



May 2018

This month's issue is coming to you a few days early, as there are some events coming up early in May that we wouldn't want you to miss out on. We hope the grass is finally and quickly greening up where you are, and that your livestock are happily eating fresh grass in the next week or so!



(Please continue to send in notices of pasture walks and workshops by 3 days prior to the end of each month - the GrazeTte is distributed monthly.)

For information on facilities or services, or to request sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids at meetings, please contact the individual listed for the event at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Upcoming Pasture Workshops and Related Events:

(Please note events listed are primarily held in New York State, unless indicated otherwise)

Upper Susquehanna Coalition Pasture Management Schools – Wednesday and Thursday, May 2nd and 3rd – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day – rain or shine in the field, please dress appropriately - 5/2 – Greg Halich Farm, 6962 County Road 2, Addison and John Burns, 8475 Morgan Creek Road, Lindley (Steuben County) – 5/3 – Allen Troyer Family Organic Dairy Farm, 583 County Road 36, Guilford (Chenango County) - Vermont's Pasture consultant Sarah Flack and author of *The Art and Science of Grazing* will be on the farms leading in-depth pasture management and monitoring skills and teaching solutions in growing more forage to lower feed costs. These hands-on pasture walks will focus on improving marginal pastures, how to plan out your rotations, early season grazing approaches, determining the best time to graze plants, fertility management, animal impact grazing techniques, weather related management strategies and in-field farmer training exercises to hone your grazer's eye. Pre-registration is required to help plan for lunch and logistics - a donation lunch featuring homemade fare will be available. To reserve your place for this unique early season grazing event please contact: Jonathon Barter, Steuben SWCD at (607) 776-7398 Ext. 3 or Brett Chedzoy, Schuyler CCE at (607) 535-7161 and bjc226@cornell.edu for Steuben County workshop. Contact Troy Bishopp at (315) 824-9849 Ext. 110 or Troy-Bishopp@verizon.net to register for Chenango County workshop. The grazing schools are sponsored by The Upper Susquehanna Coalition, The National Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program, The Tri-County Grazer's Group, The Central NY Grazer's Group, Organic Valley Cooperative, Chenango & Steuben Co. Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Schuyler County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Lee Newspapers and the Addison and Guilford Amish Church Communities.

Pasture Walk: Focus on Healthy Soils – Saturday, May 12th – 11:30 am to 2:30 pm – Spas Farm, Paul and Connie Spas, 3781 Morley Road, Ashville (Chautauqua County) – Everyone with an interest in learning about rotational grazing, building healthy soils, and raising beef cattle are welcome to attend. The Spas Farm is a third generation family-run farm overlooking Chautauqua Lake. Paul and Connie have a herd of registered Red Devon cattle, and graze 30 cow-calf pairs with a focus on producing high-quality beef using regenerative farming practices to build and sustain soil health. Soil health has been identified as a limiting factor to productivity on many farms nationwide, and the pasture walk will include interactive activities using the "Soil Health" trailer equipped to measure and demonstrate the three vital components of soil health – Physical, Chemical, and Biological. This trailer is part of a 5 state Conservation Innovation Grant funded by the NRCS. Fay Benson, Extension Educator with Cornell University SCNY Regional Team, will compare 3-4 soil management plots under a rainfall simulator to measure aggregate stability. Participants will use penetrometers to measure soil compaction, and a demonstration of the Active Carbon test to measure how much food the soil contains for the biology living there. We will also discuss the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF) Insurance Program which is available to land owners to manage risks with their forages and pastures. This pasture walk is being co-sponsored by New York's Grazing Coalition, Seneca Trail RC&D, the Spas Farm, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County. The cost to attend will be \$5 per person payable at the pasture walk, to help cover the cost of lunch. Registration is requested by May 10th by contacting Lisa Kempisty at CCE of Chautauqua County at 716-664-9502 Ext 203 or ljk4@cornell.edu.

Silvopasturing when Planning for Profit with Livestock Workshop – Tuesday, May 15th - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm - North Branch Farm, 208 River Road, Saranac (Franklin County) - *rain or shine in the field, please dress appropriately* - Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District will be sponsoring a Silvopasture Workshop. At this field meeting, Cornell Natural Resource Specialist, Joe Orefice and team members will be presenting at a working farm that is utilizing the silvopasture techniques. Joe has implemented this practice on his own farm and will be sharing new field management techniques, evaluating the forest as a timber resource or a feed source for livestock, identifying the plants for their feed values and tips to keep your livestock operation from eating into your forest profits. Joe will also discuss tree species selection, timber quality, canopy spacing and regenerating while grazing. This

interactive workshop is free and open to the public, pre-registration is required by May 8th to guarantee lunch. This workshop is eligible for SAF, CCA and NYLT credits. Pre-register today by calling (518) 651-2097 and ask for Kristin Ballou or email kballou@fcswcd.org.

