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The Wyoming County

# FARM & HOMESTEAD

News

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026 VOL 13, ISSUE 2



Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County

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### WYOMING COUNTY FARM AND HOMESTEAD NEWS

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Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-to-date pesticide guidelines. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying any pesticide.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an educational organization whose programs are available to all residents of Wyoming County. Cooperative Extension disseminates accurate, unbiased information, helps individuals make decisions on current issues based on up-to-date research facts from Cornell University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Wyoming County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Accommodations for person with disabilities may be requested by contacting the Agriculture Program office at 585-786-2251 ten (10) days prior to an event.

# We extend our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing board members

CCE Wyoming County extends heartfelt thanks to the board members who have completed their terms with us this year. The programs we offer are better today because of your service!

- Vanessa McCormick
- Daryl McLaughlin
- Bob Ressler
- Chris Smithgall

Our board members guide the direction of our offered programs, ensure responsible stewardship of our resources, and are the stewards of our success. It is a true community owned organization.

This year, the CCE Board of Directors provided the leadership and guidance to develop the five year strategic planning process, and championed collaborative work with the central school districts. It is truly an honor to work with such dedicated volunteer leaders.



*To view our final version of the Strategic plan, scan the QR Code to the left!*



*Above: Daryl McLaughlin is pictured with a token of appreciation from CCE*

## CCE Wyoming County Celebrates 15 Years of Service by Ag Program Manager, Donald Gasiewicz

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Wyoming County is proud to recognize Donald Gasiewicz, Ag Program Manager, as he marks his 15-year anniversary with the organization.

During his tenure, Donald has been a trusted resource for the local agricultural community, providing education and support to farmers, gardeners, and community partners. He oversees the Master Gardener Program, coordinates popular mushroom workshops, and manages a variety of additional programs and responsibilities that support CCE Wyoming County's mission.

In recognition of his excellence in extension education, Donald received an Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) in 2018 for outstanding extension educational programs.

"Don's expertise, dedication, and positive impact have made him an invaluable member of our team," said Caron Gala, CCE Wyoming County Executive Director.

CCE Wyoming County congratulates Donald Gasiewicz on 15 years of service and looks forward to his continued contributions to agriculture and community education in Wyoming County.



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# DHIA REPORTS



NOVEMBER 2025

## File for Wyoming County NY November 2025

### Wyoming

#### Name, Milk, Fat, Fat%, Protein, Prot%

""COVISTA HOLSTEINS"", 32942, 1426, 4.3, 1073, 3.3  
 ""ARMSON FARMS"", 29890, 1356, 4.5, 989, 3.3  
 ""PINGREY, DONALD"", 28877, 1320, 4.6, 979, 3.4  
 ""FARYNA, WALTER"", 29144, 1202, 4.1, 946, 3.2  
 ""BOLDER DAIRY BECKER FARM"", 27824, 1365, 4.9, 884, 3.2  
 ""PINGREY DAIRY FARM LLC"", 27202, 1160, 4.3, 876, 3.2  
 ""RUDGERS REGISTERED JERSE"", 23099, 1196, 5.2, 861, 3.7  
 ""SANDIMEADOWS DAIRY LLC. "", 23015, 1016, 4.4, 778, 3.4  
 ""CHAMBERLAIN, DAVE & GREG"", 20373, 1118, 5.5, 755, 3.7  
 ""SALTY ACRES FARM LLC"", 21712, 929, 4.3, 720, 3.3  
 ""LEX NICKERSON"", 18944, 834, 4.4, 643, 3.4

DECEMBER 2025

## File for Wyoming County NY December 2025

### NEW YORK

### Wyoming

#### Name, Milk, Fat, Fat%, Protein, Prot%

""COVISTA HOLSTEINS"", 33007, 1425, 4.3, 1076, 3.3  
 ""ARMSON FARMS "", 29875, 1359, 4.5, 991, 3.3  
 ""PINGREY, DONALD "", 28930, 1329, 4.6, 980, 3.4  
 ""FARYNA, WALTER "", 29108, 1203, 4.1, 949, 3.3  
 ""PINGREY DAIRY FARM LLC "", 27300, 1165, 4.3, 880, 3.2  
 ""BOLDER DAIRY BECKER FARM", 27537, 1341, 4.9, 878, 3.2  
 ""RUDGERS REGISTERED JERSE", 23086, 1195, 5.2, 861, 3.7  
 ""SANDIMEADOWS DAIRY LLC. ", 23065, 1024, 4.4, 778, 3.4  
 ""CHAMBERLAIN, DAVE & GREG"", 20603, 1130, 5.5, 765, 3.7  
 ""SALTY ACRES FARM LLC ", 21712, 929, 4.3, 720, 3.3  
 ""LEX NICKERSON"", 19035, 840, 4.4, 647, 3.4

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# Cornell Garden Based Learning 2026 Vegetable Varieties Trial (VVT)



The types of vegetables and herbs selected for our 2026 trial are commonly used in Mediterranean Cuisine.

CCE Wyoming will “grow and share” excess produce with those in need. Produce from this project and the CCE learning high tunnel will be donated to the local food pantry and utilized in our late summer open house.

Below are the varieties to be grown in 2026 and the seeds just arrived January 30th. If you want to grow these varieties or similar plants, Cornell Garden Based Learning has provided easy to follow seeding, transplanting, potential pests and diseases, and harvesting information below.

You can see the progress and join CCE Wyoming County Master Gardener Volunteers as we work through the steps of the VVT project. We intend to host a seeding workshop, a mid-season plant check-in, and the annual Harvest Open House and High Tunnel Tour. This event highlights dishes made from the produce and walk through project highlights and lessons learned.

If you cannot attend the events the 9 bed VVT Garden is located at 36 Center St in Warsaw and is open to the public to visit anytime. Signage will be displayed by each bed to explain about the plants being grown and to give Hudson Valley Seed Company credit as our 2026 seed supplier.

## Eggplant Bed: Solanum melongena

‘Listada di Gandia’ is an heirloom that produces purple and white striped fruit that makes incredible fried eggplant!

Start 6-8 weeks before last frost. Plant seeds  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep. Should sprout in 7-14 days. Provide plenty of warmth and transplant out once nights are over 50 degrees.

Matures 80 days from transplant. Harvest fruit before they get oversized.

Cultural Practices: Protect with row cover to exclude flea beetles. Also susceptible to Colorado potato beetles. Check every few weeks for signs of egg, larva and adult beetles and remove as needed.



## Lettuce and Carrot Bed: Lactuca sativa and Daucus carota

‘Reine De Glaces’ Lettuce. A historic French heirloom with jagged, dark green leaves. Frost hardy and slow to bolt in heat.



Start indoors 3-4 weeks before transplanting or direct sow when soil has reached 50 degrees. Plant seeds  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep. Should sprout in 4-10 days. Thin to 12 inch spacing between plants.

Matures in 60 days. Optional: Start more for succession planting for prolonged harvest.

Mulch with straw or other material once plants have some size to help keep soil from splashing on leaves and retain soil moisture.

## ‘Scarlet Nantes’ Carrot

An heirloom carrot with crisp texture, deep-orange color, and good storage potential.



Direct sow from early spring until late summer in deeply worked soil. Plant seeds  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep.

Planting- thin young seedlings to 2 inches apart then thin at baby carrot stage by pulling every other carrot. GROW remaining carrots to maturity.

Matures in 68 days. Carrots will grow to about 6 inches in length. Tolerates heavier soil but should be planted in deeply worked, rock free soil for best quality roots.

Mulch with straw or other material once tops are up to help decrease “green shoulders”.

## Onion Bed: Allium cepa

‘Red Long of Tropea’ is a mild onion used for fresh summer eating as it does not store well. It’s great grilled or for fresh use in salads.

Plant in early spring- Direct sow in rows spaced 4 inches apart with about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch between seeds. Cover with  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of soil. Plants should sprout in 4-8 days. Thinning is not needed. Matures in 90 days.



Mulch with straw or other

*Continued on page 8...*

Continued from page 7...

material once plants have sprouted to reduce weed seed germination and to help retain soil moisture.

### Pepper Bed: Capsicum annuum

'Keystone Giant' Pepper is a reliable heirloom that produces softball sized fruit with thick, juicy walls perfect for stuffing. Will ripen to red which is when it will be at its sweetest

Planting- Sow seeds  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep 6-10 weeks before last frost. Heat is required for germination which can take 10 to 14 days. Once germinated, provide bright light (supplemental lighting) and transplant out 3 weeks after last frost 18 inches apart. Grow in full sun. Matures 75 days from transplant.



Cultural Practice to Demonstrate: Plants mature to 24 inches tall – stake or cage to provide support.

'Hot Portugal' Pepper is a sweet and spicy pepper with long thin flesh. It ripens quickly and is best when allowed to ripen on the plant. Try fresh , sauteed, in soups or stews.



Planting- Sow seeds  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep 6-10 weeks before last frost. Heat is required for germination which can take 10 to 14 days. Once germinated, provide bright light (supplemental lighting) and transplant out 3 weeks after last frost 18 inches apart. Grow in full sun. Matures 75 days from transplant.

Cultural Practice: Plants mature to 24 inches tall – stake or cage to provide support.

