

Livestock Manager

April/May 2007 Volume 2 Issue 2



Beef Quality Assurance – April 28th, 10 a.m.

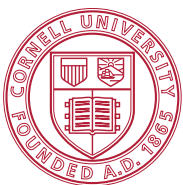
On April 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County will hold a workshop for beef producers on increasing meat quality and herd health. At the hands-on workshop producers will learn how to increase meat quality and herd health by using the proper injection sights and about proper vaccination programs.

Producers will also learn how about New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program and how to enroll! The New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program is an integrated disease prevention program that helps to develop a farm-specific herd health plan. The objectives of this plan are to increase the herd's health, productivity and profitability, assure food safety, public health and consumer confidence in beef products, and to promote environmental stewardship. This is a free program!

The presenter for the workshop will be Kathy Finnerty from NYSCHAP. The workshop will be held at Fourth Wright Farm in Johnson City. For more information or to register please call (607)584-9966 by April 26th.

Directions:

Take Route 17 to RT 201 North (Oakdale Mall exit), Turn left at light on to Harry L. Drive, at the Hess Station take a right onto Oakdale Rd, go about 3 miles and take a left onto Twinning Rd, go about 1/2 mile and take a left on to Zevan Rd. Farm is on the right.



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Raising & Marketing Swine for Summer BBQ's – April 9th, 7 p.m.

Do you raise swine? How many times have you seen a pig roast advertised and wondered how you could market your swine to a pig roast? Where do I buy feeder pigs? How much does the pig need to weigh to be ready for a summer BBQ? Who purchases pigs for summer BBQ's? These questions and more will be answered at this two hour workshop. No cost. Pre-registration is required by calling (607) 584-9967.

Understanding Horse Insurance – April 17th, 7 p.m.

Steve Couture and Susan Wilder, from the Ag & Equine Insurance Division of NY Insurance Agencies Associated, will be presenting “Addressing Equine Business Needs” to answer all of your questions about operating an Equine Business. The cost of the program is \$10 per person, \$5 for each additional family/farm member. The location for this workshop will be at the Greene Town Hall, 51 Genesee Street, in Greene, NY. For more information or to register contact Janet Pfromm at CCE Chenango, 607-334-5841 x12 or jlp27@cornell.edu. Pre-registration is requested by April 10th.



Composting Manure on Beef & Horse Farms – May 15th, 7 p.m.

Even small sized beef and horse farms generate lots of manure, and one option for managing that manure is composting. During this workshop staff from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension will discuss the science of composting, composting methods, site and equipment considerations, and nutrient management issues. Cost is \$5 per participant. Please call (607) 584-5013 to register or for further information.

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Poultry Processing Workshop – May 12th, 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Farm Ventures in cooperation with Central New York Resource Conservation and Development Project and Cornell Cooperative Extension is hosting a Poultry Processing Workshop in Norwich, NY on Saturday May 12, 2007 from 10am to 4pm. This all day workshop will be conducted in both classroom and in a licensed poultry processing plant. Students will learn about the proper techniques for processing poultry, health, sanitation and safety issues, HACCP, handling, packaging, storing as well as equipment necessary for processing poultry.

The morning session will be in the classroom and cover health, sanitation, HACCP, legal issues and an overview of proper equipment. The afternoon session will be hands on for those who desire to learn how a small scale poultry processing plant operates. Participants will learn the proper techniques for humane processing as well as techniques for packaging, sale and storage.

The knowledge learned at this workshop will equip the poultry producer with the skills to process poultry on their own farm. Class size is limited, cost for the event is \$40.00 per person, lunch is included. Pre registration is necessary.

For more information or to register contact Kim at 607-334-4751 ext. 4. Payment can be made either with either credit card or check. Or call Jim at 607-334-2833 or e-mail jrmclaughlin@juno.com

Marketing Your Pastured Poultry – May 7th, 7 p.m.

