

Volume 4 Issue

April 2006



CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ONEIDA COUNTY

The Livestock Extension



To Do: April through July

- ☑ Plan spring fertilizer needs. Mid to late April is an excellent time to apply nitrogen to grass. Call Jeff at the Extension Office for assistance.
- ☑ Prepare for pasture season. How will you control flies this year: tags, pour-ons, rubbers? It is not recommended to use insecticides furnished in feed or minerals.
- ☑ Get ready for breeding season;
 - If you use A.I. order semen and check your equipment. Be sure breeding corral is in working order.
 - If breeding naturally, make sure you have enough bulls: 10-15 cows per yearling bull; 20-25 cows per 2-year old bull; 30-35 cows per mature bull.
 - Have phosphorous source in form of free-choice mineral mix; phosphorous is important for maximum fertility.
 - Yearling British heifers should weigh a minimum of 700 lbs. and continental heifers a minimum of 750 lbs. before being bred.
 - If lactating cows are thin and not cycling, feed more energy.
 - Vaccinate open cows for IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, Leptospirosis, and Haemophilus using modified live vaccines. Consult your veterinarian for additional health information.
- ☑ Breed heifers one heat period before the cows. This provides extra time for heifers to recover to calve with the cowherd the following year.
- ☑ Take advantage of early summer grass. Turn cows in when grass is 4-6 inches tall, graze intensely for 7 days and then rotate to another field. Pasture should be rested 25-40 days before grazing again.
- ☑ Is hay making equipment ready? For highest quality, first cutting should be started by end of May to early June, depending on species and location.
- ☑ After first cutting or grazing, consider fertilizing with nitrogen to maximize aftermath growth.

- ☑ If you vaccinate for pinkeye, do so six weeks prior to fly season. In other words it's probably too late to get effective pinkeye control through vaccination.
- ☑ Fly control methods include sprays, backrubbers, insecticidal ear tags, and dust bags. Feed through fly control is not recommended. Insecticides that kill fly larvae also kill beneficial insects such as dung beetles that are necessary for natural control and manure decomposition.
- ☑ Continue to monitor body condition of first and second calf heifers. If they drop below 4.5, they should receive supplemental nutrition in order to avoid decreased conception rates. This is especially true for first and second calf heifers.
- ☑ The breeding season should last no more than 60 days. Make plans for keeping bull separate before and after the 60 day breeding season.
- ☑ Watch for cows returning to estrous. This is indication that fertility of bull(s) and cow(s) may be compromised.
- ☑ Monitor and control pink-eye by controlling flies and clipping pastures.
- ☑ Be prepared for pastures that run out: leasing additional pasture, supplemental feeding, etc.
- ☑ Begin to choose calves for marketing and development programs: NY Pooled Weaning and Marketing, NY Value Discovery Program, Empire Heifer Development Program, Special Feeder Calf Sales.
- ☑ Check with your bull supplier about feeder calf marketing programs they sponsor.



Natural Cattle Care by Pat Coleby

“**Natural Cattle Care**” by Pat Coleby encompasses every facet of farm management, from the mineral components of the soils cattle graze over, to issues of fencing, shelter and feed regimens. How you farm determines the health of your livestock. “**Natural Cattle Care**” is a comprehensive analysis of farming techniques that keep the health of the animal in mind. Coleby brings a wealth of experience to bear in this analysis of many serious problems of contemporary farming practices, focusing in particular on how poor soils lead to mineral-deficient plants and ailing farm animals. Coleby provides systems-level solutions and specific remedies for optimizing cattle health and productivity.

“**Natural Cattle Care**” (ISBN 0-911311-68-8), softcover, 198 pgs., \$20. Order from Acres U.S.A., 1-800-355-5313 or email info@acresusa.com. See www.acresusa.com/toolbox/press/naturalcattle.htm for more info.

Profit Optimization & Evaluation Programs

Cornell Feedlot and Carcass Value Discovery Program

Purpose: Teach cow/calf producers the value of their calves based on performance in the feedlot and on through the packing plant. Calves are accepted in November and fed till their most optimal profit potential during March-July.