### Tomato and Cover Crop Bed:

*Solanum lycopersicum* and *Raphanus sativus*  
'Cesare's Canestrino Di Lucca' Tomato is a rare and prized heirloom sauce tomato.

Large plant - Indeterminate type – 72 inches tall at maturity - Should be trellised if possible.



Planting- sow seeds  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep 6-8 weeks before last frost. Grow in a warm spot under supplemental light. Sprouts in 5-10 days. Transplant out after danger of frost. Matures 90 days from transplant.

Cultural Trellis to keep plant off the ground, prune

to provide good air circulation in the plant, mulch to keep soil from splashing on plant leaves. Maintain consistent soil moisture.

'Firmino's Plum' Tomato is a smaller plant with compact vines – 42 inches tall at maturity. Should be grown on a tall stake or large cage. In addition to being a great paste tomato, it's also excellent roasted on a sheet pan with olive oil, salt, garlic, and rosemary.



Planting- sow seeds  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep 6-8 weeks before last frost. Grow in a warm spot under supplemental light. Sprouts in 5-10 days. Transplant out after danger of frost. Matures 90 days from transplant.

Cultural Practice: Stake to provide support, prune dense areas so leaves dry quickly. Maintain consistent soil moisture. Mulch to keep soil off leaves.

Tillage Radish – Cover Crop is a cover crop that winter kills and is often used to break up hardpan soil. It's powerful roots also become vertical air shafts in the soil and will add organic matter as they decompose.



The dead tops remain over soil decreasing spring weed germination.

Sow in late summer or very early fall with a seeder or in one inch deep furrows surrounding the tomato plants as tillage radish is not well suited to broadcast sowing.

3-10 days to sprout. When tomato plants are done, cut them off at soil level so not to disturb the tillage radish planting. 98 days and 18-24 inches tall at maturity.

### Fennel Bed: *Foeniculum vulgare*

'Florence' Fennel is a beautiful plant with mildly flavored bulbs. Raw, chopped fennel adds a celery-like crunch and licorice flavor to salads, or fennel can be cooked until soft and meltingly delicious. It is most abundant in mid-summer, which explains its popularity as a grilled vegetable!



Plant 12 inches apart (may be able to plant a few more and get 4 per row – direct sow outdoors in rich soil from after last through 3 months before last frost or start indoors 4-5 weeks prior to last frost and transplant into the bed. Sow

Continued on page 9...

*Continued from page 8...*

seeds 1/4 inch deep. Sprouts in 7-14 days and is mature in 80 days.

Water liberally. Plants will be 36-72 inches tall at maturity. Harvest bulbs when around 4 inches in diameter. Wait to long and they will bolt! Adequate irrigation is needed to produce high-yielding and flavorful crops.

Cultural practice: Mulch to help retain soil moisture and discourage weed seed germination.

### **Greens Succession Planting Bed:**

'Spring Broccoli' Raab – *Brassica rapa*  
Followed by 'Garnet Stem'  
Dandelion – *Cichorium intybus*

'Spring Broccoli' Raab florets, stems, and leaves have a pungent, sharp, yet sweet flavor. Mix with other greens or enjoy with plenty of olive oil, garlic, and red pepper.

Plant 12 inches apart. Direct sow seeds 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep in rich soil 2-3 weeks BEFORE LAST FROST. Days to sprout 7-10. Matures in 55 days.

Allow 20 days for baby and 40 days for mature leaves. Thin to space plants about 15 inches apart. Keep watered.



Cultural practices: Mulch to help retain soil moisture and discourage weed seed germination.

'Garnet Stem' Dandelion is a bitter green. Although it can be grown all season, warmer temperatures will enhance bitterness and increase bolting. Young leaves add Plant in late summer for fall harvests. Direct Sow seeds 1/4 inch deep and 4 inches apart. The same planting can be harvested multiple times. For best yields, allow to reach full size - 8 inches in height and about 55 days from sowing.



Cultural practice: Mulch to help retain soil moisture and discourage weed seed germination.

Note: The dandelion can handle a little heat when it is first getting established, but you really don't want it to get hot when it's mature. In the Hudson Valley area sowing around mid-August, would give the warmth and day length of September to grow and establish and get better as the weather turns cold and it gets a few frosts.

For the colder areas consider sowing in early August or (possibly late July). You need enough day length and

warmth for the plant to establish and grow to about 3/4 sized before the days get too short.

### **Squash Bed: *Cucurbita pepo***

'Cocozelle' Zucchini is a bush type plant that produces seemingly endless amount of squash with a rich zucchini flavor that is perfect for "Zucchini Boat" bakes. Bake halves topped with tomato/pasta/pizza sauce topped with mozzarella cheese. You can also sauté in olive oil or use for ratatouille. Harvest young fruit often for highest quality.



PLANT 1 PLANT – Start indoors 2-3 weeks before last frost or direct sow after last frost. Sow seeds 1/2 to 1 inch deep. Sprouts in 7 to 12 days. Tolerates dry conditions.

If you have a spot in another area in the garden, plant another plant a month later to extend harvests. Cultural practice: Mulch to decrease weed seed germination and retain soil moisture. Cover with insect barrier (bury all edges of barrier) to exclude squash vine borer moths.

### **Herbs for People and Pollinators Bed:**

'Gigante d'Italia' Parsley – *Petroselinum Hortense*  
And 'Italian Large Leaf' Basil – *Ocimum basilicum*

'Gigante d'Italia' Parsley produces big, flat parsley leaves with unmistakable tang that amplifies any dish. This large-leaved, heavy-yielding variety is



wonderful in gremolata: chop finely, then mix with lemon zest, garlic, and olive oil; salt to taste. Can also be chopped fine and added to soup just before serving.

Sow seeds indoors 8 weeks before last frost or direct sow after last frost. Sow seeds 1/4 inch deep. 14-21 days to sprout and 70 days to maturity. Height at maturity 36 inches.

Harvest large outer leaves and allow new inner leaves to mature for continual harvest.

Note: This plant is biennial; with the protection of a cold frame or snow cover, it comes back each spring and can be harvested for about a month before it goes to seed. Allowing parsley to flower will support pollinators. Parsley is especially attractive to the Black Swallowtail butterfly.

Cultural Practice to demonstrate: Mulch to retain

*Continued on page 10...*

*Continued from page 9...*

soul moisture and discourage weed seed germination.

'Italian Large Leaf' Basil is also known as Neapolitan basil and is similar to Genovese (the pesto-perfect variety) and is just as good for making classic Italian pesto. Its big tender leaves are also perfect for use in salads and sandwiches. The plant is bigger and bushier than other basil types.

Can also be succession sown at one month intervals - also good for container plantings so consider adding a separate container for extended harvest



Cultural practices: Provide sufficient moisture and mulch to retain soul moisture and decrease weed seed germination. Pinch off tallest growth in order to keep basil from flowering as flavor becomes too strong once in bloom. Consider leaving one to flower for pollinator support!

## The Seed Library at the Ag and Business Center is Fully Stocked!

With gardening season right around the corner, you can visit the Agriculture and Business Center at 36 Center Street in Warsaw and grab some seeds for your garden. You will also find seed donation forms so you can donate any extra or unwanted seed.

The Warsaw Seed Library is a project brought to you by the Wyoming County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. It has been established to make FREE seeds available to anyone. Seeds are made available through donations from community members, local businesses, master gardeners, CCE, seed companies, and seed library participants.

Along with the seeds themselves you will find directions for taking and donating seeds, as well as an abundance of information on seed viability, seeds saving, seed starting at home, gardening, and much more.



## Vegetable Growers: Share Your Pest Priorities!

Take 5–10 minutes to complete our quick survey and let the Cornell IPM team know which pests are your biggest challenges. Your feedback will help guide research and extension programs that address the issues that matter most to you. Responses are completely anonymous.



[https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6Kh8iUax0x3wuai](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Kh8iUax0x3wuai)

### Questions?

Contact Marion Zuefle at [mez4@cornell.edu](mailto:mez4@cornell.edu)

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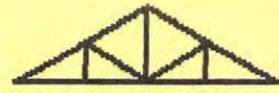
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## MASTER GARDENER & BEEKEEPER MEETING

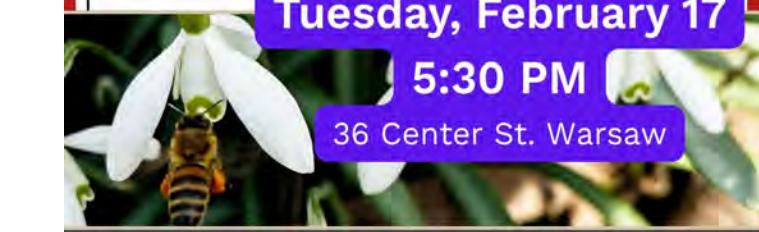
Joint meeting with Master Gardeners and Wyoming County Beekeepers to plan the upcoming year.

We want your suggestions and ideas!

**Tuesday, February 17**

**5:30 PM**

**36 Center St. Warsaw**



Register via email to [drg35@cornell.edu](mailto:drg35@cornell.edu)  
 or contact us with any questions!

