

# *Farm Flash*

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Jeff Miller, Oneida County Agricultural Team Leader, taking alfalfa height measurement before sampling the stand. Sample is taken at a 3" height. The sample is analyzed using NIR by Dairyone labs and results are posted immediately on our website at [www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida).

In the previous issue of Farm Flashes there was an article with a chart that showed that alfalfa height could be used in mixed alfalfa grass stands to help identify the timing for harvest to achieve the optimal NDF for % of grass in a hay stand.

CCE staff have been sampling 4 hay fields across the county on a weekly basis since May 5<sup>th</sup>. The results for these samplings can be found on page 24 of this months Farm Flash.





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Could Oilseed Pressing and Biodeisel Production add to Your Bottom Line???

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Crop Shorts by Jeff Miller

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# **FARM FEST '08**

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attend Farm Fest '08**

**For more information please  
call CCE of Oneida County at  
(315) 736-3394 Please visit  
our website at  
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# Mark Your Calendars...



**NYS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SEEKS  
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**Applications Due: July 1, 2008**

Agricultural Safety and Health are important issues to the New York State Agricultural Society. The benefits of a planned and meaningful farm safety program don't end with reducing simple injuries and down time; the rewards often include saving lives of family members and employees. The Society's Farm Safety Award recognizes New York farm operators who have unique and successful farm safety programs for their employees. Applications must be submitted by July 1 and include a summary of farm safety programs and activities. Nominees are evaluated, and up to 2 farms are selected to receive recognition and a cash award of \$500 per farm, sponsored by Cargill, Inc.

To apply or nominate someone, visit [www.nysagsociety.org](http://www.nysagsociety.org) (Awards & Contests, Farm Safety). Applications are available online or can be requested by contacting the Society's Executive Secretary, Penny Heritage, at 518-384-1715.

The Society's mission is to improve New York agriculture through education, leadership development and recognition programs; the organization has been strengthening our state's agriculture since 1832. For more information or to join the Society please visit [www.nysagsociety.org](http://www.nysagsociety.org)

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## **Jefferson County Sheep and Wool Festival June 14 & 15**

The Jefferson County Sheep and Wool Festival will take place at the Stone Mills Agricultural Museum in Lafargeville, north of Watertown, on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Saturday's events will include a sheep-shearing demonstration by Jim Baldwin and a border collie herding demonstration by Betsy Hodge. Sunday's events will include the Northern New York Draft Horse Club show and pull.

Crafters and other vendors will be onsite both days.

### **Women Farming Today**

#### **Women Farming in Oneida County**

According to the most recent USDA's Census of Agriculture 27% of all principle farm operators are women, up from 13.4% from the 1997 Census. Are you one of these women? You do not have to be a principal owner, if you're involved in farming in anyway, tell us why do you farm? What challenges, opportunities, and fulfillment do you get from farming?

Tell us your story, so we can tell others in our community of the proud and long-standing heritage of women farming in Oneida County. In 500 words or less tell us your story, include a picture (optional), and send to Bonnie Collins at CCE Oneida County, or email to [bsc33@cornell.edu](mailto:bsc33@cornell.edu).

### **Multi-County Pasture Walk planned for June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Onondaga County**

Oneida and Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be hosting a pasture walk at Pastureland Dairy, the Pete Mapstone family at 8062 #2 West Rd., Manlius, NY 13104 on Thursday, June 19, 2008 from 11:00am-1:30pm.

Come out and see how one grazer manages his operation. There is no charge but pre-registration is appreciated. Please register by June 17, 2008 by contacting Bill Paddock at 315/736/3394 or Jean Burr at 315/677/3581.

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## Are We at the Bottom Yet?

**By Dave Balbian, M.S., PAS**

Area Dairy Management Specialist  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team

That's the question many dairy producers are asking themselves. This time it's not so much the bottom of the milk price, but the bottom of the dairy profitability cycle. 2007 brought us record high milk prices and record high profits. For some it may not have seemed that way because much of the profits were used to pay for past due bills from a very dismal 2006.

In fact, if we compare 2006 to 2007 with the limited 2007 data we have it's quite contrasting. These comparisons are done on an accrual basis. Cornell's first 116 Dairy Farm Business Summary farms that participated in 2006 and 2007 show us the following information: 2006 average milk price received = \$13.85, 2007 price = \$20.41. Rate of return on equity capital wo/appreciation for 2006 = -1.1%, 2007 return = 19.1%. Net farm income per cow wo/appreciation for 2006 = \$127, 2007 income per cow = \$1,217. The high profit group for 2007 (top 20% by rate of return on all capital without appreciation) had a net farm income per cow of \$1,659! Their grain & concentrate costs were higher than average at \$1,228 per cow vs. \$1,153 for the average, but they sold 1,785 more pounds of milk per cow than the average. These grain & concentrate costs also include all milk replacer, calf & heifer feed, and any minerals purchased.