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

Empire Heifer Development Program

Purpose: A management and marketing program for cow/calf producers to evaluate replacement heifer prospects and offer a marketing opportunity for quality heifers. Calves are accepted in December. Heifers can be bred artificially at the heifer rearing facility, or returned home for breeding. Eligible heifers can be sold in April.

For more information, contact Martha Wright, Empire Heifer Development Program Manager, maw32@cornell.edu, 585-770-4664.

New York Pooled Weaning and Marketing Program

Purpose: Provide a uniformly managed group of feeder calves, commingled from several producers, in a truck load lot, which can be marketed at optimum value. Calves are accepted in October and marketed in late November or December.

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

NY Beef Producers Central Bull Test and Sale

Purpose: To 1) compare individual performance of potential herd sires, 2) provide an opportunity for seedstock producers to market individual bulls, 3) provide a source of bulls for commercial and seedstock herds and 4) provide an educational opportunity for sellers and buyers alike. Bulls are accepted in November. Eligible bulls are sold in April.

For more information contact Bull Test Managers Jason TenEyck at 315-539-8031 or Jim Brown at 315-549-8318.

Ultrasound Services Available

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

For more details contact Heather at 607-753-5222, hnb6@cornell.edu.

Cattle and Beef Marketing Channels

America's beef industry represents a dynamic example of free enterprise, with individual businessmen part of an interdependent system that creates a wholesome, economic beef product for domestic and international consumers. While each segment depends most on the segments closest to them, each also is affected by the decisions and performance of all other segments in the system. The most dramatic impact, of course, is created by consumer decisions.

Seedstock

Also referred to as the purebred segment, these producers build the genetics that will be utilized as breeding stock marketed to the cow/calf segment. While there are more than 50 different breeds in the U. S., only a handful — 10 or so — contribute a significant volume of genetics to the industry. Genetics are originated based on their ability to serve the beef system (through efficient production) as well as the consumer (through creation of the kinds of beef consumers want.)

Cow/Calf

Also known as commercial cattlemen and women, these producers may crossbreed, using as many as four different breeds together to produce the bulk of cattle that will ultimately be fed for harvest. Commercial cattlemen sell weaned calves (usually 6-10 months old, and weighing 300-600 lbs.) to stocker operators or feedlots. Some may retain ownership of their calves through the finishing phase.

Stocker

Cattlemen and women in this segment purchase weaned calves, then graze them until they weigh as much as 900 lbs (usually when they're around 12 months old, or "yearlings"), then market them to a feedlot. Adding weight to cattle through grazing transforms natural resources — many of which have no other use — into food humans can use. This means beef can be produced more economically.

Feedlot

Feedlots may purchase weaned calves from the cow/calf segment or cattle from the stocker segment, finishing them to harvest weights of 900-1,400 lbs. Normally, cattle are on feed anywhere from 110 to 250 days, depending on purchase and targeted harvesting weights. These animals are then marketed to packers.

Packer

Beef packers harvest finished cattle purchased from feedlots, fabricating the beef carcasses (typically 600-800 lbs) into boxes of "subprimal" cuts, such as the top round, tenderloin or sirloin. Some packers may also further process the subprimals into consumer-ready cuts. The beef is then marketed to purveyors/processors or retailers.

Processor/Purveyor

This segment fabricates boxes of subprimal cuts into the cuts familiar to consumers. Often this segment will market to the hotel, restaurant and institution (HRI) trade, which has no production capabilities. Many grocery stores, though, which in the past have purchased directly from packers and done their own meat cutting, are now buying further-processed cuts and beef items for direct sale to consumers.

Retailers and Foodservice Operators

The segment, closest to the consumer, buys product from purveyors, processors or packers, then presents products to consumers for their purchase. Because they directly depend on consumers, these marketers watch, perhaps more closely than other segments, for trends and styles that may affect consumer demand for beef.