### Contact Us

36 Center St. Warsaw, NY 14569  
 585-786-2251  
[wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu](mailto:wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu)  
<https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/>

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling the 585-786-2251 no later than 10 days prior to the event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.



## 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRIDE OF AGRICULTURE DINNER

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Bringing those in the agricultural industry together with their friends and neighbors to celebrate and recognize agriculture in Wyoming County.

Please return any reservations to the Wyoming County Chamber office by mailing it to 36 Center Street, Suite A, Warsaw, NY 14569.

### Dinner Tickets:

Individual Tickets: \$50.00  
 Reserved Table of 8: \$375.00

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

North Java Fire Hall

Hosted by The Wyoming County Chamber & Tourism, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau and Soil and Water Conservation District



Cornell Cooperative Extension  
 Wyoming County

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[wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu](mailto:wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu)

<https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/>



## VEGETABLE GROWERS Discussion Group

### Why?

- Stay up to date on vegetable growing topics
- Timely pest, weed, and disease management
- Pesticides Certification
- Networking and information sharing

We need your ongoing input to make the best use of your valuable time. Farms interested in vegetable trials or hosting the group will ensure a sustainable learning template.

### How?

Together we can:

- Prioritize future workshop topics
- Organize and participate in farm tours
- Request speakers of interest
- Learn about new varieties, techniques, and technology
- Get involved in current and ongoing vegetable crop research in Wyoming County and New York State.

**MEETING 1**  
**February 18, 2026**

**36 Center St Warsaw**

**6:30-7:30pm**

**Brainstorming & Identifying Priority Topics**

**Discuss meeting dates, and introduction to ongoing Vegetable growing initiatives in Wyoming County**

**MEETING 2**  
**March 14, 2026**

**Pa's Produce 7618**

**State Route 20A Perry**

**8:30-10:30am**

**Overwintering Greens and Successional Planting in High Tunnels**

**MEETING 3**  
**TBA**

**MEETING 4**  
**TBA**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

Register here:  
[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/VegDiscussion\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/VegDiscussion_256)  
 Or scan QR Code below



### Contact Us

36 Center St. Warsaw, NY 14569

585-786-2251

[wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu](mailto:wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu)

<https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/>



## 33rd Annual Rural Landowner Workshop

Pioneer Central School

12145 County Line Road, Yorkshire, NY 14173

Saturday, March 7, 2026 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

*Registration begins at 8:45am*

Cornell Cooperative Extension's 33rd Annual Rural Landowner Workshop will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM. Following the opening session there will be three concurrent sessions with multiple classes per session to choose from.

The Rural Landowner Workshop is a regional program involving several agencies that provide educational information and outreach to landowners.



Presenters are brought in from both private and public sectors to provide participants with up-to-date information. For more details, contact Lynn Bliven at 585-268-7644 x18 or email [lao3@cornell.edu](mailto:lao3@cornell.edu).



Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Wyoming County

## NYS DOT REGULATIONS for Ag Operations



Geared for farm owners and employees who manage or operate farm trucks and equipment.

Topics to be discussed will include:

- Defining a "Commercial Motor Vehicle"
- Defining a 'Covered Vehicle'
- Licensing and Registrations
- Rules of the Road
- Size and Weights (permits)
- Equipment

### PRESENTED BY

#### Trooper Matt Luft

New York State Police  
Commercial Vehicle  
Enforcement Unit

#### Trooper Tony Fioretto

New York State Police  
located in Amity, NY

**Saturday March 14, 2026**

**10:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

**Wyoming County Ag Center**

36 Center St Room LC1

Warsaw

This is a free information session. Registration is required.

Scan the QR Code to register here:  
[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/NYSDOT\\_Regs\\_Farms\\_Spring2026\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/NYSDOT_Regs_Farms_Spring2026_256)



36 Center St. Warsaw, NY 14569

585-786-2251

wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu

<https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/>



Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling the 585-786-2251 no later than 10 days prior to the event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

### Contact Us



Passionate about your woodlands? Want to help other woodland owners be more effective in their land stewardship?

## MASTER FOREST OWNER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

### Training Details:

- Learn about woodland ecology, wildlife habitat, invasive species, agroforestry, and more!
- 3-4 hours/week of guided online learning
- 1-hour weekly interactive session
- 1 in-person regional training session

Online Sessions: Tuesdays,  
March 17 - April 28  
6:30 - 7:30 pm

\$35 per person \$50 per couple

Fee includes training materials and field sessions

Since 1993, MFO volunteers have provided peer to peer guidance, helping landowners make informed decisions about managing their forests.

Any NY woodland owner can join our team!

**Apply by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

To apply or to learn more go to  
[www.CornellMFO.info](http://www.CornellMFO.info)

or contact Lydia Williams  
LRW73@cornell.edu or 315-536-5123



Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Wyoming County

## FRUIT TREE & BERRY PRUNING WORKSHOP

### We plan to cover:

- Tools needed for pruning
- Selecting plant stock to establish a home orchard/berry planting
- Soil pH and nutrient considerations and soil testing
- Basic insect and disease management
- Maintaining your plantings for a successful harvest

### Participate in hands-on pruning demos of

- Apple, Pear, Peach
- Highbush Blueberry
- Grape and Blackberry

at the home orchard of  
Tom and Laura Somerville.

Take home print resources will be available to aid in the establishment and care of your home orchard.

**Saturday March 28, 2026**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

2700 Centerline Rd

Varysburg, NY

Registration required. \$10 per farm/family.

Scan the QR Code to register here:

[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/FruitTree\\_BerryPruning2026\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/FruitTree_BerryPruning2026_256)



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## WYOMING COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 | 6:00PM - 7:30PM

WYOMING COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS CENTER  
36 CENTER ST. WARSAW, NY  
ROOM LC1 - BASEMENT

All Landowners from an interested farm operation or lessors of farmland **MUST** attend workshop to be eligible for grants.

RSVP @  
[SaveWyCoFarms.eventbrite.com](https://SaveWyCoFarms.eventbrite.com)



Genesee Valley  
Conservancy

WESTERN NEW YORK  
LAND CONSERVANCY



This event is supported in part by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets through the Land Trust Grants Program, Round 5. Support from New York State helps advance farmland protection and conservation efforts in Wyoming County and beyond.



Agriculture

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Wyoming County

# GAME OF LOGGING

## HANDS-ON CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING

**Level 1**

- Chainsaw Safety Features & Personal Protective Equipment
- Chainsaw Reactive Forces
- Pre-planning the fell and understanding hinge wood strength
- Safe Open Face Felling techniques
- Bore Cutting

**Level 2**

- Maximizing chainsaw performance
- Basic maintenance, Carburetor setting, and Filing techniques
- Limbing and Bucking techniques
- Spring pole cutting
- Felling practice

Instructed by Bill Lindloff  
of Procuts**LEVEL 1**

Monday, April 6, 2026

Time TBD

Attica

**LEVEL 2**

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Time TBD

Attica



Registration Required. Participants are required to bring their own gear and equipment. All participants must take the Game of Logging Level 1 before the Game of Logging Level 2. Participant must be 18 years of age or older. If you have a group of potential students below that age, please email [ceg256@cornell.edu](mailto:ceg256@cornell.edu) to see if another course may be scheduled.

## Scan the QR Code to register here:

<https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/GOLchain>  
sawSpring2026\_256



## Contact Us

36 Center St. Warsaw, NY 14569  
585-786-2251  
[wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu](mailto:wyomingAginfo@cornell.edu)  
<https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/>



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## Arbor Day Tree Expo

Where: Cazenovia Park Casino Building

When: Saturday, April 25th, 2026

10 AM - 1 PM

Join the WNY ReLeaf Committee and Buffalo Olmsted Parks to celebrate Arbor Day!

This is a free, student and family-friendly day with activities and demonstrations. Learn about the tree care industry — from planting and pruning, to climbing and the equipment used.

Guided tours will take you through the park to showcase live tree work in action!

Talk with local professionals about their work, ask questions, and find out about opportunities to join the industry.



... and many more.

Interested in tabling or volunteering for the day?

Visit <https://nysufc.org/r9-tree-care-expo-2026/> to register,Or contact Nate Morey at 716-851-7048 / [nate.morey@dec.ny.gov](mailto:nate.morey@dec.ny.gov)

Agriculture

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Wyoming County

# HANDS-ON MUSHROOM INOCULATION

Learn how to grow your own  
edible mushrooms at home!



- Hobby-Level Presentation also provides detail and resources for commercial cultivation
- Home-Grown Mushroom Cultivation Techniques
- Log Maintenance
- Inoculate a log with mycelium, producing edible gourmet Shiitake mushrooms for years

You will be able to take your own Shiitake log home!

Friday, April 17

4:30pm

Ag & Business Center;  
36 Center Street, Warsaw

All materials are provided. Please dress accordingly as this project can get messy.  
Prepaid registration required. Class size is limited to 30 participants.

Register early, class fills quickly!