Since the year 2000 if you look at the Statistical Uniform Price at Boston (I know your individual farm price will be different) it has been in a range of \$11.43 - \$17.76 through 2006, with the exception of 2 months in 2004 when it spiked up into the \$19 range. Your costs have been in a narrower range during that period resulting in periods of good margins and periods of losses.

We are now in a different place. The 2007 price peaked at \$23.14 at Boston. I know some of you got actual prices in the \$24 and \$25 range because of market premiums, quality & quantity premiums, and high components. Now the price is

sliding downward into the high teens. Recent history might indicate we're still in pretty good shape. However, you all know that is not the case. Feed and fertilizer prices have basically doubled. Fuel and other energy related items are at record levels. I think that \$19.00 milk is like the \$15.00 milk of a few years ago, at least as far as profitability is concerned.

### Feed a Big Item, What to do?

Feed is the big item for most dairy producers.

Purchased grain prices have skyrocketed (and milk price is getting softer). Many people have been looking at the old Milk-Feed Price Ratio as an indicator of profitability in the dairy industry. Since 1985 up to the present period of time the Milk-Feed Price Ratio has been at a high of 4.34 in December of 1998 and a low of 2.05 for March of 2008! It may provide some indication of profitability, but it shouldn't be a signal to short change your cows on grain. The most important thing is the margin per cow after feed costs, not the Milk-Feed Price Ratio. The same ratio with \$20 milk leaves you a better margin per cow than when the milk price was \$12. However, we all know that most all other expenses (besides feed) have also gone up. In addition, when the Milk-Feed Price Ratio is 2.05 the margin per cow becomes quite slim even if milk is \$20/cwt. So, what can/should you do in response? There are a number of things to look at, but be sure you don't nutritionally short change your cows.

**1. Forage quality** – I know you've all heard this one before, but its number one on the list. If these record high grain prices don't get you to harvest your hay crop early this spring I don't know what will.

**Example: 1,350 lb. cow producing 75 lbs. of 3.7% fat, 3.0% protein. DMI = 49.5 lbs.**

Ration	Lbs. Of DM
Corn Silage. (42% NDF)	15.5
Mixed Hylge (45% NDF)	15.5
Grain Mix	18.5 (as fed = 20.79 lbs)
Corn Silage. (42% NDF)	13.9
Mixed Hylge (55% NHF)	13.9
Grain Mix	21.7 (as fed = 24.38 lbs)
Corn Silage. (42% NDF)	12.6
Mixes Hylge (65% NDF)	12.6
Grain Mix	24.3 (as fed = 27.30 lbs)
Mixed Hylge (65% NDF)	20.8
Grain Mix	28.7 (as fed = 32.25 lbs)

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Same level of milk production with grain required ranging from 20.8 lbs. per head per day up to 32.25 lbs. per head per day! If intensive rotational grazing is feasible for your herd and you have not used it, now is the time to give it a second look!

**2. Check out our Team Website**— we will again be taking forage samples from grass and legume fields from around our region as the hay crop matures. Results are often on the site within 24 hours of sampling. Use this data to help you decide when to harvest: <http://cnydairy/cce.cornell.edu/index.html>

**3. Preserve Forage Well** – with fermented feeds in a bunker silo you need to PACK, PACK, and PACK some more. Cover it immediately with high quality plastic and old tires to hold it down. Dry hay should be put under cover as soon as possible.

**4. Take Advantage of High Quality Forage** – if you have high quality forage be sure you are taking advantage of it. Too often we see people producing high quality forage but they are feeding as much grain as when quality was lower. Pounds of forage NDF should equal 0.9% of body weight or higher and forage levels of 60% + of dry matter intake should be achievable.

**5. Improve Feeding Accuracy** – with a TMR be sure your forage dry matters are correct. Check them frequently and adjust your as fed weights accordingly. Take care when handling feeds to reduce shrink.

**6. Feed Availability** – cows should have feed available to them most all the time. If cows are without feed more than 1 – 2 hours per day (during the entire 24 hour period) you are probably giving up some low cost production. How often do you push feed up with a free stall system? In your tie stall barn how long after you leave the barn at night are cows without feed? Do some checking.

**7. Be sure your supplier is competitive** - during times of high feed prices we see producers changing suppliers more frequently. Feed suppliers are all experiencing the same market forces. Also, good service can be quite valuable, so be sure to take that into account.