Consumer

When domestic and international consumers purchase American beef, either in the retail meat case or as part of a meal away from home, they influence subsequent decisions made by every other segment in the beef system.

Taken from: <http://www.beef.org/nbbaeconomics.aspx>

Beef Quality Assurance—Drug Storage

Drugs, vaccines, implants and other animal health products usually have specific storage requirements. Some, but not all require refrigeration and all should be stored in a clean place where they can not become dirty or contaminated. Observe and obey the manufacturer's recommended storage instructions for each product you use. Where refrigeration is needed, the refrigerator is kept clean and is located in a safe, clean place that is not likely to be overheated or contaminated by dirt or manure. Animal health products should be stored away from the feed ingredient or mixing area unless they are regularly mixed feed additives. Storage of bottles of partially used medication or vaccine is discouraged because they may have become contaminated and could cause infections or tissue reactions if used. Purchase of animal health supplies in containers holding the number of doses typically used in a day of processing animals is encouraged.

Vaccine Handling Precautions

- READ THE LABEL
- Purchase fresh vaccines and store them in a refrigerator. Never use an outdated drug or vaccine.
- Purchase vaccines in containers holding the number of doses appropriate for the task at hand. Storing partially used containers may lead to infections at injection sites and result in ineffectiveness of the vaccine.

- ☑ Use transfer needles to reconstitute vaccines. Place one end of the needle into the sterile liquid, and the other in the bottle containing the freeze-dried cake of vaccine. There should be a vacuum that immediately pulls the liquid down. If not, discard the vaccine, as it may not be effective.
- ☑ Modified live vaccine begins to degrade, or lose effectiveness, after about an hour (don't mix too much vaccine at one time). Direct sunlight also degrades the products; so keep vaccines and syringes in a cooler while working cattle. When using a large bottle of vaccine, mix thoroughly at first and gently shake the bottle from time to time.
- ☑ Do not use the same syringes to inject modified live and killed products. A trace of killed product can harm the effectiveness of the modified live product.
- ☑ Clean the top of the vaccine bottle before inserting needles. Don't put the needle you're using to inject animals back into the vaccine bottle to avoid contaminating the vaccine.
- ☑ Never mix vaccines or other animal health products. Mixing unlike products can destroy their effectiveness. Use only approved combinations.
- ☑ Never store drugs or pesticides in feed room.

(Source: Mid-Atlantic Beef Quality Assurance Manual. To learn more about becoming BQA certified, contact Mike Baker, 607-255-5923, mjb28@cornell.edu or Carol Gillis, 800-292-6922, cgillis@nybeef.org)



FORAGES & CROPS

Nitrogen fertilization of grass stands:

For optimal production of cool season grasses consider applying 100 lbs of N at green up (right now). The most economical locally available fertilizer is usually urea. If you choose urea, apply it at 200 lbs /ac. You can lose 30% of the N from the urea you apply to your field if it isn't incorporated by rain in the first 3 days after application. So apply it to your fields when a significant rain (1+ inches) is forecast. Consider soil testing if you haven't taken a sample recently. Apply an additional 50 lbs of N/ac after each harvest.

Wide swathing:

Most of you chop your first cutting of hay for silage. Many of you mow a 9 ft swath into a 3 ft windrow. If you look at that windrow, 1.5 or 2 days later the outside of the windrow is bone dry and the center of the swath is still almost as wet as the day you mowed it. That wet stuff has been respiring the whole time, losing valuable

energy your cows could use. You can significantly increase the quality of your hay crop silage and reduce the time of drying by laying the swath as wide as your mower will allow (this varies a lot with the mower) and opening your conditioning rollers as wide as they will go.

Some key tips.

- ⇒ Only mow what you can chop in a single day.
- ⇒ Mow in the early morning (as wide as possible)
- ⇒ Check the moisture in the late morning or early afternoon
- ⇒ Merge 2 or more rows together using a bar rake or row merger to help complete the drying and to minimize the number of passes of the chopper
- ⇒ Check moisture soon after merging to monitor so that you are chopping at the right moisture content for your silage structure.