## Scan the QR Code

to register here:

[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/HandsOnMushroomInoculation\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/HandsOnMushroomInoculation_256)



## Contact Us

36 Center St. Warsaw, NY 14569  
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## Agriculture

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Wyoming County

# GAME OF LOGGING

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- Spring pole cutting
- Felling practice

Instructed by Bill Lindloff  
of Procuts**LEVEL 1**

Monday May 11, 2026

Time &amp; Location

TBD

**LEVEL 2**

Thursday May 14, 2026

Time &amp; Location

TBD



Registration Required. Participants are required to bring their own gear and equipment. All participants must take the Game of Logging Level 1 before the Game of Logging Level 2. Participant must be 18 years of age or older. If you have a group of potential students below that age, please email [ceg256@cornell.edu](mailto:ceg256@cornell.edu) to see if another course may be scheduled.

## Scan the QR Code to register here:

<https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/GOLchain>  
sawMay2026-2\_256



## Contact Us

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**LOVE AGRICULTURE?  
LOVE WORKING WITH KIDS?**

**CCE WYOMING COUNTY IS  
HIRING AN AG IN THE CLASSROOM  
EDUCATOR!**



Turn curiosity into discovery and classrooms into hands-on learning labs!

Join our team and help bring agriculture, food systems, and STEAM to life for students across Wyoming County.

**WHAT YOU'LL DO:**

- Lead engaging school-based programs (Ag in the Classroom, Dairy in the Classroom, Farm to School)
- Collaborate with schools, partners, and the 4-H STEAM Committee
- Help plan summer day camps & Wyoming County Fair youth activities

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Master's degree with relevant experience or
- Bachelor's degree + 4 years transferable, evidence-based research

**\$23.50/hr**

**APPLY BY FEBRUARY 17, 2026 – 11:59 PM**



Apply by scanning the QR code or visit:  
<https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/jobs>

Grow minds. Inspire futures. Cultivate community.   
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Wyoming County

**Upcoming Position Opening:**

**LIVESTOCK EDUCATOR**

Wyoming County | Cornell Cooperative Extension



**Position Summary**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County is seeking a **Livestock Educator** to assist with the development, coordination, delivery, and evaluation of research-based livestock programs to support Wyoming County's agricultural community.

**Program Areas Include:**

- Dairy
- Beef
- Small Ruminants
- Poultry
- Equine
- Companion Animals
- Emerging Livestock

**Collaboration & Partnerships:**

- ProDairy
- ProLivestock
- NWNY Dairy, Field Crops & Livestock Team
- Cornell Horse Program
- College of Veterinary Medicine

**Required Qualifications:**

- Master's degree in agriculture, animal science, or related field **OR**
- Bachelor's degree + 4 years relevant research experience
- 3+ years of livestock education or agricultural programming experience
- 5+ years livestock industry experience (dairy, beef, small ruminants)
- Ability to communicate clearly in **Spanish**



Full details on wages & application deadline **COMING SOON**

<https://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/cce-wyoming/employment>



## Simple Maple Cake Recipe with Pecans

### Equipment

- 1 9X5 Loaf pan

### Ingredients

- 3 Eggs large
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup + 2 tablespoons Sugar
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup Oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup Orange Juice
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  cups + 2 tablespoons Flour
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  Baking Powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp Salt
- 1 cup Pecans/Walnuts
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup Maple Syrup



### Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350°F
- **Prepare pan:** Line a 9x5-inch loaf pan with parchment paper and lightly grease.
- **Mix wet ingredients:** In a large bowl, beat eggs and sugar until pale and fluffy. Add oil, orange juice, and vanilla extract. Mix just until combined.
- **Add dry ingredients:** Sift in flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir gently until the batter is smooth. Do not overmix.
- **Bake:** Pour batter into prepared

pan and bake for 10 minutes.

Remove quickly, sprinkle chopped nuts evenly on top, and return to the oven. Bake 25–30 minutes more, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

- **Finish with maple:** While warm, poke holes in the cake with a skewer or toothpick. Pour maple syrup evenly over the cake. Let it soak and cool completely before slicing.
- **Serve:** Enjoy as is, or with a dollop of whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The annual NYS Corn and Soybean Yield Contests are sponsored by the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association. Congratulations to our 2025 NY Corn Champion Swede Farms from Wyoming County with a winning yield of 311.25 bu/a. They win an all expense paid trip to the 2026 Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas.

2025 NY Corn and Soybean NY State and Regional Winners  
Sponsored by the NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association

**West Regional Winners**

Rank	Entrant Name	Town	County	Brand	Number	Yield (bu/a)
1	Swede Farms	Pavilion	Livingston	DEKALB	DKC56-26	311.25
2	Triple H Farm	Leicester	Livingston	DEKALB	DCK101-35	297.67
*	Swede Farms	Pavilion	Wyoming	DEKALB	DKC103-07	268.25
3	Andy McIlroy	Pavilion	Wyoming	DEKALB	DCK103-07	257.17

# Skid Steer Safety 101

by: Laura Berkemeier

Skid steers are a common piece of equipment found in a variety of industries. Their small, compact size and maneuverability allow farmers to negotiate narrow alleyways, and to operate under short vertical clearances. This is not possible with most conventional tractors. While they are small in size, the danger these machines can pose can be large. It is critical to take time to recognize the hazards present during the operation of skid steers so that the necessary best practices can be followed.

## HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH OPERATING A SKID STEER

- STRUCK-BY HAZARDS** The operation of these machines often includes working in high-traffic areas. Reversing is also a common necessity during work tasks. These factors, paired with blind spots, create a huge risk for struck-by incidents to occur.
- CRUSHED-BY HAZARDS** Workers who are on the ground around this equipment can be pinned and crushed between a skid steer and another object if they find themselves in the line of fire. Those operating the skid steer can also fall victim to being crushed by their own machine. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) looked at 37 fatalities involving skid steers from 1992 to 1997 and found that 29 (78%) of them resulted from “pinning between the bucket and frame or between a lift arm and frame.”
- TIP-OVERS OR ROLLOVERS** are another leading cause of fatalities of the operators of skid steers. In the same study referenced above, 6 of the 37 fatalities resulted from rollovers.
- PINCH POINTS** are common on skid steers and can easily lead to injuries to body parts.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFELY OPERATING SKID STEER LOADERS

### Prepare

- Never operate a skid steer without proper training. Read, understand and adhere to all safety and operating procedures outlined in the operator's manual, workshop manual, and safety decals,

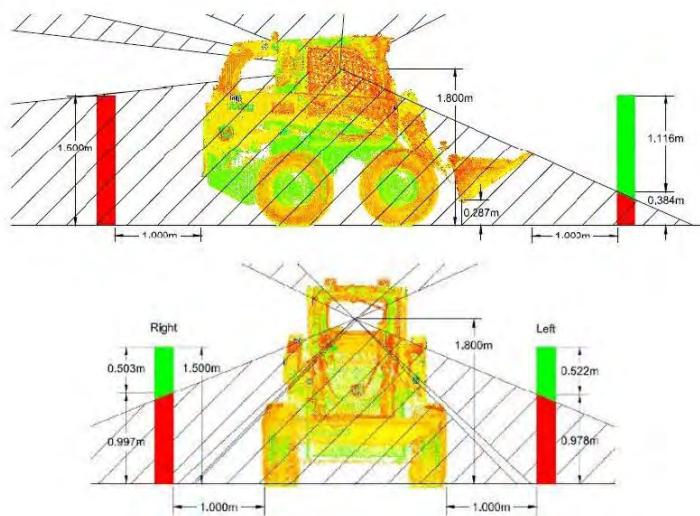


Figure 1. The visibility of a 1.5-meter-tall object in front (green, up to 83% visible), rear (red: 100% invisible), and side-view (red: up to 65% invisible). From "Automating the Blind Spot Measurement of Construction Equipment".

- including those for maintenance and repair.
- Inspect safety equipment prior to use. Inspect items such as the roll-over protection system, guards, seatbelt, interlock system, etc. Never remove or alter safety devices or guards from the equipment.
- Set up work areas and tasks in such a way that ground personnel are not located in the line of fire.
- Stop work anytime sight is lost of anyone working around the skid steer. Keep bystanders away from the work area.

### Working

- When entering a loader, face the seat and keep a three-point contact with handholds and steps. NEVER use foot or hand controls as steps or handholds. Keep all walking and working surfaces clean and clear of debris.
- Operate the loader only when properly positioned in the operator's compartment—never from the outside. Always wear your seatbelt or engage the restraint bar if one is equipped and stay seated when operating a skid steer.
- Never carry riders or lift anyone with the attachment.
- Watch for overhead power lines and other obstructions when raising the bucket.
- Never overload the skid steer. Load, unload, and turn on level ground when possible. Do not travel across slopes. Travel straight up or down, with the heavy end of the machine pointed uphill. Travel and turn with the bucket and load in the lowest position possible.
- Operate on stable surfaces only. Avoid slippery surfaces.
- Before exiting the machine, always put the bucket all the way down (unless the lift-arm support device is in place), set the parking brake and turn off the engine.

### Maintenance

- Repair any hydraulic system leak immediately. A leaking hydraulic system may cause the lift arm to lower rapidly, causing injury to you or other workers, and can damage property.
- Do not work under the raised arms or bucket of a skid steer, even if it is off. If you must perform service under a raised bucket, make sure the lift-arm support device is in place.
- Inform all workers of any ongoing maintenance and keep children away from the work area. Never allow a child to sit in the cab while you are working on the skid-steer loader.

Continued on page 17...