**8. Compare Costs Correctly** – don't get into the cost per ton mentality of comparing one feeding program to another. If you have to feed more of a cheaper feed it may actually cost you more in the long run. Look at costs per cow per day. Too often I've seen producers pressuring their supplier into making

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a cheaper feed (pellets especially) and then they end up adding flaked corn or corn meal to the diet to make up for the shortfall of the cheaper feed they had made up originally. With TMR feeding be sure the feeding programs being compared uses the same dry matter intake when comparing rations.

Here's an example of what can happen when making comparisons if you're not paying attention. Cows are actually consuming 50 lb. of DM per cow.

**Ration 1** - 50 lbs. DMI – ration is 40% grain, 20 lbs. of grain DM = 22.22 lbs. as fed at \$315/ton. – cow/day cost = \$3.50

**Ration 2** – assumed to be 47 lbs. DMI – ration is 40% grain , 18.8 lbs. of grain DM = 20.89 lbs. as fed at \$325/ton – cow/day cost = \$3.39

**Ration 2 corrected to 50 lbs. DMI** – ration is still 40% grain, now 20.0 lbs. of grain DM = 22.22 lbs. as fed at \$325/ton - cow/day cost = \$3.61!

**9. Scrutinize the Extras** – give a critical eye to the additives and extras you may have put into the ration when times were good. They may still pay, but be sure.

**10. Get Cows Pregnant** – what I mean is to get them pregnant on time. Herds with high average days in milk are often losing lots of money. For every 10 days past 180 that the average days in milk is, your herd will be down by 1.0 – 1.5 lbs. per cow per day. That adds up to some real big money!

**11. Stay on Top of Your Transition Program** – nothing hurts production more than all kinds of fresh cow problems. Even though some problems are unavoidable, a well managed dry, pre-fresh, and fresh cow program can really keep problems to a minimum.

**12. Look at Milk Components** – balancing diets for amino acids may cost a bit more per cow per day, but its milk income after feed cost that's most important! What are they paying for milk protein now, somewhere in the \$4.00 to \$4.50 per pound range?

**13. BST** – the payback when milk is near or above \$20 has never been better. Lots of controversy. Your handler may say no. Premiums to not use it should be over \$1.00/cwt when compared to using it per the label on healthy cows. You decide.

**14. Don't Forget Cow Comfort** – other factors can have a big impact. Review stall comfort, resting time, udder health, lighting, water availability, ventilation, feed bunk surface, and other items.

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## Crop Production Record Keeping Systems

By Bonnie Collins

While keeping records is not on the "Top 10" list of what crop producers want to do, keeping crop production records will increase returns by improving profitability, saving time, offer a more efficient operation, allow for better management decisions, increase yields and crop quality, and provide greater marketing opportunities.

One of the main reasons to have good records is to improve your crop yields. It is by gathering the information, using the technology available to gather that information and managing those crop records that will increase the yields.

Easily said then done. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue University, and Michigan State University have organized a crop production recordkeeping system called "Field Files". It is an organized place for storing information on each crop-production field. Field Files includes a set of five manual tables that include crop information, soil test summary, nutrient planning, nutrient applications, and pesticide-use records.

The information is gathered in the field, but then is easily transferred to the appropriate tables in the Field Files system. A description of those tables are as follows: Table 1. **Crop Information** is a record of current cropping information. This table is use to evaluate how cultural management practices influence crop yields.

Table 2. **Soil Test Summary** provides a brief history of a field's soil fertility.

Table 3. **Nutrient Planning** is used to determine the amount of fertilizer nutrients needed to produce a crop after appropriate nutrient credits are subtracted from fertilizer recommendations.

Table 4. **Nutrient Applications** gathers the source of nutrients, actual application dates, and rates for the fields.

Table 5. **Pesticide-use Records** keeps track of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and nematocides. Recording all pesticide applications optimizes pest control strategies for the upcoming year.

The above tables can be found at <http://www.btny.purdue.edu/pubs/PPP/PPP-18.pdf>

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Gathering this important information, although not high tech will allow for a powerful management tool for you and your crop consultant. This method gives you a concise picture of the management practices associated with each field. It becomes relatively easy to identify fields with nutrient levels in excess of crop requirements and can identify special pest management needs.

A PASTURE WALK with TWO of JEFFERSON COUNTY'S MOST EXPERIENCED GRAZERS PLANNED for JUNE 17

A 2 for 1 demonstration day of rotational grazing focusing on forage, fencing, feeding and philosophy will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at 10am Brian and Amy Zumbach Farm, 8358 County Route 154, Henderson, NY and Clinton and Rebecca Horst Farm, 1891 Fone Rd, Mannsville, NY. We will then move at 12:00pm to Horst Farm (@ 11 miles) for lunch of hot dogs and refreshments.

