in the 23 selected states totaled 8.630 million cows, 72,000 head more than May 2014.
Comments: Prices have continued to fare better than expected and, although CME prices have jumped around for June, will average slightly higher for the month. Strong butter and cheese sales this year have supported prices. April butter stocks increased 25% from March and were 23% higher than in 2014. However, due to the seasonal increase in the use of cream for frozen treats and declining milk production with seasonally depressed butterfat composition, some butter makers question whether there will be adequate stocks for fulfillment of seasonal sales come Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Butter prices are expected to remain at comparatively steady levels. Weaknesses in butter and cheese prices could still occur before strengthening in the fall. Milk production in the Northeast and Midwest has been straining cheese plant capacity. Milk has been selling at discounts of $5 to $7 to entice cheese plants for purchase. Class III futures were above $17 July through December, but now are below $17 for the rest of the year. Class IV futures reached the $15's by August, but now remain below $15 for the year. The final prices for this year will depend on the pace of increased milk production and the building of cheese stocks. (Cropp, Bob. Memo to Dairy-L. June 2015).

The U.S. dollar remains strong, presenting a challenge for export markets, which have fallen significantly since the record highs of 2014. Not helping are the weakening Chinese economy, the Russian embargo, and overall stagnant world market and global economy, as well as increasing production from Australia, New Zealand that can serve markets held by the U.S., including Mexico. (Dunn, Jim. Penn State Dairy Outlook. June 2015).

Penn State’s measure of income over feed costs rose by 8% in May, as milk prices rose and feed prices stayed the same. May’s feed cost is 3 cents/cow/day more than in April. May’s value of IOFC of $6.79/cow/day is well below 2014’s value. Income over feed cost reflects daily gross milk income less feed costs for an average cow producing 65 pounds of milk per day. (Dunn, Jim. Penn State Dairy Outlook. June 2015).

Milk production in April was up 1.8% from a year ago, which shows a significant increase when compared to the slower growth of recent months. May milk production was up 1.4% from a year ago. If the increase in milk production stays below 2%, dairy exports increase unexpectedly, and the hot/humid weather decreases milk production, prices could be held higher for the second half of the year. However, many projections show a lull in July and August, with a slight uptick in September. The Class III price may not reach $17 and Class IV $15.

Milk prices will probably decrease as the seasons change – Class III below $17 and Class IV below $15 for the remainder of the year.

The global market is becoming stagnant, and our competitors are producing more milk that can compete with the strong U.S. dollar to supply U.S. export markets.

May’s value of Income Over Feed Cost is $6.79 which only shows a slight increase from April, as milk prices increased slightly and feed prices stayed the same. Cheese production is at capacity, milk is being sold at a discount, and plants are hoping for a dip in production to allow for plant maintenance.

Increases in total milk production are still less than 2% (this month was 1.8%). A lot of things need to happen to see price increases –seasonal weather decreasing milk production, an increase in exports, and an increase in dairy
**COMING EVENTS:**

**July 7 - Seed Growers Field Day**
For seed growers, seed treatment applicators, and other seed professionals
Place: NYSIP Foundation Seed Barn, 791 Dryden Rd., Rt. 366, Ithaca, NY
Time: 8:30 AM-12:00 noon
DEC and CCA continuing education credits requested.
Margaret Smith (607-255-1654, mes25@cornell.edu) for the Field Day Planning Committee

**July 8 - Steuben County Twilight Pasture Walk**
6:30-8:30pm at the farm of John and Anne Burns at 8475 Morgan Creek Road in Lindley, NY. This large grazing farm features numerous innovative practices like integrated sheep and cattle grazing, "mob" grazing, and pastured poultry. This twilight pasture walk is free and open to the public. Attendees should dress for the weather (rain or shine) and expect to walk about 1 mile in pasture conditions. For more information, please contact Kerri Bartlett of Steuben CCE by email: ksb29@cornell.edu or 607-664-2300.

**July 15 – NY Weed Science Field Day - Field Crop Weed Control**
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Musgrave Research Farm, 1256 Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora, NY.

**July 24 & 25 – Allegany Steuben Black & White Show**
Allegany-Steuben Club Barn, South Canisteo. Open to all registered Holstein Owners. Showmanship July 24th at 7:00 pm Judge: Casey Arlig. Conformation class July 25th at 9:00 am Judge: Rich Hill

**July 30 – Steuben County Hops Twilight Meeting**
6:00pm – 8:00pm Crooked Creek Hops Farm, 6700 Holden Rd. Addison, NY 14801
Topics to be covered include hopyard design, trellising, scouting hops for pests, and harvesting. The Wolverine hops harvester will be demonstrated as well. The cost to attend is $15 which includes dinner. Registration required. Contact Stephanie Mehlenbacher or Kerri Bartlett at 607-664-2300 (email sms64@cornell.edu) to register by July 23rd.

**August 18 – 23 – Steuben County Fair**

**TRADING POST:**

For Sale: 4 x 4 round bales of mixed hay and wheat straw bound with twine. Hay has been tested. Large quantities available. Please call: 607-535-4903