Ten Commandments of Balage

- Cut early and often
- Wilt to no less than 35% dry matter for quality and consider wilting to 45% DM for cost of production
- Wrap as soon as possible (within 2 hours of baling) to optimize fermentation
- Wrap with at least 6 layers of 70% pre-stretch plastic
- Adopt strategies for mapping, sampling/analysis and making ration adjustments
- Bale density is the name of the game, and swathing and driving techniques will affect it.
- Regardless of which bale handler you choose, gentler is better and don't break the seal.
- Unless you have unlimited land with excellent drainage close to the feed center, stacking bales on end 2-3 high in a prepared yard will pay dividends
- Distance from field to feed center dictates storage site and bale mover options
- Feedout equipment need not be expensive. Labor efficiency and adaptability to your facilities are key

Taken from Balage Resource Guide, Cornell Cooperative Extension



*Get your copy by calling Heather at the
Cooperative Extension Office—736-3394 x 122
(\$5 each)*



Forages For Swine

Use of good pasture can lower sow feed costs, help maintain high level reproductive capacity of boars, and in many cases increase litter size as compared to confinement raising of hogs.

Bred sows and gilts on legume pastures require much less supplemental protein and only about one-half as much grain as those in dry lots. An acre of good pasture should carry 8 to 10 sows.

Forages selected for swine should be succulent and capable of high production, very palatable, high in protein and vitamins, and produce over a reasonably long growth period.

Pastures make possible a good swine sanitation and disease control program. After swine have grazed pasture for one season, use the pasture for cattle or harvest hay from it for two years before using it for hogs again.

A pig's physical make-up does not lend itself to using great quantities of pasture or roughage like sheep and cattle. But a 400-pound sow can handle relatively large amounts. Good forage can also provide quality protein and certain vitamins and can reduce total feed requirements.

Research reports on feed savings for pigs on pasture vary considerably, depending on type of pasture, age of hogs, and management systems. Data indicate this will amount to 3 to 10 percent of the grain and as much as one-third of the protein needed for growing and finishing hogs. Pastures are recommended for the breeding herd especially. They provide exercise and nutrients needed for sows. The following points should be considered in making a decision between confinement and pasture production.

Advantages of pasture in swine production

- Lower feed costs on good pasture.
- Provides exercise and nutrients needed by breeding sows.
- Lower capital investment per production unit.
- Good use of land not suitable for cropping.
- Better isolation and disease control.
- Decreases waste management problems.
- Decreased cannibalism.

Disadvantages of pasture system

- More labor required for handling, feeding and watering.
- Possibly greater problems with internal parasites.

- More labor in farrowing.
- Possible decrease of crop land.
- May require slightly longer for hogs to reach market.
- Lack of environmental control in extreme weather.

Stocking rates

Stocking rates will depend upon soil fertility, quality of pasture and time of year. Recommended pasture stocking rates are:

Sows with litters	6-8 per acre
Pigs from weaning to 100 pounds	15-30 per acre
Pigs from 100 pounds to market	10-20 per acre
Gestating sows	8-12 per acre

These recommendations assume the use of good quality legume pasture under conditions of adequate moisture.

Feeding recommendations on pasture

Gestating sows will usually maintain their body weight on excellent ladino-clover pasture with no additional feed. General recommendations on average to excellent pasture would be to provide around 2 pounds of grain daily for sows and 3 pounds for gilts on pasture, plus free-choice access to minerals and iodized salt during the first two-thirds of gestation. During lactation, 2 to 3 pounds of 15 percent protein ration per 100 pounds body weight is recommended. Growing-finishing hogs in most cases should be full-fed with around 20 growing-fattening pigs per acre.

Herd management on pasture

It is important to have adequate water and shade for hogs on pasture. Studies show extremely high temperatures have an adverse effect on breeding herds, so it is important to provide adequate shade for them.

Pigs of widely varying weights should not be run together. Avoid having a range of weights that exceeds 20 percent above or below the average in the herd.