There is no charge but pre-registration is appreciated. We hope to see you there! For additional information contact: Ron Kuck 315-788-8450 or Bill Paddock 315-736-3334.

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## FSA Updates

### **ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES**

The deadline for crop reporting is **June 16<sup>th</sup>** for small grains and **July 15<sup>th</sup>** for all other crops. ***Acres reports are required of any producer who:***

- Participates in DCP
- Requests an LDP or a commodity loan
- Participates in the 10 – 15 year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Participates in the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP). *\*\*See Note Below*

Please keep track of your planting dates. These dates are helpful to you in the event of a disaster program and are **required** for crop reporting. **Please call for an appointment.**

### **ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES NOTE TO NAP PRODUCERS**

The deadline for crop reporting for all NAP crops is the **earlier of** the above established dates or 15 days before the onset of the harvest or grazing of a specific crop acreage. For example, if a producer of a forage crop has NAP coverage and plans to begin harvest on May 20<sup>th</sup>, then the producer must file by May 5<sup>th</sup> to avoid late filing fees. If a NAP crop was not planted, a zero acreage report is required.

### **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

Did you run short of storage room for this year's harvest? Do you want to build or expand your existing storage space, add a new bunk or bin? Now is the time to start the process for next year. We offer low interest rate, seven-year loans to help you meet your storage needs. The program provides loan money for new grain and silage storage structures as well as renovations of existing farm storage facilities. Examples include but are not limited too: bins, cribs, upright and bunker-type silos, flat storage barns and permanently affixed grain handling and grain drying equipment. The interest rate for farm storage facility loans approved in May, 2008 is 3.00 percent.

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## CREP & Continuous CRP Available

USDA has recently indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2008. The budget for FY 2008 assumes no available funding for CRP general signups. However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

## Maintaining CRP Cover

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The ending date for the primary nesting season in New York is August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 2008 COC Election Information

This year, Local Administrative Area # 2 will be electing their representative to serve a three-year term on the County Committee. LAA #2 is comprised of the Towns of Annsville, Ava, Boonville, Camden, Florence, Forestport, Lee, Remsen, Rome, Steuben, and Western. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA # 2 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or other candidates.

**Loan interest Rates May 2008:** Farm operating loans direct- 3.125%; Farm ownership loans- 5.00%; Beginning farmer- 4.00%; Emergency loans- 3.75%.

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## Land Rentals

*(Adapted by Jim Manning from Peggy Murray and Joe Lawrence, CCE Lewis County)*

At this time of year, we at Extension frequently get phone calls about land rentals. Questions range from “What should I charge?” to “Should I let them spread manure?” These are good questions, and the answers will depend on your needs and goals, the condition of your farmland, and the prospective renter’s needs and goals. Nonetheless, it is always a good idea to ask these questions and make sure you are basing your rental agreement on a careful analysis and current information.

We regularly survey landowners on rental rates, and we find there is a wide range of prices within the county. The price depends on many factors, including but not limited to:

- Competition for the land. Obviously if your land is easily accessible to two or more farmers who need land to rent, then you should be able to get a higher price.
- Soil type and drainage.
- Preexisting condition of the land. Has it been in production or has it been abandoned for several years?
- Restrictions placed on what crops can be grown or what inputs can be applied to the land.

Land that has been out of production may require improvements before it can be highly productive again. If the land requires lime to raise the pH, or has tremendous weed pressure that needs to be controlled, then a reduced rate should be allowed for the first couple of years to help defray some of these additional costs. Once the land is in good order for production a more competitive price can be charged.

Owners have a right to put restrictions, such as no manure or chemicals, on land they rent; however, they also have to realize that the value of the land might be reduced if these restrictions make it difficult or more costly to grow crops on the land.

A written lease is a very smart idea as this can help to assure that both parties understand the terms of the agreement, and also can provide assurance to both parties that the agreement will be in place for a specified period of time. If the landowner intends to apply for agricultural assessment on

the land, and does not meet the farm income requirements on his own, a written lease is required.

Items that should be included in a land lease include:

- Date the lease begins.
- Time period for the lease – one year, five years, etc.
- The amount of the rent and when it should be paid.
- Who pays the taxes.
- Who pays for improvements such as fencing, drain tile etc.
- What can be taken off the land.
- What can be applied to the land.
- If hunting privileges are included they should also be spelled out.
- If there is a dispute between the land owner and the renter, how does the dispute get resolved?

**Sample Farmland Contract on Page 16**



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To Advertise in the up and coming issues of Farm Flash, please call Cindy at 315/736/3394 x.124 for all the information you will need.