You've mastered raising your pastured poultry to a high quality. But now how do you proceed? Summer bbq's are a given each year, but how do you tap into that market? What is the easiest, least expensive, and most intensive ways to market your pastured poultry and their eggs? Where does your marketing fit into your production season? What are your channels for marketing and selling your pastured poultry and eggs? How much should you charge when selling? And let's not forget about their eggs. Learn how to tap into the growing demand locally for pastured poultry and eggs. Information presented will include basic marketing information, how to market your product at the Farmers' Markets and direct marketing. The cost for this workshop is \$5. Pre-registration is required.

For further information or to register, call (607) 584-9966

ALPACA SEMINAR – April 14th, 9 a.m.

Is being an alpaca owner, breeder, or investor in your future? Come find out by joining us at our alpaca seminar. We'll cover the history and husbandry of alpacas, the investment potential of alpacas, and the alpaca lifestyle. The seminar will be held at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County in Oriskany, NY. Registration cost in advance is \$10.00 per person or at door \$15.00. For more information visit: www.myalpacagroup.com or email: info@myalpacagroup.com. This event is sponsored by Mid York Alpaca Group!

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Wondering About the Secret Ingredients to Making a Farm-Based Dairy Value-Added Venture Work?

The Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship, known as CADE, is offering a series of farm tours for those interested in starting or expanding a value-added dairy business. The tours will allow would-be value-added producers to get a few questions answered firsthand. Learn how New York State farmers process small scale batches of cheese, yogurt and bottled milk. Ask what it took to get started.

The tours are sponsored in part by a grant from New York Farm Viability Institute, which recently awarded the nonprofit CADE \$50,000 to assist eight Central New York farms with dairy value-added businesses through collaborative marketing and distribution.

Tours are:

- **Sherman Hill Farmstead, Franklin. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21**
Linda Smith will share from her 13 years of experience in raising goats and producing/marketing artisan milk, cheese and yogurt.
- **Evans Farmhouse Creamery, Norwich. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, August 18**
Husband and wife team Dave and Sue Evans will walk visitors through their operation, where Jersey milk is made into organic bottled milk, cheese, yogurt and butter, which is sold throughout the state.
- **Painted Goat Farm, Garrattsville. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, October 13**
Ilyssa Berg will discuss starting a business from the ground up as she shows off her recently-built barn and processing facility for farmstead goat cheese.

Cost of each tour is \$25 and includes lunch. Registration is required. For more information, visit www.cadefarms.org or call (607) 433-2545.

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Coby Caprine Classic III – April 21, 10 a.m.

SUNY Cobleskill is proud to announce the Coby Caprine Classic III on April 21. The event offer's a venue for the sale of meat and dairy goats, and educational program in the area of small ruminant production and management, and new this year, they are offering a trade show area.

Applications for the meat and dairy animal sale can be obtained by going to <http://cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/aapc/> . Space is limited! They are accepting quality consignments from breeders and producers who would like to highlight their herd and offer quality breeding stock to new homes. They have selective criteria for the animals, and will have a minimum bid on all animals accepted (as breeding stock) starting at \$200. Bidders will take it from there! Their exception is for meat goat wethers - minimum bid on this category is \$75. They have a nomination fee, which is refunded if they do not select your animal for the sale, and a 10% commission. Proceeds go towards scholarships in the animal science area. Please make your nomination checks payable to SUNY Cobleskill. Viewing of the animals will start at 9 am, and the sale will begin at 11 am. This is a silent auction, so bids are made throughout the sale period, posted for all to view, and then bidding will close at 2:00.

The educational program this year is continuing to be planned to be the best yet! Preliminary events include both meat and dairy goat fitting demonstrations and team fitting competitions, hands on seminars dealing with difficult births and the digestion process (complete with visuals!!!). They also will have other individual knowledge contests for youth to participate. So be prepared to identify goat related equipment, products and other goatie stuff to expand your knowledge in the goat project area.

If you have a business or products that you would like to market in our trade show that is related to small ruminant production, please contact Dr. Shelley for further information. There will be tables available for rent. Please consider donating something to the raffle.

Concessions will be provided - goat products and other items available!