Continued from page 16...

## Summary

While skid steers are not as imposing as huge articulating dump trucks or excavators, they still are dangerous to operate. Lack of training and complacency with the danger of these machines results in many injuries every single year. Take time to evaluate the hazards of using this equipment.

## References:

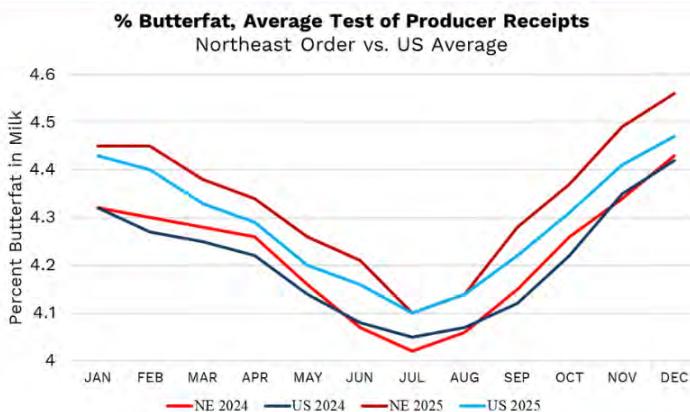
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-128/pdfs/2011-128.pdf>
- Teizer, J., Allread, B.S., and Mantripragada, U., (2010a) "Automating the Blind Spot Measurement of Construction Equipment". Automation in Construction, Elsevier, 19(4), pp. 491-501.
- Teizer, J., Allread, B.S., Fullerton, C.E., and Hinze, J. "Autonomous Pro-Active Real-time Construction Worker and Equipment Operator Proximity Safety Alert System". Automation in Construction, Elsevier, 2010b, 19(5), 630-640.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Skid-steer loader-related fatalities in the workplace--United States, 1992-1995. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 1996 Jul 26;45(29):624-8. PMID: 8965789.

# Dairy Market Watch

## Dairy Market Watch

DECEMBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.



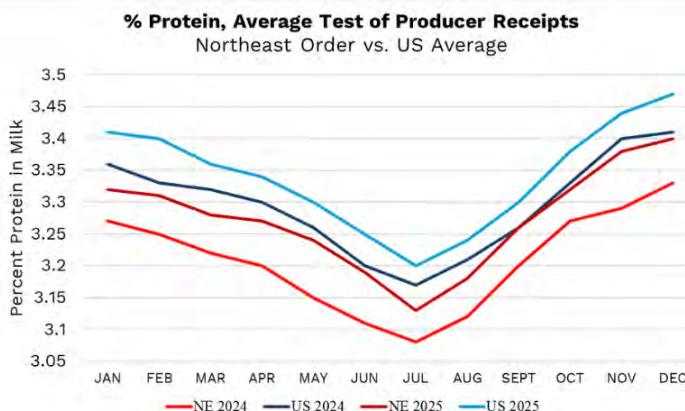
All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service  
prodairy.cals.cornell.edu | Lainey Koval, hlk65@cornell.edu



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prodairy.cals.cornell.edu | Lainey Koval, hlk65@cornell.edu



## Butterfat & Protein Trend, NY vs. USA Average

Heading into the winter months, percent butterfat and protein in milk trended up on average for milk received in the Northeast FMMO #1 and across US orders. Butterfat averaged 4.56% in the NE order, up 2.9% year over year.

Percent butterfat across all US orders averaged 4.47%. Percent protein averaged 3.40% in the NE order, up 2.1% year over year. The average across all US orders was slightly higher, at 3.47%.

Source: H. Laine Koval - Extension Support Specialist, PRO-DAIRY

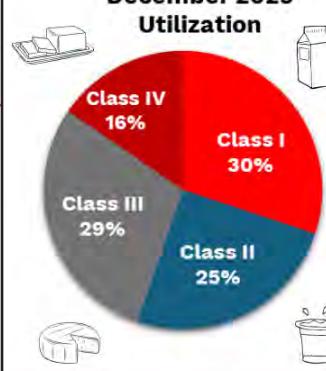
## Dairy Market Watch

DECEMBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

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### December 2025 Utilization



Class Definitions	
I	Fluid milk products, cultured or flavored milk drinks, eggnog
II	Yogurt, ice cream, soft products, sour cream, bakery products, cottage cheese, frozen desserts
III	Cheese (other than cottage), condensed milk
IV	Butter, dried milk products

All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service  
prodairy.cals.cornell.edu | Lainey Koval, hlk65@cornell.edu



Fluid milk utilization of pooled milk in FMMO #1 decreased from the month prior for all classes except Class IV. According to the Market Administrator, total producer receipts and Class II utilization were the highest volumes to date in the order for the month of November.

# Pricing and Utilization (images 1-4)

In November, the Statistical Uniform Price less PPD at average pool component levels was \$20.07 per cwt. in FMMO #1. Adding in PPD, which was \$0.17 at Suffolk County, MA, the SUP at average component levels was \$20.24 per cwt. Looking at component prices, the butterfat price was \$1.71/lb and protein price was \$3.01/lb.

Source: H. Laine Koval - Extension Support Specialist, PRO-DAIRY

## Dairy Market Watch

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PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.

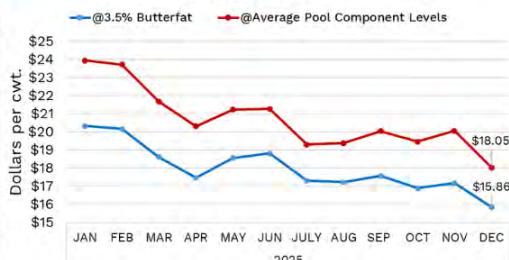


### Monthly Component Prices

	Dollars per lb.		
	BF	PRO	OS
JAN	\$2.95	\$2.33	\$0.54
FEB	\$2.82	\$2.53	\$0.48
MAR	\$2.62	\$2.46	\$0.36
APR	\$2.64	\$2.17	\$0.31
MAY	\$2.66	\$2.48	\$0.32
JUN	\$2.74	\$2.53	\$0.29
JULY	\$2.84	\$1.87	\$0.31
AUG	\$2.73	\$1.96	\$0.32
SEP	\$2.19	\$2.71	\$0.32
OCT	\$1.83	\$2.88	\$0.34
NOV	\$1.71	\$3.01	\$0.39
DEC	\$1.58	\$2.45	\$0.44

### Statistical Uniform Price less PPD

Northeast FMMO #1



All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service  
[prodairy.cals.cornell.edu](http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu) | Lainey Koval, [hlk65@cornell.edu](mailto:hlk65@cornell.edu)



## Dairy Market Watch

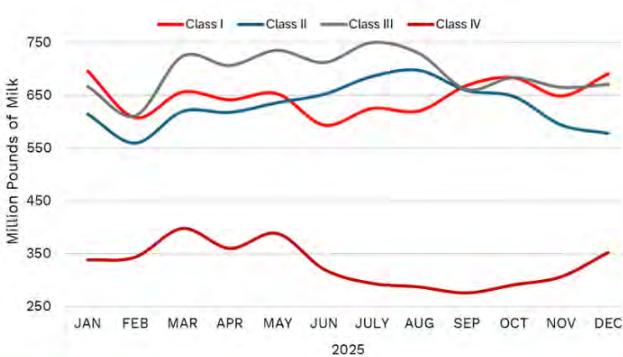
DECEMBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.



### Utilization by Class, Pounds of Pooled Milk

Northeast FMMO #1



All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service  
[prodairy.cals.cornell.edu](http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu) | Lainey Koval, [hlk65@cornell.edu](mailto:hlk65@cornell.edu)

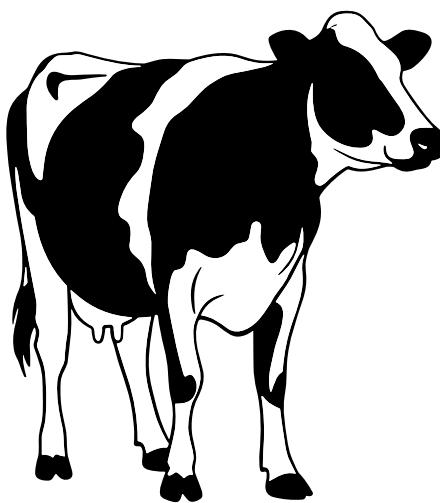


## Statistical Uniform Price & Utilization

In December, the Statistical Uniform Price less PPD at average pool component levels was \$18.05 per cwt. in FMMO #1. Adding in PPD, which was \$1.81 at Suffolk County, MA, the SUP at average component levels was \$19.86 per cwt. Looking at component prices, the butterfat price was \$1.58/lb and protein price was \$2.45/lb.

Fluid milk utilization of pooled milk in FMMO #1 increased from the month prior for all classes except Class II. According to the Market Administrator, Class I utilization was the highest volume for December in three years. Percent butterfat and protein in milk also set new record highs for FMMO #1.