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## Sample Farmland Rental Contract

*Note: Use this sample agreement as a guideline only. Both parties should ensure that the agreement addresses their specific requirements, and should ask an attorney to review it before signing.*

This lease is entered in this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_, landlord, and \_\_\_\_\_, tenant.

The landlord hereby leases to the tenant to use for agricultural purposes \_\_\_\_\_ acres of pasture and \_\_\_\_\_ acres of cropland (more or less \_\_\_\_\_ located in the town of \_\_\_\_\_ and County of \_\_\_\_\_ and commonly known as the \_\_\_\_\_ farm.

The tenant will pay the landlord \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year with payment to be made as follows \_\_\_\_\_. The tenant will also pay all costs of planting; growing and harvesting crops grown on the land. The tenant will be required to maintain and repair the fences, tile drains, and diversion ditches. The landlord will pay the taxes, and major repairs and improvements such as new fence, drain tile, diversion ditches, etc. The tenant will follow recommended conservation practices in working the land. No green or growing timber will be cut from the property by the tenant. The landlord has the right to inspect or enter the property at anytime.

The lease shall be for \_\_\_\_\_ years beginning \_\_\_\_\_ with automatic renewal unless either party gives written notice to the contrary at least three months (90 days) before the expiration of the current rental period. The rental rate may be adjusted annually to account for increases in taxes, insurance or ownership costs.

Any meadowland plowed for annual crops (corn, oats, etc.) will be re-seeded to perennial forage crops at the end of the lease period.

Any differences between the landlord and tenants as to their rights and obligations under this lease that are not settled by mutual agreement shall be submitted to one disinterested person agreeable to both, and that arbitrator's decision shall be final.

It is agreed that the stipulations of this lease are to apply to and bind the heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of the respective parties and is made and executed in duplicate.

In witness whereof the parties have signed this lease on the date first above written.

Signed:

Witness:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Landlord

Tenant

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***The following is adapted from an update by Dr. Andy Novakovic, Professor of Ag Economics at Cornell, dated May 15. At that time the Farm Bill had passed in the House of Representatives and was expected to pass the Senate shortly; the President was expected to veto the bill, but the majorities in both houses were large enough to override that veto. By the time you read this, the Farm Bill - officially called "The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008" - will presumably have become law. Local ag agencies will be sorting out the impacts of the new bill over the coming weeks. If you have specific questions I can help answer call me at 736-3394 ext 129.***

For dairy, the MILC program gets a slight uplift that raises the trigger price and the payout rate, but still leaves it below current high prices. The payment limitation is raised to 2.985 million pounds.

For major or Program Crops (corn, wheat, beans, cotton, etc.) the new bill offers a new revenue-insurance type program called ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election). ACRE offers farmers an opportunity for a payment to make up the difference between a calculated actual revenue average and a revenue guarantee, both calculated on a state-by-state average basis. The calculations use State Olympic average yields over the previous 5 years and national average prices over the past two years, combined with each producer's base acres. There are adjustment factors that limit how much of the calculated gap is subsidized. Producers who elect this program will receive less money via other direct and loan payments. This program won't kick in until 2009; so no need to worry about figuring anything out for this year. [See ACRE sidebar]

The Conservation Security Program is revived and re-energized. There is more money for EQIP. The Wetlands Reserve Program is expanded.

There is a lot of money for food programs. The Food Stamps program is renamed as SNAP, Supplemental Food Assistance Program. This breakthrough results from the recognition that actual paper scrip is no longer used in favor of debit-like cards called EBT or Electronic Benefit Transfer cards. More importantly, changes are made in the formula

that determines how much assistance a family can get.

Also in the Food Title, the Fruit and Vegetable program for school lunches is expanded and the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition program gets a 25% increase in funding. Both of these bode well for fruit and vegetable growers, and for agricultural areas that are near urban areas. There is also a big increase in funding for the Farmer's Market Promotion Program. This is a marketing program for such markets, as opposed to a subsidy for purchases at such markets.

There is an expansion in the cost-share program that helps farmers during the transition from conventional to organic production. There is a big increase in the Specialty Crops Block Grant Program. There is new funding to assist exporters of specialty crops, particularly in navigating the rules of trade, inspection and the like.

Although USDA has limited authority in the area of energy, the Bill provides a grab bag of programs to assist in the development and use of various biofuels. The emphasis is not on corn-based ethanol, signaling that Congress is keen on directing attention at alternative biofuels, but remains committed to biofuels as part of an overall energy strategy.

### Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

Under the new Farm Bill, commodity field crop producers will have the option, beginning with the 2009 crop year, to participate in a state-level revenue protection system. Participants agree to a 20 percent reduction in direct payments and a 30 percent reduction in loan rates. In return, they are eligible for a state-based revenue guarantee on acres planted equal to 90 percent of the product of a state average yield factor times the national average price for the previous two years for the commodity. *(from the website of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee)*



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## New Oneida County Dairy Princess

Oneida County's new Dairy Princess was crowned at Dibbles Inn on May 2nd. She is 18 year-old Laura Kalk of Holland Patent. To find out what Laura and the rest of the court have been up to, check out [www.oneidacountydairypromotion.com](http://www.oneidacountydairypromotion.com). If you would like the Princess and/or Court Members to attend your event, please contact Bridgette Miller (735-6979).

It's not too early to be thinking about the Oneida County Fair!! If you could volunteer a couple hours of your time in the Dairy Promotion booth, please let Terri DiNitto (768-3120) or Joan Smith (737-8907) know. Your help is greatly appreciated!!

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- For Sale: 1000 bales of grass hay; Polczynski 826-1323.
  - 1988 JD 6620 titan II 2wd 3000 hrs ex condition new cylinder bars saw chopper 18000 OBO Pawlowski 335-2210
  - 1984 JD 8820 titan II 4wd new hydro good condition , straw chopper 19500 OBO Pawlowski 335-2210.

Want to buy:

- Looking for mulch hay: Pawlowski 335-2210



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## COULD OILSEED PRESSING AND BIODIESEL PRODUCTION ADD TO YOUR BOTTOM LINE???

Farmers and small-business owners are asking whether it is possible and profitable to add value to their seeds and crops by extracting the oil, to be used as a value-added component to their operation, or to go one step farther and refine that oil for use as biodiesel on their farm operation.

We recently offered an overview to this topic on April 2, 2008 at CCE Oneida County. As we learned, this is not an easy question to answer because there are so many variables, from considering the fluctuating costs of feedstocks used as source materials, market price for oil crushed, rising fuel and energy costs, to the availability and cost of three phase power.

Most oil crushing and processing in the U.S. is done on a large industrial scale, and the processes use proprietary information. Small-scale oil extraction is more commonplace in other parts of the world; thus many of the useful resource materials and much of the appropriate-scale machinery come from other countries (eg. Germany, China, and India for presses and reactors).

Questions for farmers and growers to consider for crushing and pressing oil seeds:

- Why do I want to get into oil crushing and processing? How big will the operation be? If you grow your own crops (oilseeds), the cost and type of equipment needs to be considered. Is the equipment readily available to grow and harvest, or will you buy seeds from another local source? When you press seeds, the cost or the equipment for oil extraction needs to be considered. Is a seed cleaner needed? How big, what is the capacity, and how much does an oil press cost?
- How many different products will be made, including oil use and the press cake left after the oil has been pressed out of the raw seeds or nuts?
- Will I have a market for or can I use the protein meal by-product for feed supplementation? How does the quality compare to those produced by commercial protein meal manufacturers? (We will be researching this topic for future farm-flash articles)

- For successful pressing, the seed must be:
  - Dry. Moist seed will lead to low yields and clog the cage (a part of the press). Moist seed may also get moldy. To prevent the growth of mold, dry the seeds shortly after harvest.
  - Clean. Fine dust in the seed may clog the cage. Chaff left in the seed will absorb some of the oil and keep it from getting squeezed out of the cage. Sand in the seed will wear the press out. Stones badly damage the piston.
  - Warm. Warm seed will yield the most oil for the least effort.
  - Dried before it is bagged and stored. Very damp seed will feel humid when you bury your hand in it, especially if the seed is warm. If you heat your seed in the sun under a sheet of clear plastic, you may see moisture collecting beneath the plastic if the seed is too wet.

**Questions for farmers and growers to consider when using oil to convert into biodiesel:**

After the oil is pressed from the seeds, should I invest in conversion reactors (i.e. fuelmeister) to convert oil into fuel (biodiesel) for the farm use? In addition to the costs of the processor equipment, biodiesel production includes the costs of chemicals (i.e. methanol and lye) as well as gas or electricity expenses. Consider the byproducts of biodiesel production such as glycerin. Could that be used in feed rations?