If you have any further questions, please contact Dr. Cindi Shelley at shelleca@cobleskill.edu. Other information is posted at <http://cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/aapc/> - forms will be up shortly! They will be posting the schedule as they refine it on this website, in addition to our sale consignments.

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Grassfed Beef and Pasture Raised Pork Needed

A national supermarket chain is in need of GRASS FED BEEF and Pasture raised Pork. The producers must agree to strict 'natural' protocols. At present the supermarket is looking for beef and pork produced in New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut. The farm size is not a factor but they are focusing on for beef British Breed cattle. Anyone interested in participating should contact Bill Henning at 315-536-5123. .

“Outdoorpig” — A New Email Discussion Group for Natural Pig Producers

For two years Cornell Cooperative Extension Small Farm Specialist Bill Henning has been working with farmers, pork marketers, and Extension colleagues to promote markets for natural pork in the Northeast. “With every step we get a little closer and we’ve never been closer than we are now,” he says. “The trick has been to have enough supply to have something to sell and enough demand to take the supply. Things are looking good.”

A new email listserve offers producers the chance to ask questions, share information, sell pigs, look for assistance or anything else related to outdoor, natural, pastured, and/or organic pig production. “OUTDOORPIG” (cce-outdoorpig-1@cornell.edu) is managed by Bernadette Logoza, Agriculture Development Specialist with Franklin County CCE. She says, “If folks are interested in joining the Outdoorpig listserv they just need to send an email to me at bel7@cornell.edu. Please put “Add me to the Outdoorpig list” in the subject line so we can do so.

If you are thinking about producing pastured pork this year, get in touch with Bill Henning for help in connecting with potential markets. He can be reached at 315-536-5123, 585-233-4167, 585 728 5783 (home phone) or wrh6@cornell.edu.

Humans May Be Immune to Bird Flu

Ever since an outbreak of bird flu in south east Asia spread to neighbouring regions in 2004, scientists have been concerned that the H5N1 strain of avian influenza could signal a new pandemic among humans.

Research on mice and humans found natural resistance to flu strains that people are typically exposed to could be translated into immunity against bird flu itself.

Researchers from the St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital say that due to the fact seasonal human flu (H1N1) and bird flu contain a closely related neuraminidase (N1), a disease spreading agent, many people immune to the former could have a similar resistance to the latter.

Researchers tested blood samples from 38 human volunteers and their ability to inactivate neuraminidase from the human N1 virus and two H5N1 viruses. Most of the samples were active against the protein from the human flu virus, with eight of nine inhibiting the protein from both H5N1 strains.

The conclusion was that many people may be naturally immune to the effects of avian influenza. The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has dubbed the research a “tantalising suggestion”, but cautions that further work is needed to demonstrate there is actual protection in humans against avian flu.

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Dairy of Distinction Applications Due April 15th

The annual Dairy Of Distinction program is for attractive dairy farms that give the consumer greater confidence in the wholesomeness of milk and stimulates milk sales which encourages public support for the dairy industry. The award gives recognition to the dairy farmer for maintaining a well-kept farmstead. All northeast dairy farms producing milk for sales are invited to submit application for the award. For a copy of the application please contact Brian Aukema at 584-9967.

The New York State Tractor Rollover Protective Structure Program(ROPS)

The New York Center For Agriculture Medicine and Health(NYCAMH) has obtained funding to offer farmers partial reimbursement for the installation of ROPS on tractors that are currently unprotected. To register for the program all participants must call the ROPS hot line for registration and pre-approval at 1-877-ROPS-R4U. The program reimburses farmers for 70% of all expenses related to the ROPS installation up to a maximum of \$600.

2006 Cyclical Expansion Was Hardly Any Expansion At All

As expected, the 2007 Cattle report confirmed that cattle inventories barely grew at all and cyclical herd expansion was preempted by last year's drought. The inventory of all cattle and calves increased a scant 0.3 percent from 2006 to 2007. In fact, USDA revised the 2006 inventory total downward such that the slight increase in the 2007 January 1 total inventory results in a value that is actually smaller than the initially reported 2006 value.