Taken from: <http://muextension.missouri.edu/xplor/agguides/ansci/g02360.htm>

In The News



US Retail Pork Prices Declining (Saturday, April 22, 2006)

Red Meat Production at Record High for March - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.11 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in March 2005.

Should the Animal Protein Ban be Expanded? - The latest case of BSE in Canada has rekindled calls for a total ban on the use of any animal protein in any type of animal feed.

Want to read more?

Go to <http://www.thepigsite.com/swinenews/vars/offset/30>



Why Wool Prices Differ

By Don Van Nostran, Mid-States Wool Growers Coop. Association Manager. As printed in "Sheep Industry News", Feb. 2006

Wool is wool is wool.

Unfortunately, this is the feeling of many sheep producers when they lood at this secondary product produced by sheep. However, not all wool is the same and a producer has a big effect on the value of their wool clip just by the management practices.

This article will not address wool value based on the genetics of the sheep, because most producers selected their breed of sheep based on a number of factors and wool production may or may not have been one of them. Regardless, most sheep produce wool and therefore we need to manage the wool that is produced by our selected breed.

Most people think of wool management as a one-day affair, that being shearing day. In reality, wool management is a year-long process and varies on each farm based on the amount of emphasis the producer wants to place on wool production. For those wanting to maximize the return that their wool crop can produce, there are a number of basic points that you should be aware of.

Pasture Management

Keeping pastures free from briars and burrs is required. It doesn't matter if there is only one cocklebur plant growing in your pastures—the sheep will find it and an otherwise top-quality fleece will be discounted due to burr contamination. Clipping pastures once a year can do wonders to improve wool clip.

Winter Feeding

Many producers shear in March through May. This means that most sheep head to the barns for winter with eight to nine months of well-grown fleece on their backs. Winter feeding contamination seems to affect wool quality more than anything else we see in the warehouse. Big bales of hay fed in cattle feeders that act as beds for the bale about two feet above the ground are the biggest culprits. They allow the sheep to reach in under the bale and hay chaff drops all through their neck and back and just ruin the wool. Hay chaff is very difficult to remove. Throwing hay from small bales into feeders over the sheep's back also contributes to this type of contamination. Both can be stopped by proper management and a little care provided by the shepherd.

Poor Drainage and Mud Holes

Muddy wool lowers the yield and the yield of the wool determines what a

producer receives. For example, all of the weight in the fleece of freshly shorn wool is not all wool fibers. Most wool will yield about 50 percent to 55 percent wool fiber. What this means is 50 percent of the fleece is usable wool fiber and the remainder is dirt, lanolin or other non-fiber problems. Using this 50 percent example, a fleece that is valued at \$1 clean wool fibers is worth 50 cents per greasy pound. However, a fleece that yields 55 percent is worth 55 cents per greasy pound, an improvement of 10 percent in value. Management can affect return to the producer. Mud lowers yield very quickly.

Shearing Day

Shearing day is the time most of us think of managing the wool clip. Everyone knows that you must be prepared for the shearer before he arrives. This means that the sheep need to be in the barn and dry when the shearer arrives. (The amount of wet wool arriving in the warehouse is surprising.) Don't feed the ewes for 12 hours prior to shearing. This helps to clean out the digestive tract and is easier on the shearer and ewe and improves the cleanliness of the shearing floor.

Bedding

Don't bed with straw the night before the shearer arrives. It may seem like good management to have the barn well bedded, but in reality, the ewes will drag this fresh straw onto the shearing floor and this will contaminate the fleece with vegetable material.

Labor

Have plenty of help when the shearer arrives in order to keep sheep to the shearer and wool away from the shearer. With fewer shearers available, keeping a good one coming back to your farm is an investment in your future. It also makes sure that you get the wool away from potential contamination and into a wool bag as soon as possible.

Wool Bags

The most desirable wool packaging material for most small-flock producers is the plastic wool bag. These are relatively new to the industry, but they have made a big difference in reducing the contamination of jute fibers. The combs can not differentiate between wool and jute fibers, but the final product will be of lower quality if the wool is contaminated with jute.