**Biodiesel** is a fuel made with vegetable oil, fats, greases or oil seed crops. The fuels from any of these sources can be used in diesel engines without altering the engine. As an agricultural pursuit, biodiesel begins with growing oil seed crops. The type of crop chosen is important when considering the economics of biodiesel production; specifically the fuel yields per acre of different oil seed crops. According to Lester Brown's publication: *Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a civilization in Trouble* 34 (2006), the information below estimated the biodiesel fuel yields per acre for different crops:

<u>CROP</u>	<u>YIELD</u> (gallons fuel per acre)
Oil Palm	508
Coconut	230
Rapeseed	120
Peanut	90
Sunflower	82
Soybean	56

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### **A Few Statistics for Soybeans**

2007 Production: Oneida County produced 195,100 bushels of soybeans on 4,300 acres (Avg 45 bushels/acre)

#### **1 Bushel of soybeans contain:**

- 60 lbs of whole soybeans\*
- 10.7 lbs crude soybean oil\*
- 47.5 lbs soybean meal\*
- \*Source: Mounts and Pryde, 1983

#### **How many gallons of Biodiesel?**

- 7.6 lbs per gallon of crude soybean oil
- 1 gallon crude oil yields 1 gallon biodiesel
- 1.41 gallons biodiesel per bushel
- \*Source: Northern Biodiesel

#### **What is the Potential?**

- Oneida County produced enough soybeans in 2007 for 274,680 gallons of biodiesel
- And...4,634 tons of soybean meal for livestock feed

### **Press and Reactor Tour**

Some of the most practical information I could find pertained to an oilseed press and reactor tour that occurred on October 2006 in western Wisconsin. Three farm partners invested about \$25,000 for equipment to produce their own biodiesel (not ASTM standards) from canola or sunflowers. The breakdown cost of equipment included:

- \$17,000 for two screw presses from Komet. Komet Vegetable Oil Expellers are manufactured by IBG Monforts in Germany, whose range of products covers small hand-operated as well as industrial machines. <http://www.oekotec.ibg-monforts.de/en/index.html>
- \$3,500 fuelmeister biodiesel processor
- \$1,200 for a three phase power converter (press comes from Germany in 3 phase power only)
- \$500 electrician
- \$200 stand
- \$25 tote tank
- \$90 meal tank (150 gallon plastic stock tank)
- \$160 oil tank (300 gallon plastic stock tank)
- \$1000 500 per auger and motor (had 2 or so)
- Total (about \$25,000)

For those of you who may want further information on the scope of this Oct. 2006, Press and Reactor tour, I will post the entire PDF document on the CCE website, Click on Energy, then Farm Energy, Biodiesel where you will see the specific link or connect to:

[http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pdf/Western\\_WI\\_Biodiesel\\_Press.pdf](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pdf/Western_WI_Biodiesel_Press.pdf)

For more information on Farm Energy, Presses and Biodiesel Production, please refer to our CCE-Oneida Co. website where we are striving to link some useful sites for your assistance.

Connect to: <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida>

## SMALL GRAINS MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY\*

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**Oneida County Hay Report (Provided by CCE of Oneida County)**

**Augusta:** Hay field with 95% alfalfa, planted in 07 to a 90:10 alfalfa timothy seed mix, on a south facing slope at an elevation of 1591 ft.

Date	NDF	Goal NDF	Crude Protein		NEL	% grass	
	Alfalfa Ht (in)	Goal alfalfa Ht (in)					
5-May	29	40	30	0.77	5	10	32
12-May	24	40	33	0.79	5	12	32
19-May	28	40	28	0.76	5	16	32

**Westmoreland:** Hay field with 55% alfalfa, planted in 06, 15lbs alfalfa + 3lbs of timothy, on a west facing slope at an elevation of 652 ft

Date	NDF	Goal NDF	Crude Protein		NEL	% grass	
	Alfalfa Ht	Goal alfalfa Ht					
5-May	25	43	30	0.79	45	7	24
12-May		28	43	30	0.76	45	10 24
19-May		44	43	23	0.66	45	16 24

**Lee:** Hay field with 25% alfalfa, planted in '06, 18lbs alfalfa + 4lbs bromegrass, on a flat to rolling field (no slope aspect) at an elevation of 706 ft.

Date	NDF	Goal NDF	Crude Protein		NEL	% grass	
	Alfalfa Ht	Goal alfalfa Ht					
5-May	27	47	29	0.77	75	8	16
12-May		39	47	22	0.72	75	11 16
19-May		39	47	20	0.7	75	15 16

**Steuben:** Hay field with 20% red clover and 80% grass (orchardgrass) on a south facing hillside 35% slope at an elevation of 1100 ft.

Date	NDF	Goal NDF	Crude Protein		NEL	% grass	
	Alfalfa Ht	Goal alfalfa Ht					
5-May	44	48	22	0.7	80		15
12-May		49	48	18	0.67	80	15

**Steuben (2<sup>nd</sup> site):** Hay field with 30% red clover, 30% alfalfa and 40% grass planted in 07 in a flat field at an elevation of approximately 1100 ft.

Date	NDF	Goal NDF	Crude Protein		NEL	% grass	
	Alfalfa Ht	Goal alfalfa Ht					
19-May		45	43	21	0.66	40	20 26

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This sampling is performed to give local growers an idea of the current NDF levels in mixed swards of alfalfa and grass in our county and the rate of development of those hay fields.