Advance Notice:

Rotational Grazing Workshop – Friday, June 8th - 10:00 am to 3:00pm - Butterfield Farm, 1002 Coveytown Rd, Burke (Franklin County) - *rain or shine in the field, please dress appropriately* - Franklin County Soil and Water will be sponsoring a rotational grazing workshop with Grazing Specialist Troy Bishopp from Madison County. Troy will be speaking on what a grazing management plan is, forages you might find in your pasture, and help you and your farm become “grazing specialists”. Participants will walk through an existing grazing operation to help visualize how to set up a grazing system based on forage types, conditions, and availability to livestock. Lunch will be provided by the district; following lunch participants will learn how to implement a grazing system and Troy will explain his Grazing Chart which helps farmers during the grazing season. This interactive workshop is free and open to the public, pre-registration is required by June 1st to guarantee lunch. Pre-register today by calling (518) 651-2097 and ask for Allycia Leach or email aleach@fcswcd.org.

7th National Grazing Lands Conference: Taking the Gamble out of Grazing – December 2nd to 5th – Peppermill Resort and Casino, Reno, NV – This conference will provide you with a forum for discussion and exchange of grazing land information and technology, an opportunity to identify grazing land research and program needs, and a chance to see new products and services. ***BE A FARMER-PRESENTER!!*** At this national grazing conference, the NGC endeavors to have livestock producers with very good grazing operations who are also good speakers giving the presentations at the conference. The NGC also tries to have good and equal representation from all parts of the country. This includes producer speakers from the Eastern U.S. that are managing the pasture operations well. If you are interested in submitting an abstract, please contact Karen Hoffman, USDA-NRCS and NYGC coordinator for more information and to discuss your ideas for a presentation – karen.hoffman2@ny.usda.gov or 607-334-3231 ext. 116. A short abstract and bio is needed by **May 15th** to participate in the 7th National Grazing Conference on December 2 through 5, 2018 as a speaker. Details on how to do this can be found under the Grazing Conference information on the website <https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/a9eda2a6-ffd7-4174-917d-0fae56614ed2>. Register: <http://www.cvent.com/events/7th-national-grazing-lands-conference/event-summary-564c8780432141b0beb4d2ff69e08a46.aspx>

Other Interesting Events:

Since many of our readers do more on their farms than graze livestock, we have added this new section. We will list events not directly related to grazing, such as topics on other crops, soil health, conservation, and farm business management, but that may be of interest to graziers in this section. This will not be all-inclusive, as there would be too many to list, so please be understanding if you don't see something here that you expected.

→ Improved Forage Quality, Increased Profitability for Livestock Producers – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Tuesday, May 1st – CCE Saratoga Extension Office, 50 West High St., Ballston Spa

Thursday, May 3rd – CCE Schoharie Extension Office – 173 South Grand St., Cobleskill

Wednesday, May 9th – CCE Chenango Extension Office – 99 North Broad St., Norwich

Join Livestock Specialist Ashley McFarland and Field Crop Specialist Kevin Ganoë for a discussion on how to better utilize forages to make your livestock production more profitable. Discussion will include what are your animals nutrient requirements, what is quality forage, cutting management to achieve the

desired forage quality, and maximizing profitability by feeding forages. Registration is \$10 per farm and pre-registration is required! Pre-register on-line at <http://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu> or calling 315-866-7920.

→ **Beginning Wool Sorting Class**

Saturday, May 12th at Old School Weaving and Wool Center, Hartnett School/Truxton Community Center, 6337 Academy St., Truxton (Cortland County)

This is a class for those small and upcoming fiber producers who are new to the process. Whether preparing fiber for hand spinning or mill processing, it's important to know right from the shearing floor, how to handle the fleece, how to skirt, what types of fibers are within one fleece, how to recognize fine/medium and coarse fibers within a given fleece, when to combine them and when to separate them for maximizing the potential of the end product. The course will cover all of this and more.

The class will be taught by Sharon Milewski of Pa. and will have handouts to take home. Water and coffee will be provided, bring a bag lunch.

Comfortable shoes for long periods on your feet, a change of clothes for the ride home, and some type of light source. Either a headband lamp, or a clamping lamp for the table, and a fleece to examine. Headlamps will be available to rent for the day and fleeces will be provided for those who have none.

Class is expected to start @9:30 and run until 4 or when finished. Fee is \$80 - class limited to 12 - payment due in full by April 30,2018

For further info email: Kathryn@barnlooms.com

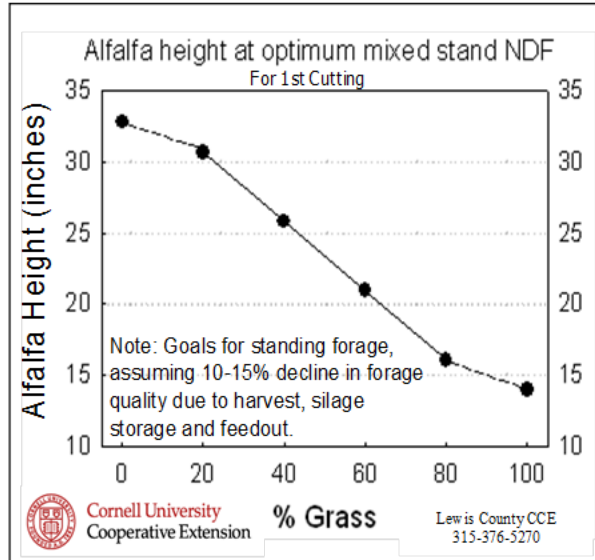
Pasture Management News:

2018 Cornell Cooperative Extension 1st Cut Monitoring Reports

Monitoring 1st Cut Harvest Timing - First cutting can represent a significant portion of your total hay crop for the year and has the potential to be very high quality feed if harvested at the correct timing. To help you monitor that timing there are tools available.