Nationwide, the total beef cow herd was reported at 32.894 million head, down 100,000 head or 0.3 less than last year. The dairy cow total was up 0.7 percent resulting in a total breeding herd inventory of 42.023 million head, fractionally lower by 33,000 head. The number of beef replacement heifers was down 0.5 percent while the number of dairy replacement heifers was up 0.8 percent. The 2006 calf crop was reported at 37.567 million head, down slightly from the 2005 calf crop. The estimated supply of feeder cattle outside of feedlots on January 1 was 29.3 million head, up 0.8 percent from the revised 2006 value.

Oklahoma was among six of the top ten beef cow states that saw herds decline in 2006. Other major beef cow state with net cow culling included Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Montana and South Dakota. The total decrease in these six states was 436,000 head of beef cows. Top ten beef cow states expanding in 2006 included Nebraska, Iowa, Kentucky and Tennessee. The drought not only caused a reduction in the 2006 cow herd but also redirected enough heifers away from breeding to result in a slightly smaller set of beef replacement heifers for 2007. The net effect is that overall cattle feeder supplies in 2007 are only fractionally larger than 2006 and if better forage prospects encourage a return to aggressive herd expansion, available feeder supplies could be smaller in 2007 to accommodate increased heifer retention. It would appear that the prospects for accelerated herd expansion in 2007 are limited and that cattle numbers will grow slowly in 2008 and likely in 2009 as well.

(Source: Dr. Derrell S. Peel, OSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist)

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BEEF CATTLE COMMENTS

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 1, March, 2007

Prepared by: Mike Baker, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist, Cornell University

EPDS REALLY DO WORK!

A review of the literature was conducted to compare expected progeny differences with observed measures for birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, marbling, hot carcass weight, backfat, ribeye area, percent lean yield, milk and scrotal circumference. The purpose was to determine if the differences predicted using EPDs could be observed in calves sired by bulls of high and low EPD values.

The differences in calves sired by high and low EPD bulls (realized progeny differences) agreed well with predictions made using EPDs for the birth weight, weaning weight, marbling, hot carcass weight, backfat, ribeye area, percent lean yield and milk (Table 1). Calves born to high EPD birth weight bulls weighed 78.5 lbs compared to 71.1 lb from low EPD birth weight bulls. The realized progeny difference of 7.5 lbs agrees very well with the expected progeny difference of 7.3 lbs. The realized progeny difference for yearling weight was more variable and the average was higher than the EPD (36 lb vs 14 lb). Examination of the data on milk indicated that calves out of daughters sired by high milk EPD bulls are expected to be 35.9 lb heavier at weaning compared to calves out of daughters sired by low milk EPD bulls. After mating these bulls to cows the realized progeny difference was 33.3 lbs. Finally, the scrotal circumference of a bull is an indication of puberty in his daughters. In this study heifers born to high scrotal circumference EPD bulls reached puberty 25 days sooner than daughters sired by low scrotal circumference EPD bulls.

Table 1 (*See opposite page*). Summary of studies that evaluated effectiveness of sire selection by comparing expected with realized progeny differences for sires classified as high or low on basis of expected progeny differences (EPD) for various beef cattle traits.

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Item	EPD	Progeny average		Realized progeny difference
		High	Low	
Birth weight, lb	7.3	78.5	71.1	7.5
Weaning weight, lb	23	593	563	30
Yearling weight, lb	14	621	585	36
Hot carcass weight, lb	5.5	821	810	11
Marbling	0.56	4.01	3.57	0.44
Backfat, in	0.02	0.26	0.23	0.03
Ribeye area, sq. in.	0.57	15.9	15.3	0.60
Lean yield, %	1.24	60.7	59.7	1.0
Milk (daughter calf weaning weight, lb)	35.9	489.1	455.8	33.3
Scrotal circumference, cm (daughter age at puberty, day)	1.8	414.3	439.3	-25.0

According to the authors, the results summarized indicate that for beef cattle growth, carcass and maternal traits, sire EPD, in general, are reflective of realized progeny differences, although exceptions are evident. Similarity between expected and realized progeny differences should be greater when high EPD accuracy sires are involved; i.e., sires that have produced a relatively large number of progeny. In contrast, when a small number of low EPD accuracy yearling bulls are involved, as would occur in many commercial herds, expected results may not be realized, especially when the bulls are not mated equally to females or the females and their resulting progeny are not managed under similar environmental conditions.