Sampling indicated that harvest of local grass stands (especially orchardgrass stands) could have started on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May this year. Hay yields would probably be less than normal.

Many of our mixed mostly grass stands are also at their peak of quality at this time (5-21-08) and should be harvested at the next opportunity. Alfalfa growth on the other hand has been relatively slow as indicated at the Augusta site and harvest of mixed mostly legume stands may hit peak quality late into the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June.

These are just guidelines. As always it is best for you to visit your hay stands yourself. Bring a ruler and the chart from the last issue of Farm Flashes to help you to predict the best timing for harvest in your fields. If you want the latest information on our sampling you can call 736-3394 and hit ext 401 or visit our website at [www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida). If you have any questions about using the chart please give me a call at 736-3394 ext 120.

### **Improving fuel efficiency from your forage harvester:**

- o Replace worn cutterhead knives, in one report worn knives doubled the fuel requirements of the cutterhead.
- o Maintain correct knife/shearbar clearances. The power requirement of a cutterhead was doubled when a clearance increased from .01 inches to .02 inches.
- o Carefully select the theoretical length of cut (TLC) of your forage to meet the needs of your animals, storage and feeding system. If you can increase the TLC it will reduce fuel consumption.

### **Monitor for Alfalfa Weevil**

Alfalfa weevil can cause significant damage if in large enough numbers and left unchecked. Here is a picture of the damage that you look for in your alfalfa stands.

If you randomly select 50 stems as you zig-zag across your field and you see a single hole in the interior of a leaflet on 20 or more of those stems then you are over threshold for this pest. If you are within 10 days of harvest, then harvest is your optimal means of control.

**Monitor for Potato Leaf Hopper in your alfalfa fields especially those you planted this year Potato leaf hopper (PLH)**



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continues to be the most significant pest of alfalfa. This insect can rob you of a ½ ton of yield and/or a point of protein either of which is a major loss considering the need to feed high forage diets and the high cost of purchased grains. To determine if PLH is over threshold you have to sweep your alfalfa fields with a sweep net and count the number of PLH you find. If you want the chart showing the economic threshold numbers of PLH at different heights of alfalfa you can call me at 736-3394 ext 120 or visit our website at [www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida) .

## **Wheat**

### **Fusarium head blight control**

- o CCE field staff are seeing powdery mildew in wheat in western NY. Little or no disease development has been noted in the limited scouting of wheat fields in Oneida County
- o The inoculum for fusarium head blight (FSB) is all around us, is wind borne and can move into a field from a great distance. Wet conditions (rain), high humidity and warmth around the period of flowering supports this diseases development.
- o There is only one active ingredient (propiconazole) labeled for use in NY that has some level of control of FSB and it can only be applied up to full head emergence, which may be before symptoms are apparent.
- o Growers must scout wheat fields for symptoms and use extended weather forecasts to make an informed decision to apply or not apply this fungicide.
- o Growers can expect a 25-30% reduction in DON with propiconazole vs untreated wheat with fusarium head blight.
- o Under severe infections even wheat treated with propiconazole at head emergence may exceed the 2ppm DON accepted by local grain buyers.
- Plant pathologists and plant breeders continue the active development of varieties resistant to Fusarium head blight. Newly released this year is the Cornell variety called Jensen, developed by Mark Sorrells, Cornell Department of Plant Breeding. Jensen has shown more resistance to fusarium head blight (scab) than other white wheat varieties typically planted in NY.

## **Corn**

### **Checking Corn**

In cool springs like this year it is more important to check corn fields for potential damage from insects or disease. When the soil temperatures are low (averaging 50F on 5-27-08) germination is slowed and diseases and insect pests have more



missing. Dig to find seed, if seed is missing it might be a planter issue. If you find mushy seeds, some bacteria or fungi attacked the seed. If you find a hole drilled through

the seed it was probably eaten by wireworms or seed corn maggot.



The damage caused by diseases and insect pests can be minimized by a seed box treatment or pre treatment of the seeds with at least a 250mg rate of poncho or cruiser with a fungicide.

The seedling may also be attacked by a variety of early-season pests. Corn plants are more likely to be attacked by slugs / snails in cool wet seasons. In fields with grassy weeds look for wilting or cut plants. Black cutworm moths look for plants (weeds) to lay their eggs on. These eggs hatch and the larva are responsible for the damage. The larva can usually be found in the soil near where plants are attacked. Wilting of plants may also be caused by stem borers that are also attracted to fields that have quackgrass. Usually you will see a hole bored in the stem of the seedling at ground level.



If you see foliar feeding damage look for armyworms. Large numbers of armyworms have been found in Ohio this season.





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