Monitoring Programs - Several CCE teams statewide offer weekly monitoring programs in the month of May and provide field updates in many areas of the state. See the list below and contact your local CCE specialist to receive these weekly updates

Alfalfa Height - Alfalfa Height is a great indicator of harvest timing for alfalfa and grass fields. Use this graph to identify the optimum alfalfa height for harvest based on the percent grass in the stand.



Mixed Stands - A key to utilizing this information is an accurate determination of the percent grass in the field. Due to the growth habits of the crops it often appears that there is a higher % alfalfa than there actually is. It is very important to walk fields and get a representative view of the percentage in the entire field. Given that our eyes often tell us there is more alfalfa there than there actually is be prepared to harvest earlier than anticipated.

Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team - Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga & Schoharie Counties

Kevin Ganoe, khg2@cornell.edu 315-866-7920 x230 and David Balbian, drb23@cornell.edu, 518-312-3592

Website: <https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/topic.php?id=18>

Delaware County CCE - Delaware County

Dale Dewing, drd4@cornell.edu (607) 865-7090 and Paul Cerosaletti, pec6@cornell.edu, (607) 865-7090

Website: <https://ccedelaware.org/ag/>

Northern NY Regional Ag Team - Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex & Franklin Counties

Ron Kuck, rak76@cornell.edu, 315-704-8810 and Kitty O'Neil, kao32@cornell.edu, 315-379-9192 x253

Website: <https://ncrat.cce.cornell.edu/>

Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team - Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming & Yates Counties

Jodi Letham, jil347@cornell.edu, 585-208-8209

Website: <https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu>

Oneida County CCE - Oneida & Madison Counties

Jeff Miller, jjm14@cornell.edu, 315-269-5599 and Sarah Ficken, sjs299@cornell.edu, 315-684-3001 ext.108

Website: <http://www.cceoneida.com/agriculture/>

South Central New York Dairy & Field Crops - Broome, Chemung, Cortland, Onondaga, Tioga & Tompkins Counties

Janice Degni, jgd3@cornell.edu, 607-391-2672, Betsy Hicks, bjh246@cornell.edu, 607-391-2673 and Melanie Palmer, mjp232@cornell.edu, 315-424-9485 x228

Website: <https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/>

Pasture Management Tips:

Early spring is when the grass and legumes in your pasture grow the most rapidly – about twice as fast as it does in the summer! Sometimes it grows so fast that it's difficult to keep up with it and you end up putting animals in grass that is simply too tall.

Go with the grass.....that's a simple way to remember a very simple management strategy for grazing - always put your animals where the grass is at the best stage for grazing it. Many people forget that there is no rule that says you must graze every paddock every rotation, or that you can't skip paddocks in your pre-set rotation – you can go from paddock 4 to paddock 10 if the grass is ready in 10, but not ready in paddocks 5-9. If you keep an eye on paddocks grazed early in the rotation, and you see that they are recovering rapidly, you need to plan on grazing them sooner rather than later. If you have some paddocks that get ahead of you, mow them for a hay crop. If getting the hay off those acres is difficult, they can be clipped and once the forage has wilted a bit, turn some animals in to pick up the "hay" they wouldn't graze when it was on the plant.

The NYGC Gazette is not available on the web!

If you've been trying to click on the link lately, you probably discovered that it no longer works. If having it available on the NRCS-NY website is better for you, or makes it easier to send people to, please let us know and we will try to have it reinstated.

Notes:

Want to submit an event? Interested in subscribing? Simply send an email to karen.hoffman2@ny.usda.gov with your event information, or with the subject line of "subscribe" to be added to the distribution list! If submitting an event listing, please submit it 3 days before the end of the month prior to the date scheduled, as this newsletter will only be generated at the beginning of the month. **Not interested?** If we've sent this to you, and you're not interested in receiving it again, also send an email to the above address with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Brought to you by the NY Grazing Coalition. The NYGC is a grass-roots coalition of producers, agricultural industry, and conservation groups with an interest in the sound conservation of private grazing lands, with funding from USDA-NRCS in New York. The goal of this newsletter is to increase awareness of grazing events around New York and in neighboring states, as well as to provide information that is useful on the farm. For more information on the National Grazing Lands Coalition, check out the NatGLC website at www.grazinglands.org. Information on the NYGC can be obtained from Coordinator Karen Hoffman at the email address above.

"Promoting Clean, Green, and Profitable Agriculture"

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish, or call the [State Information/Hotline Numbers](#).

All Other Inquires

For any other information not pertaining to civil rights, please refer to the listing of the [USDA Agencies and Offices](#).