(Source: Thrift and Thrift, 2006. REVIEW: Expected Versus Realized Progeny Differences for Various Beef Cattle Traits. The Professional Animal Scientist 22 (2006):413–423)

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MCDONALD'S DIRECTOR WANTS BEEF CATTLE TRACEBACK - NOW

BRISBANE (Dow Jones)—A senior director of McDonald's Corp. (MCD) threw the weight of this major global beef buyer behind the immediate introduction of cattle traceback programs. Gary Johnson, senior director worldwide supply chain management at McDonald's Corp., said traceback of beef to cattle is the foundation of the food industry, which depends totally on the trust of consumers for its future operations. In a "wake up" speech to the U.S. industry delivered at the World Meat Congress, Johnson stressed the link between consumer trust in beef and animal trace-back. "Consumer trust in the safety of the food they eat across the entire food chain including the proteins is the single most critical factor for our industry," he said. Animal traceability is the most important thing the cattle industry can do to earn and keep the trust of consumers, Johnson said. Other speakers at the congress described animal traceability as "a critical need" and "a non-negotiable foundation" for maintaining public trust across all protein sources, he noted. The U.S. industry is lumbering toward adopting programs that can trace back retail beef to cattle on farms, but not without some industry opposition - and considerable intransigence in some quarters.

The system was adopted in mid-2005 across Australia, a major supplier of low fat manufacturing beef to the U.S., mostly for blending into hamburger patties. Australia, after Brazil the second-largest beef exporter in the world, is also a long-term competitor with the U.S. in Japan and South Korea. Johnson reflected on the devastation wrought on the U.K. beef industry through the loss of public trust following the discovery in 1996 of mad cow disease - from which the industry is still recovering. "Any company that can't build and maintain their public trust doesn't have to worry about any other trend in the food industry - that company will simply not be in business any more," he said. Johnson congratulated the Australian industry for already adopting animal traceability.

"Thank you for your leadership," he said to an audience that included many Australian beef cattle industry leaders. The technology exists now to make traceability possible, while many agricultural and consumer groups around the world support the practice, he said. McDonald's spends more than US\$14 billion on farm produce a year, including 1.1 million metric tons of beef and 1.4 million tons of French fries. Any extra expense to introduce traceability today represents an essential investment in the security of the future safety of the food supply, he said. "It's a down-payment on consumer trust that's going to pay big dividends for years to come," for producers, end users and consumers alike, Johnson said.

-By Ray Brindal, Dow Jones Newswires, 61 (0) 418 417 104; ray.brindal@dowjones.com

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FEEDERS CORNER

a. Carcass weight still the driver in feedlot profitability

This study examined the relative importance of carcass weight, quality grade, and yield grade for establishing beef carcass value in 2 grid-pricing systems without the influence of large discounts for nonconformance. A data set consisting of carcass records for 2,000 cattle was constructed to closely approximate carcass weight and grade characteristics of the U.S. fed cattle population. Two beef carcass-pricing grids—a quality-based grid and a yield-based grid, simulating actual commercial beef-pricing systems—were used for the analysis. Grid prices were computed for individual carcasses at each of 3 Choice-Select spreads (\$5.00, \$10.00, and \$20.00/100 lb), and stepwise multiple regression was used to compare the relative importance of weight, quality grade, and yield grade for determining carcass value in both pricing systems. For both grids, carcass weight was the single most important driver of carcass value per head, accounting for 70 to 90% of the variation in total revenue per head when the Choice-Select spread was ?\$10. As the Choice-Select spread increased, the importance of weight as a value-driver decreased, and the importance of carcass quality grade performance increased. Quality grade was the second most important driver of grid value, accounting for about 8 to 9 times more variation in revenue per head than yield grade when the Choice-Select spread was \$20. Yield grade played a minor role in both pricing systems, accounting for <10% of the variation in total revenue per head.