Source: H. Laine Koval - Extension Support Specialist, PRO-DAIRY



## Dairy Market Watch

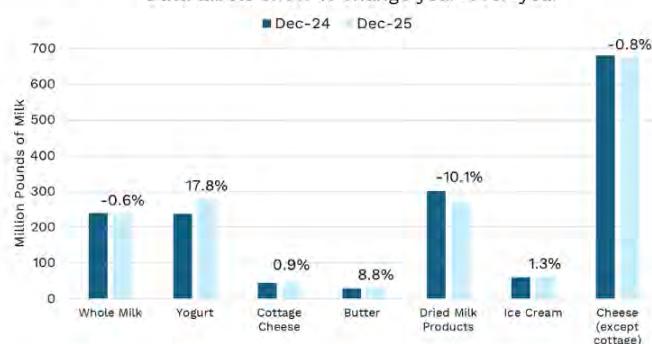
DECEMBER 2025 Northeast FMMO #1

PRO-DAIRY's Dairy Market Watch provides monthly information and analysis of Northeast dairy market trends.



### December Milk Utilization by Product, NE FMMO #1

Data labels show % change year-over-year



All data is sourced from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service  
[prodairy.cals.cornell.edu](http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu) | Lainey Koval, [hlk65@cornell.edu](mailto:hlk65@cornell.edu)



# What should I do with my amaryllis after it blooms?

Article from Iowa State University of Science and Technology <https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/faq/what-should-i-do-my-amarillys-after-it-blooms>

**Question:** What should I do with my amaryllis after it is done blooming?

**Answer:** Some individuals discard their amaryllis after it is done blooming. However, it's possible to save the amaryllis and force it to flower again next year.

## Faded Blooms

Proper cultural practices must be followed to successfully grow and reflower amaryllis bulbs. After the flowers fade, cut off the flower stalk with a sharp knife or pruners. Make the cut 1 to 2 inches above the bulb. Don't damage the foliage. In order for the bulb to bloom again next season, the plant must replenish its depleted food reserves. The strap-like leaves manufacture food for the plant. Place the plant in a sunny window and water when the soil surface is nearly dry. Fertilize every 2 to 4 weeks with a dilute fertilizer solution.



## Care Tips for Late Spring and throughout Summer

The amaryllis can be moved outdoors in late May. Harden or acclimate the plant to the outdoors by initially placing it in a shady, protected area. After 2 or 3 days, gradually expose the amaryllis to longer periods of direct sun. The amaryllis should be properly hardened in 7 to 10 days.

Once hardened, select a site in partial to full sun. Dig a hole and set the pot into the ground. Outdoors, continue to water the plant during dry weather. Also, continue to fertilize the amaryllis once or twice a month through July. Bring the plant indoors in mid-September. Plants left indoors should be kept in a sunny window and watered and fertilized as you would if placed outside.

## Forcing Blooms Again

In order to bloom, amaryllis bulbs must be allowed to go dormant and exposed to cool temperatures for at least 8 to 10 weeks.

To induce dormancy, place the plant in cool, semi-dark location in late September and withhold water. Cut off the foliage when the leaves turn brown. Then place the dormant bulb in a 50 to 55°F location for at least 8 to 10 weeks. After the cool requirement has been met, start the growth cycle again by watering the bulb and placing it in a well-lit, 70 to 75°F. Keep the potting soil moist, but not wet, until growth appears.

The other option is to place the plant in a well-lit, 50 to 55°F location in fall. Maintain the amaryllis as a green plant from fall to mid-winter. After the cool requirement has been met, move the plant to a warmer (70 to 75°F) location.

# What is a county's

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It's a long-range, community-driven policy document that acts as a **blueprint for a county's future growth, development, and resource preservation.**

It serves as **a guide for decisions on:**

- Land use
- Public programs (youth and adult)
- Infrastructure (roads, sewers)
- Economic development
- Community services

often looking **15–30 years ahead.**

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[https://www.wyomingcountyny.gov/  
763/Comprehensive-Plan](https://www.wyomingcountyny.gov/763/Comprehensive-Plan)



## Join in and Discuss

- Wyoming County's Comprehensive Plan
- CCE Wyoming County's Farm Safety Series Plan

**at our Brown Bag Sessions**

**Thursday, February 19: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Tuesday March 3: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

Wyoming County Ag & Business Center  
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[https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/CCE2026  
BrownBagSessions\\_256](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/CCE2026BrownBagSessions_256)



## Youth Engagement Survey



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Take the Wyoming County Youth Engagement  
Survey for the Comprehensive Plan Here



# Cornell Cooperative Extension

## Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program



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## UPCOMING NWNY TEAM EVENTS

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

# 2026 SOYBEAN & SMALL GRAINS CONGRESS



ONE DATE  
02.11.26

ONE PLACE  
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON,  
HENRIETTA

# Temperature Sensing Technology for Monitoring Cow Health

Margaret Quaassdorff

Early fever detection remains one of the most effective ways dairy producers can identify sick cows, work with the vet for diagnosis and treatment protocols to get the cow feeling better and prevent production loss. A new study from the University of Arkansas introduced a promising advancement in this area. "CattleFever" is automated system that estimates a cow's internal temperature using thermal imaging and artificial intelligence. Though developed using beef cattle, this work represents a major step toward practical, non contact fever monitoring for dairy operations.

Traditional rectal temperature checks are labor intensive, can be stressful for cows, can interrupt cow time budgets, and provide only a single snapshot of an animal's condition. The study highlights how non contact thermal monitoring, when paired with machine learning, could offer more-or-less continuous, hands off temperature assessment. This could save time for both herdspeople and cows, minimize stress, and help identify sick cows earlier maybe before other visible symptoms of sickness appear. The researchers collected 2,300 paired thermal and RGB images and annotated each with 13 facial landmarks, focusing on areas that correlate strongly with internal temperature, such as the eyes, nostrils, ears, and forehead (see Figure 1.)

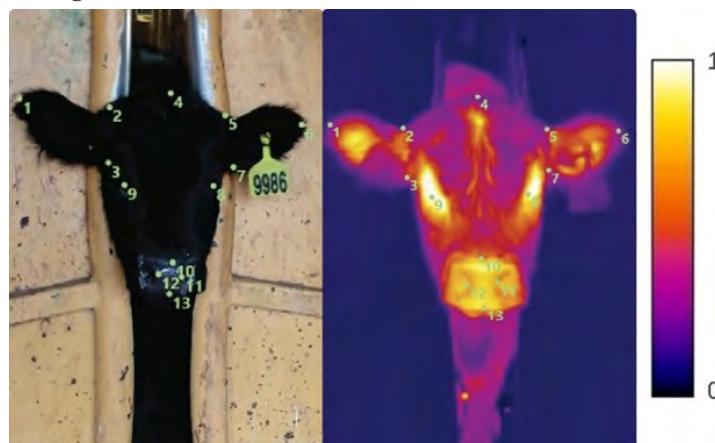


Figure 1 Example of RGB and thermal image pair with 13 annotated keypoints from CattleFace-RGBT dataset. The RGB image (left) shows visible-light cattle facial features with numbered keypoint annotations, while the corresponding thermal image (right) displays the same cow's heat signature with temperature variations. The thermal visualization uses a normalized color scale from 0 to 1 for display purposes.

Using these landmarks, the CattleFever system detects key facial points, isolates regions of interest, extracts thermal features, and predicts core body temperature achieving an error margin as low as 0.13–0.21°F. The study also shows that raw thermal data alone is too inconsistent for reliable monitoring (which is why just a regular thermal

camera isn't a good fit for this task). However, AI can correct for environmental variation, making the technology far more dependable and useful.

My opinion is that the future implications of technology like this may be significant for dairy farmers. Automated fever detection could support early identification of mastitis, where elevated temperature often precedes visible udder changes. It could also strengthen fresh cow monitoring, a period when metabolic disorders (milk fever) and infections (metritis, etc.) are common. The idea of continuous temperature tracking may be extended to eventually help detect respiratory disease and other fever-causing sickness in calves, especially in group housing systems where early symptoms are easy to miss. Beyond health events, I could see this technology even supporting heat stress monitoring since thermal patterns around the eyes and muzzle shift before cows show behavioral signs of overheating. As dairy operations continue moving toward precision management, systems like CattleFever offer a glimpse of how automated, non contact monitoring could become a routine part of daily herd oversight. Though not commercially available yet, this type of monitoring is expected to be incorporated into farm management practices soon, giving those dairies that temp cows traditionally, or those that do not currently have in-dwelling boluses that measure temperature, another option.



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# Achieving Soil Health, and Related Environmental Objectives by Way of Soil Health System Adoption: Case Study Economics for a Farm in New York State's Cayuga Lake Watershed

John Hanchar

*This article contains information from a program bulletin of the same title prepared for the 2025-2026 Winter Meeting Season. Batavia, NY: Cornell College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and CCE/NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program. For information contact John Hanchar <[jjh6@cornell.edu](mailto:jjh6@cornell.edu)>, (585) 233-9249*

## Contributors

- Callan Space, Co-owner, Operator, Millbrook Farms, LLC, Cayuga Lake Watershed, New York, and Program Cooperator, American Farmland Trust (AFT), NY Women for the Land Program
- Stephanie Castle, Program Leader, AFT, NY Women for the Land Program <<https://farmland.org/new-york-women-for-the-land>>
- John Hanchar, Cornell College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and CCE/NWNY DL&FC Program

## Summary

- Farm business owners seek: a) research based information to better understand the benefits, and costs of soil health system adoption, and b) research based technical, and management suggestions for successful planning, and implementation.
- AFT has built a valuable resource of methods, and case studies that readers can use to learn about motivations, practices, system planning and implementation, and more <<https://farmland.org/new-york-ag-stewardship>>
- Case study analysis results for Millbrook Farms, LLC, suggest the following: economic analysis comparing after versus before scenarios suggest that owners of Millbrook Farms, LLC successfully planned and implemented a soil health system, while improving economic performance -- the return above fixed input costs, including operator & family management inputs, a measure of profit, for the post adoption period exceeded the value for the pre adoption period.