Sorting

Different parts of the fleece have different values. Belly wool tends to be shorter and dirtier and needs to be pulled out on the shearing floor and bagged separately. Black fleeces need to be bagged separately from the white fleeces so as not to contaminate the white wool with the black wool. Keep in mind that a white fiber can be dyed black or any other color, but black fiber has very limited uses.

Marketing

If you go to the bother of taking care of the clip from the sheep to the wool bag, you don't want to drop the ball in your marketing. Different wool has different value and you need to either separate your wool by quality and grade at

the farm or through your marketing agency in order to realize your maximum return. If good sorting does not occur, you will receive just an average price that everyone else gets. Your good wool receives the same price as your lower-quality wools. There is no recognition of the extra time you took in order to improve your clip.

In summary, most producers are in the sheep business to raise lambs, and well they should be. However, the wool fiber does have value and if properly managed can offset some, or all, of the shearing bill and in many years, even contribute to some other variable costs.

Coyotes In New York State

What: The eastern coyote is about 4 to 5 feet long and about 35 to 45 pounds. This coyote looks like a medium-sized German shepherd with a full, bushy tail usually carried down, and erect, pointed ears. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation estimates about 20,000 to 30,000 coyotes live in New York during the summer.

Hunting: According to the DEC, 2,000 coyotes are killed annually in upstate New York. A small game hunting license is required to hunt and a trapping license required to trap coyotes.

If you see a coyote: Try to scare it away, including throwing rocks at it, but never get close to one. Don't walk pets outdoors without a leash, especially at night. Don't leave pets or their food dishes outside over night.



Source: Paul Curtis, Cornell University and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Opportunities for Turkey Growers

The following is from the NY Farms! Program: <http://www.nyfarms.info/>

Turkey season is only seven months away, just enough time to start looking ahead and making plans. Last year's turkey related traffic on our website was very high, with close to one thousand people per day looking for locally raised and online-sale turkeys through our search engine. Hindsight indicates that we could have sold many more birds had we had a greater supply of the types of turkeys that most of our shoppers wanted: large, heritage breed birds, and fresh birds

(instead of frozen). Two weeks before Thanksgiving, we had already sold out of these two popular products and many likely buyers ended up going elsewhere.

Heritage breeds “beef up” more slowly than the standard breeds, so now is the time to consider raising some heritage birds like the American Bronze, Bourbon Red, or Narragansett. Information on raising free-ranging turkeys, as well as where to obtain the lesser-known historic varieties is available from The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919)542-5704; <http://www.albc-usa.org/>.

As for fresh turkeys, we know there is a strong market for them. Shipping them is tricky, of course. We are researching the best practices; if you are interested in knowing what we find out, send us an email and let us know.

While we are eager to make more heritage and fresh turkeys available, we have also been monitoring the Avian Flu issue. Therefore, we are issuing something of a cautious invitation to our turkey raising members. We’d be happy to talk with you if your considering adding some heritage birds to your mix this year.

Contact Local Harvest at <http://www.localharvest.org>.



Poultry Your Way—Basic overview of alternative poultry systems of production. Although basic, it covers important topics and gives good resource links. And you can’t beat the price—IT’S FREE! Check out <http://www.misa.umn.edu/vd/publications/poultryyourway.html>.

“Dead Birds Don’t Fly” - An Avian Flu Primer for Small-Scale Farmers—This 18-page publication provides a to-the-point overview of the risks and preventive measures associated with Avian Flu relevant to small-scale poultry producers. Check it out at <http://www.agobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=80410> or give Heather a call for a copy.



Marketing Help For Livestock Farmers

SPRAKERS, New York, February 15, 2006 - Are you a small farmer frustrated by the difficulty in getting your beef, pork, veal, lamb, goat, farm raised venison, or poultry processed? The Northeast Livestock Processing Service Company (NELPSC) is here to assist the livestock farmer by making it easier to get their

livestock processed. They are seeking to sign up interested producers starting March 1st.