Implications. When discounts for nonconforming carcasses are avoided, beef carcass grid prices expressed on a per head basis are determined by 3 factors: carcass weight, quality grade performance, and YG performance. Of these 3 factors, carcass weight currently is the single most important driver of differences in beef carcass value per head. In today's beef carcass market, quality grade is more important than YG as a value-determinant, especially when the Choice-Select spread is high. Current grid-price signals reward the production of cattle with heavy carcass weights and high-quality grades and, when quality grade premiums are high, may encourage overfeeding of cattle, resulting in the production of excessive numbers of YG 4 carcasses. Premiums for YG 1 and YG 2 carcasses currently are not large enough to encourage production of high-cutability beef carcasses, except when the Choice-Select spread is very low.

(Source: Tatum, et al., 2006. Relative Importance of Weight, Quality Grade, and Yield Grade as Drivers of Beef Carcass Value in Two Grid-Pricing Systems. The Professional Animal Scientist 22 (2006):41–47)

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b. Effect of castration and implant prior to weaning

Two experiments were conducted to determine the effects of method and timing of castration on performance of bull calves. In Exp. 1, 2- to 3-mo-old bulls were left intact or were castrated either surgically or with rubber bands, and all calves were implanted with 36 mg of zeranol. Intact bulls were castrated at weaning (7 to 8 mo) with large rubber bands and all calves were re-implanted with 36 mg of zeranol. In Exp. 2, 139 bulls were assigned at birth to the following treatments: banded, banded and implanted (36 mg zeranol), or left intact. Four weeks before weaning, intact bulls were castrated with large rubber bands and all animals were implanted.

In Exp. 1, ADG from 2 mo to weaning was not different for implanted bulls compared with bulls castrated and implanted. The ADG of implanted bulls that were banded at weaning was less during the following 50 d compared with bulls castrated and implanted at 2 to 3 mo of age.

In Exp. 2, intact bulls had similar BW 30 d before weaning compared with bulls that were castrated at birth or castrated and given an implant at birth. The BW of bulls that were banded 30 d before weaning was reduced at weaning compared with bulls banded at birth.

It is concluded that intact bulls do not have an advantage in pre-weaning growth compared with bulls castrated and implanted at less than 3 mo of age. Castrating bulls at greater than 6 mo of age with large rubber bands decreased BW gains during the next 30 days.

(Source: Lents, et al., 2006. Effects of Method and Timing of Castration and the Use of an Estrogenic Growth Stimulant on Weight Gain of Bull Calves. The Professional Animal Scientist, 22 (2006):126-131.)



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PROFIT OPTIMIZATION AND EVALUATION PROGRAMS

a. Cornell Feedlot and Carcass Value Discovery Program

Purpose: Teach cow/calf producers the value of their calves based on performance in the feedlot and on through the packing plant. Calves are accepted in November and fed till their most optimal profit potential during March-July. For more information contact Mike Baker, Cornell Beef Specialist mjb28@cornell.edu, 607-255-5923.

b. Empire Heifer Development Program

Purpose: A management and marketing program for cow/calf producers to evaluate replacement heifer prospects and offer a marketing opportunity for quality heifers. Calves are accepted in November. Heifers can be bred artificially at the heifer rearing facility, or returned home for breeding. Eligible heifers can be sold in April. For more information, contact Martha Wright, Empire Heifer Development Program Manager, maw32@cornell.edu, 585-770-4664.

c. New York Pooled Weaning and Marketing Program

Purpose: Provide a uniformly managed group of feeder calves, commingled from several producers, in a truck load lot, which can be marketed at optimum value. Calves are accepted in October and marketed in late November or December. For more information contact Mike Baker, Cornell Beef Specialist mjb28@cornell.edu, 607-255-5923.

d. NY Beef Producers Central Bull Test and Sale

Purpose: To: 1) compare individual performance of potential herd sires, 2) provide an opportunity for seedstock producers to market individual bulls, 3) provide a source of bulls for commercial and seedstock herds and 4) provide an educational opportunity for sellers and buyers alike. Bulls are accepted in November. Eligible bulls are sold in April. For more information contact Bull Test Managers Jason TenEyck at 315-539-8031 or Jim Brown at 315-549-8318.