## Background

Farm business owners work to achieve economic, environmental, and community related objectives given available resources. Soil health system planning, and implementation provide key means for achieving objectives. Management decisions benefit from research based infor-

mation that examines benefits, and costs of soil health system adoption. The work reported upon here was designed to answer "Can farm businesses achieve improved soil health, and other environmental objectives, while maintaining or improving economic performance?"

## Millbrook Farms, LLC, Case Study in Brief

AFT's resources guided efforts to answer the above question. Castle identified Millbrook Farms, LLC, a 1,600 acre farm in New York's Cayuga Lake Watershed, as a successful implementer of soil health practices. The farm business consists of a 850 head registered Holstein dairy enterprise, with related livestock enterprises. Callan Space, Co-owner, Operator of Millbrook, Farms, LLC, and Program Cooperator, AFT, NY Women for the Land Program, worked with analysts to develop the case study with economic analysis. Some key aspects of the study follow.

Motivations, objectives that guide the farm business help explain the management decisions made over time, and the practices implemented. Space provided her thoughts regarding motivations during an interview with analysts. A summary of selected items follows. Over time, Millbrook Farms' owners, and operators have demonstrated commitment to

- abiding by ag-environmental management initiatives, policies etc., including, with emphasis, many voluntary efforts designed to achieve air, water, soil, community, and climate sustainability objectives
- addressing soil health, and related resource issues associated with the challenges of farming highly erodible lands
- working toward, and earning a good public image
- improving economic performance by way of economically efficient use of land, labor, capital

Space provided additional information, including identifying, defining the before and after periods – before, around 2014, and after, 2024 (Table 1). Acres available for both scenarios equaled 1,600. Analysts calculated values of production by land use (crop and, or livestock), costs of production by land use, and returns by land use where each value represents an average, typical year for the before and after periods. Analysts calculated differences by subtracting before period whole farm values from after period whole farm values. The sum of items that increase profit, \$145,101 exceeded the sum of items that decrease profits, \$7,994, yielding a difference of \$137,107 (Table 2). Analysis suggests that the farm's successful implementation of the soil health systems coincided with improved economic performance.

# WINTER WEBINAR SERIES 2026

Tuesdays

12:00pm-1:00pm

## Dates, Topics and Speakers

- **February 10th:** FORECASTING PERFORMANCE: HOW CLUES FROM BLOOD, MILK, AND SENSORS CAN PREDICT UNFORTUNATE OUTCOMES IN MULTIPAROUS COWS  
*Dr. Jackson Seminara*
- **February 17th:** ADVANCING MILK QUALITY: INTEGRATING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN QMPS RESEARCH  
*Dr. Wolfgang Heuweiser*
- **February 24th:** SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES IN CALF HEALTH MONITORING  
*Dr. Taika Von Konigslow*

### Heavy Snow Loads

By: Curt A. Gooch  
Senior Extension Associate Cornell University

The recent accumulation of snow in many areas throughout New York state has caused some agricultural buildings to fail. Failure can be the result of several items linked to the snow load present on the building. These items include but are not limited to:

- Improper building design
- Improper building construction
- Actual snow load exceeds design snow load
- Imbalance of snow load on roof
- Failure of one key member causing others to fail as a result of load transfer (domino effect)

Pre-engineered post frame agricultural buildings are designed to withstand a certain level of wind and snow loading and should withstand any snow loads that are below the "design value". For example, if the given snow load is 30 lbs. per square foot acting on the building and it was designed for a design load of 40 lbs. per square foot, then there should be no load carrying problem. Unfortunately, there are agricultural buildings out there that have not been designed for any particular loading at all. These building have a much higher probability of failing as a result of the current snow accumulations we are seeing.

So, how do we know if a building is going to fail? For a pre-engineered building, we can check the actual snow load on the building against the design snow load. If the actual load is less than the design load, then failure is not eminent. Table 1 can be used as a guide to estimate the snow load on a barn. Compare the table value against the design value to see where one stands. The table cannot be used for a non-engineered structure.

Wood structures will show stress before they fail unlike metal structures that usually will not. For a wood structure, the following audible and/or visual signs may be noticed prior to failure:

- Creaking or moaning in the building
- Bowing of truss bottom chords or web members
- Bowing of rafters or purlins
- Bowing of headers or columns

Table 1. Snow Load Based on Accumulation Depth

Snow Depth on Roof (Ft.)	"Dry Snow" (lbs./sq.ft.)	"In Between Snow" (lbs./sq. ft.)	"Wet Snow" (lbs./sq. ft.)
1	3	12	21
2	6.5	24	42
3	9.5	36	62
4	12.5	48	83
5	15.5	60	104

If these signs are present, consideration may be given to evacuating animals from the barn and it is certainly recommended to evacuate all humans from the structure.

One option commonly considered to relieve loading from the barn is to shovel the roof. Experienced individuals who are properly trained and protected should only do this. *Attempting to save a barn is not worth risking lives over.* Shoveling the roof without the proper approach may actually cause more damage than good by creating an unbalanced load on the roof.

## 2026 Tree and Shrub Seedling Order Now Available

by: Don Gasiewicz

Winter is the perfect time to start planning for your spring tree plantings. Wyoming County currently doesn't participate in the County Soil and Water Conservation District Seedling Program but many of our surrounding counties do. We get many calls annually in the spring from folks looking for sources of trees and shrubs. Often these inquiries are made in early April when we are starting to get a winter reprieve and resume outdoor activities. Unfortunately, April is already on the late side to acquire tree stock, as many of the tree and shrub order forms are due in mid-late March. I've most recently ordered from Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District and would highly recommend getting your order to them early. This program is extremely popular, and many varieties sell out rapidly as availability is first come first served. Order forms are available now

Conservation District website. Last I looked Livingston, Erie, Genesee, and Monroe counties offer the program annually. You can also order trees and shrubs directly through the NYSDEC/Saratoga Tree Nursery but there is typically a delivery fee associated. The Saratoga Tree Nursery provides a great booklet of color photos and descriptions of the trees they offer. <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/saratogaseedlingbrochure.pdf>. These are usually the same varieties provided by the local Soil and Water Conservation District spring sales. Participation in the county seedling sale helps support the districts conservation efforts to protect and promote natural resources and water quality.

If you need assistance with accessing the varietal offerings and order form for local counties, please reach out and we can help provide you with a print copy.

Order forms can be easily accessed by visiting the County of your choosing's Soil and Water

# Scholarship Awards 2026 NYFB Agricultural Youth Scholarship Application

New York high school seniors who are graduating and interested in pursuing a career related to agriculture can apply for New York Farm Bureau's Agricultural Youth Scholarship. Eligible students can use the financial award for college or advanced training in the skilled trades.



## Eligibility requirements:

- 2026 graduating high school seniors who will continue their education to prepare for a career connected to the agricultural industry. This includes advancing their education through college or pursuing advanced training in the skilled trades.
- Must live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture via any avenue.
- Family Farm Bureau membership or Student Farm Bureau membership is required. Students can join for free as student members by using this link: [www.nyfb.org/membership](http://www.nyfb.org/membership).
- Applicants under the age of 18 must also include the signature of a parent or legal guardian.

## Process and Procedure:

- Students are required to complete an application, which is on the Reviewr online platform.
- Apply: <https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/NYFBScholarship26>.
- After creating an account in Reviewr, the student will log in and begin the application. The student can stop, restart, and edit their application any time before the submission is due by logging into their Reviewr account.
- The responses to the questions and essay sections have character count limits. Before applying, a summary page will be shown. This page can be printed to review the application answers.
- **Applications must be completed and submitted by 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026.**
- A district-level competition will be held. If applications do not meet the criteria to be a district winner, no district award will be given. Each district winner will receive \$250 plus a memento of their selection.
- State winner selection will be made from district winners, based solely on the submitted applications. District winners and two state winners will be announced by the end of May. The first-place state winner will receive a \$3,000 scholarship and the second-place state winner will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

For more information, email [proed@nyfb.org](mailto:proed@nyfb.org).

## CJ agriBUSINESS REPORT

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- **Farm To Fork** with Daryl Anderson
- **Dairy Radio Now** with Bill Baker
- **Ag Radio Net Farm News** with Tom Cassidy & Tim Slusarczyk
- **Chicago Grain Breakdown** with Michael Howlett
- **Farm Progress America** with Max Armstrong
- **American Cattle Report** with Tony St. James
- **American Countryside** with Andrew McCrae
- **USDA Reports** with Gary Crawford
- **John Block's Report from Washington**
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# THE BEE REPORT

## FEBRUARY AND MARCH - DANGER ZONE' FOR COLONIES

February and March are the danger zone for honeybee colonies. Winter leaves populations at their lowest point just as the queen begins laying heavily. The problem: food stores are thin. Even if foragers collect a little pollen on warm days, it's rarely enough to sustain a colony's earlyseason baby boom, making starvation a real risk without beekeeper support.