NELPSC will help the livestock producer by offering the following services:

- A Processing Coordinator who advocates on the farmer's behalf for the best quality processing, processing discounts, scheduling preference at processing plants, one person contact for scheduling and cutting instructions,
- Personal service and technical assistance regarding: greater consistency in percent return of usable meat, attention to quality control, attention to humane animal handling, guidance on retail cuts and packaging, live animal readiness for processing, product storage for held inventory, production recommendations for "sliding livestock" into off-season processing periods;
- Information sharing regarding transport of livestock to the processing plants. Livestock producers will be asked to pay a per head fee which will be offset in part by the discount NELPSC has negotiated with processors.

Kathleen Harris, Livestock Processing Coordinator with NELPSC says, "Having been a livestock farmer for 26 years, I know first hand how difficult it can be to have your animals processed. I am particularly eager to dedicate myself to the solution and I am excited to be able to provide this service to producers."

The Northeast Livestock Processing Service Company, LLC (NELPSC) is a producer-based company born of a grassroots effort by the Hudson-Mohawk Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) to address the on-going issues associated with obtaining meat processing for livestock and poultry. The company consists of a five member board of directors, three advisors and a processing coordinator and is funded by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, NYS Senate Majority Leader office, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hudson Mohawk RC&D, and the Rensselaer County Economic Development Office.

This service also benefits meat processors who will be in contact with one processing coordinator for scheduling and cutting instructions rather than several farmers. It will also provide processors with more work, especially off-season as a result of the technical assistance to producers about "sliding" livestock.



**The sign up of
producers will begin
March 1, 2006.**

If you are a producer or a member of a producer group and you would like more information about the Northeast Livestock Processing Service Company please contact Processing Coordinator, Kathleen Harris at (518) 673-5193 or by email nelpsc@logical.

REAL FOOD Markets for Regional & Traditional Foods

You are invited to apply to two new markets in New York City for regional, seasonal, and traditional foods. The markets will be held in neighborhoods where the community is eager for fresh, regional farm products: Little Italy and Greenwich Village.

Like a traditional farmers' market, these markets include farmers selling food they have produced. Unlike farmers' markets, Real Food Markets will also invite farmer coops who share transportation and marketing, food artisans who make foods from regional ingredients, and selected purveyors of regional foods. In addition, the Region for these markets covers 10 states in the Northeast.

The hope is to (1) offer a unique and complementary selection of quality foods to New Yorkers; and (2) provide markets for farmers and food producers who don't qualify for farmers' markets or don't attend them for various reasons, such as distance.

The markets will be open Saturdays from June 17 to December 23. Although every new market (and every new stand at existing markets) takes time to build, we will work hard at publicity and we expect to make them a success for you. We can provide advice and information about display and other marketing tips.

Contact: NINA PLANCK—(212)982-6462—NINA@NINAPLANCK.COM

Mark Your Calendars...



Ag-Citement 2006—June 3rd, 2006—Taylor's Tayl-Wind Farm Marshall Rd., Cassville—11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. ♦Petting Zoo ♦Horse & Pone Rides ♦Hay Rides ♦Farm Tours ♦Free Games & Giveaways ♦Agricultural Demos ♦BBQ & Food Concessions ♦Free Parking & Entrance ♦and much more! For more information, contact Heather at the CCE Office.

Boonville-Oneida County Fair—July 24th-30th, 2006—Boonville Fairgrounds, Boonville, NY.

12th Great Lakes Dairy Sheep Symposium—November 9-11, 2006—Best Western Midway, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. For more information call (607)781-7000. Program & registration info will be available at www.dsana.org.



Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Oneida County

Ag Staff Available To Assist You:

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Heather Sweeney, Dairy & Livestock Production—extension 122, email hes7@cornell.edu

Marty Broccoli, Agriculture Economic Development—extension 121, email mjb83@cornell.edu

We're on the web:

<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/oneida/>

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