ULTRASOUND SERVICES AVAILABLE

Heather Birdsall, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cortland County recently received her ultrasound certification. For breeders that require this information for their breed association records, this service is now available within New York State. Images that can be collected are ribeye area, backfat and rump fat depth and percent intramuscular fat. This information is invaluable in developing seedstock that produce high quality beef for today's market. Cattle can be scanned for \$15/head plus travel. For more details contact Heather at 607-753-5222, hbb6@cornell.edu.

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TO/DO MARCH/APRIL

A. Calving season is here or fast approaching. Do you have the following items:

1. Frozen colostrum
2. Calf pulling equipment.
3. Stomach tube, thermometer, dry towels.
4. Ear tags, navel dip (7% iodine).
5. Selenium, Vitamin A&D injections.
6. Castration and dehorning equipment.
7. Therapy for scours and respiratory problems.
8. VETERINARIAN's PHONE NUMBER.

B. Practice good calving management:

1. Provide clean dry area for calving. Clean, frozen or snow covered pasture protected from the wind works well.
 2. If calving in a barn, keep area well cleaned and bedded. Barns, while comfortable for the manager, are a great place to harbor disease organisms that increase throughout the calving season.
 3. Make sure calf consumes 1.5-2.0% of its body weight (1-2 quarts) of colostrum within 4-6 hours.
 4. Be prepared to provide fluids to scouring calves that become dehydrated. Consult veterinarian for advice.
- C. Plan spring fertilizer needs. Mid to late April is an excellent time to apply nitrogen to grass. Consult Field Crop agent at your local Extension office.
- D. Prepare for pasture season. How will you control flies this year: tags, pour-ons, rubbers? It is not recommended to use insecticides furnished in feed or minerals.
- E. Get ready for breeding season;
- If you use A.I. order semen and check your equipment.
Be sure breeding corral is in working order
 - If breeding naturally, make sure you have enough bulls: 10-15 cows per yearling bull; 20-25 cows per 2-year old bull; 30-35 cows per mature bull.
 - Have phosphorous source in form of free-choice mineral mix; phosphorous is important for maximum fertility.
 - Yearling British heifers should weigh a minimum of 700 lbs. and continental heifers a minimum of 750 lbs. before being bred.
 - If lactating cows are thin and not cycling, feed more energy.
 - Vaccinate open cows for IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, Leptospirosis, and Haemophilus using modified live vaccines. Consult your veterinarian for additional health information.

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Only the Best Performance Tested Bull Sale - *April 28th, 1:00 p.m.*

Empire Farm Days Grounds, Seneca Falls, NY

- 15 Angus
- 6 Red Angus
- 2 Shorthorn
- 4 Simmental
- 1 Charolais

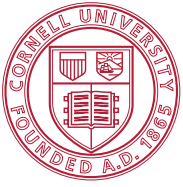
For a catalog or more information, contact Jason TenEyck, 315-539-8031, the NYBPA office at 315-245-3386, or go to <http://www.tjbailey.com/nybpa/>.

Empire Heifer Development Program Open Heifer Sale - *April 28th*

- Following NY Bull Test Sale
- Empire Farm Days Grounds, Seneca Falls, NY
- Selling 20 purebred and cross bred heifers
- Complete reproductive exam, temperament score and ultrasound data.

For a catalog or more information, contact Martha Wright, 585-770-4664, maw32@cornell.edu or Mike Baker, 607-255-5923, mjb28@cornell.edu





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