A 2020 study of more than 1,400 colonies across Pennsylvania found that winter survival is best predicted not by winter weather, but by summer conditions in the prior year—specifically growing degree days, maximum temperatures, and precipitation patterns.

Researchers concluded this is linked to the availability and quality of floral resources the previous season.

Winter itself still poses challenges. Rapid temperature swings and wet conditions stress colonies more than stable, dry cold. Mild spells can trigger excessive activity and early brood rearing, causing bees to burn through critical honey and pollen stores before fresh forage appears.

Effective beekeeping during this transition period requires proactive management. Inspections should occur on sunny, warm-enough days, with attention to providing adequate space and drawn comb ahead of colony expansion. Good management mirrors good relationships: anticipate needs before distress appears.

A thorough inspection centers on three areas: queen status, food reserves, and disease or pest pressure. Confirming a colony is "queenright" is essential, as queenless colonies decline quickly. Many beekeepers identify a functional queen by her egglaying pattern, while marking queens improves visibility and helps track age and supersEDURE events.

Proper nutrition underpins all brood rearing. Nurse bees must consume ample pollen and nectar to produce royal jelly, the protein-rich diet fed to all larvae during their first three days. Healthy colonies also use space efficiently—brood in the center, pollen surrounding it, and honey toward the edges. Colonies that become pollen or honeybound cannot reach their full population potential.

In the same way, vigilant Varroa monitoring is important; unchecked mites and the viruses they carry can quietly unravel even the strongest colony, making early detection and prevention essential for a hive's longterm health.

Recordkeeping is an essential component of beekeeping management and evaluation. These records serve as snapshots to help guide decisions and help piece together what events could have led to the colony's current conditions. They also serve as a way to document one's growth and improvement as a beekeeper, which is what we strive for!



The International Queen Marking System follows a five-year color rotation based on the final digit of the year:

- Years ending in 1 or 6: White
- Years ending in 2 or 7: Yellow
- Years ending in 3 or 8: Red
- Years ending in 4 or 9: Green
- Years ending in 5 or 0: Blue

## THE MAPLE REPORT

**NY's Maple Weekend**  
Sponsored by the NYS Maple Producers Association  
March 21 - 22 & March 28 - 29, 2026

Maple Weekend invites the public to visit local farms to learn about New York's maple sugarmaking traditions and taste pure maple syrup in many forms—right from the source. Organized by the New York State Maple Producers' Association and supported by its members and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, this event offers a firsthand look at how syrup and maple products are made. Enjoy the unforgettable aroma of a warm sugarhouse, sample sweet maple treats, and discover new ways to cook and bake with this natural product. Did you know New York is the second-largest maple producer in the nation, with Wyoming County home to many sugar bushes and sugarhouses?



Visit the NYS Maple Weekend website: <https://mapleweekend.nysmaple.com> for more information.

# THE BEE REPORT continued...

Recordkeeping is a key part of beekeeping management and decision-making. Records help explain a colony's current condition, track your growth as a beekeeper, and guide future actions. Reviewing past notes before inspections ensures you bring needed tools, equipment, or medications and know what tasks to address.

You may use the provided inspection sheet or create one tailored to your goals (such as breeding or trait selection). Records can include hive configuration, queen details, additions or removals of equipment, and notes from previous visits. Whether you use paper, digital files, or an app, the method matters less than consistently keeping records.

Good records support long-term success—for both you and your bees.

Date and time:	Weather:	<b>UTEXTENSION</b> INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE																		
Apiary name/location:	Colony:																			
<b>Reason for inspection:</b>	Notes from last inspection:																			
Starting configuration:	Ending configuration:																			
<b>Queen/population</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Q mark:</td> <td>Eggs seen: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N</td> <td>Brood pattern</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q seen: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N</td> <td>Larvae seen: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q replaced: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N</td> <td>Pupae seen: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N</td> <td>Adult worker population</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q cells: <input type="checkbox"/> Supersedure <input type="checkbox"/> Swarm</td> <td colspan="2"><input type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Weak</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Swarming potential/need to split? <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low</td> </tr> </table>			Q mark:	Eggs seen: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Brood pattern	Q seen: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Larvae seen: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Q replaced: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Pupae seen: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Adult worker population	Q cells: <input type="checkbox"/> Supersedure <input type="checkbox"/> Swarm	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Weak		Swarming potential/need to split? <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low					
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Source: Honey Bee Inspections and Recordkeeping W 1151 Jennifer M. Tsuruda, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology A University of Tennessee Extension Resource



# 2026 ENROLLMENT

## Agriculture Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Farm: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner  Employee  Consultant

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business  Home Address

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



### GO GREEN!

Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletters and updates through the email provided.

Enroll in the 2026 Agriculture Program and receive notifications on classes and events that you have interest in, discounts, and more!



**Enrollment Price \$45.00**

Plus **Free** Subscription to Farm & Homestead with \$45 Enrollment!

Enroll in the 2026 NWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team! Includes access to regional specialists and an emailed AgFocus newsletter. Paper copy of AgFocus available for an additional \$35.00.

(Additional - digital copy)

**\$65.00**

(Additional - mailed paper copy)

**\$100.00**



**12 Issues**

**\$ 5.00**

**\$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Please make checks payable to CCE Wyoming County.

Please complete reverse side

Receive announcements about upcoming classes and current developments of interest to you by checking the topics below.

### AG INTERESTS

#### Product Development, Marketing & Management

<input type="checkbox"/> Agri-Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> Organic Production
<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Marketing
<input type="checkbox"/> Value-Added Products	<input type="checkbox"/> Start-up Small Scale
	<input type="checkbox"/> Farming

#### Livestock

<input type="checkbox"/> Backyard Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/> Poultry-Eggs/Meat
<input type="checkbox"/> Bees / Honey	

#### Crops / Homestead

<input type="checkbox"/> Berries	<input type="checkbox"/> Hops
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Trees	<input type="checkbox"/> Maple
<input type="checkbox"/> Cut Flower Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Gardener
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Production
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Crops	<input type="checkbox"/> Season Extension
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry / Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Fruit
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables

#### NWNY TEAM ENROLLMENT INTERESTS

\*The Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team offer updates and technical assistance for producers and their employees and workforce development modules for the western new york dairy industry. Please check subjects that interest you.

<input type="checkbox"/> Beef	<input type="checkbox"/> Grain
<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy	<input type="checkbox"/> Grazing
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Business Mgmt	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheep
<input type="checkbox"/> Forage/Hay	<input type="checkbox"/> Swine
<input type="checkbox"/> Goat	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

#### Enrollment Benefit

Crop Production Guidelines, Dairy Business Summaries, and Pest Management publications available upon request at a discounted price.

Mail completed form & payment to:



Agriculture Department  
36 Center Street, Suite B  
Warsaw, NY 14569  
Phone: (585)786-2251

Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event Information (visit <a href="http://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu">wyoming.cce.cornell.edu</a> )	Event Location
February 17, 2026	Master Gardener & Beekeeper Meeting - see page 12	CCE Wyoming County Warsaw, NY
February 18, 2026	Vegetable Growers Discussion - see page 12	CCE Wyoming County Warsaw, NY
February 19 & March 3, 2026	Brown Bag Session - see page 15	CCE Wyoming County OR Zoom
March 7, 2026	Rural Landowner Workshop - see page 12	Pioneer Central School Yorkshire, NY
March 7, 2026	Pride of Agriculture Dinner - see page 12	North Java Fire Hall North Java, NY
March 14, 2026	DOT Regulations Workshop - see page 13	CCE Wyoming County Warsaw, NY
March 14, 2026	Vegetable Growers Discussion - see page 12	Pa's Produce Perry, NY
March 17 - April 28, 2026	Master Forest Owner Volunteer Training - see page 13	Via Zoom
March 21 - 22 & March 28 - 29, 2026	NY's Maple Weekend - see page 25	Wyoming County
March 28, 2026	Fruit Tree & Berry Pruning Workshop - see page 13	Varysburg, NY
April 1, 2026	Wyoming County Farmland Protection - see page 13	CCE Wyoming County Warsaw, NY
April 6 & 7, 2026	Game of Logging - see page 14	TBD
April 17, 2026	Hands on Mushroom Inoculation Workshop - see page 14	CCE Wyoming County Warsaw, NY
April 25, 2026	Arbor Day Tree Expo - see page 14	Buffalo
May 11 & 14, 2026	Game of Logging - see page 14	TBD
May 16, 2026	Garden Day	CCE Wyoming County Warsaw, NY



## 2026 Officers of the Wyoming County CCE Association

Louise Herrick	President
Leo Vranich	Vice President
Shirley Spencer	Treasurer
Kathy Parker	Secretary

## 2026 Agriculture Program Committee

Emily Peters (Perry)	Megan Burley (Warsaw)
Daniel Chasey (Perry)	Chris King (North Java)
Eric Dziedzic (Arcade)	
James Kirsch (Varysburg)	