



January 2021

*Happy New Year
2021*

It's probably safe to say that most people are happy to say goodbye to 2020 and welcome in a New Year. It's been a challenge in so many ways, for so many people. Fortunately, as we look towards 2021 we are beginning to see some hope for life to return to "more normal" – there's a light at the end of the tunnel. January is packed with opportunities for you to learn, even if it is all virtual learning for now – again we ask you to please consider signing up for an event and support the agency/organization staff who have spent time modifying and planning them in a new format. This may also be your chance to "attend" a conference that you have always wanted to go to, but haven't been able to due to distance, time, or cost!

(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)

What Now?! Creative Slaughterhouse Workarounds (webinar) – Wednesday, January 6th – 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm – This webinar will be an interactive discussion with Heather Sandford, founding farmer and butcher at The Piggery, now with Empire Food Consultants, and Shannon Hayes of Sap Bush Hollow Farm and Café. The conversation will be facilitated by Erica Frenay, livestock specialist and online course coordinator with the Cornell Small Farms Program. During the webinar you'll hear how Shannon found opportunity and benefit in the midst of 2020's livestock processing crisis. You'll also hear Heather share the depth and breadth of her experience working with meat processors to help you brainstorm redundancy plans for butchering your animals. Along the way we'll touch on themes like: educating your customers, cultivating a solid relationship with processors, and seizing on moments of chaos to improve your quality of life. There will be plenty of time for Heather and Shannon to field questions from the audience. [Register Now](#)

2021 Catskill Regional Agriculture Conference (webinars) – Monday, January 11th to Saturday, January 16th - Join farmers from around the region for this premier agricultural event consisting of 20 sessions. Our top-notch speakers will be presenting timely information about dairy, livestock, vegetable, and flower production as well as grazing management, marketing, bee-keeping, and energy audits. Participation is free, but registration is required. Attendees may choose to follow a single track or mix and match sessions that are of interest. Dairy track includes Managing Wild Yeasts and Molds in Silage Preservation; Reducing Heifer Rearing Cost through Improved Reproductive Management; Cost of Raising Dairy Replacements, An Updated Look; Livestock track includes Improving Herd Genetics for Higher Quality Beef; Managing Growing Cattle during the Winter Feed Period; Keys to Achieving Top Finish for Beef on Grass; Grazing track includes Grazing Tips and Tricks; Pasture Remediation & the Do's and Dont's of High Density Grazing; More Pasture and Fewer Inputs. Registration is available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-catskill-regional-agriculture-conference-tickets-132948483493> - Upon registering you will be directed to our online schedule and will be asked to create an account. This handy tool will allow you to view speaker bios, presentation descriptions, book mark upcoming sessions that you'd like to attend, get Zoom connection links, and access webinar recordings if you happen to miss a session. We hope you will find it handy and helpful! Find more information here: <https://www.ccedelaware.org/ag/crac/>.

Pasture Management for Limited Resource Farmers (webinar) – Tuesday, January 12th – 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm - This webinar will give small, limited resource farmers the tools they need to better understand the benefits of good pasture management. We will discuss why continuous grazing is not sufficient, how to find and create markets for their products, and the importance of establishing a business entity and keeping it separate from one's homestead. Participants will learn how these management decisions not only affect their farm but also their community and the earth's sustainability for years to come. Our guest presenter is Felicia Bell, agriculture specialist with NCAT/ATTRA. Felicia works out of NCAT's Gulf States office located in Jackson, Mississippi. Sponsored by Food Animal Concerns Trust. Register at <https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=EF56DC89824A30>.

Body Condition Scoring in Beef (webinar) – Tuesday, January 12th - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - This online Zoom meeting will serve to review the importance of monitoring BCS and how it can impact a cow/calf producers' bottom line. The link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you after you register. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/y4gdpuvy>. Please contact Marylynn at mrm7@cornell.edu with questions or for assistance in registering.

Michigan State Small Ruminant Birthing Management Webinar – Tuesdays, January 12th to February 2nd – 7:00 to 8:30 pm - Are you interested in learning how to improve birth management of your herd or flock? The MSU Small Ruminant Extension team is offering a 4-part webinar series on birth management that will lead you through a host of topics aimed to improve birth management of sheep and goats. Each weekly session will last approximately 90 min and sessions will be recorded to allow future viewing. Each session will feature seminars, specialized instructional videos and question and answer sessions with an expert panel to cover each of these topics. Topics will include: nutritional management, use of ultrasound, facility design, newborn care, hypothermia treatment, grafting, vaccination protocols, mortality diagnoses, health and feeding program assessment. Registration: \$40/farm or family and includes a 40+ page manual, a laminated lamb

hypothermia/starvation treatment poster and access to all recorded sessions (additional members of the same farm/ family may receive additional manuals and posters for \$20 per set). Contact Carla McLachlan for more details (phone: 517-432-5402; email: MCLACHL2@msu.edu). Online registration only for this event and it may be completed at: https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu_3645 Choose the MSU Extension tab. Those that register before Jan 1, 2021 will receive the manual and poster before the sessions begin. Those that register later will receive these items also but likely not before the beginning of the first session.

Thirteenth Annual Winter Green Up Grazing Conference (webinar) – Wednesdays, January 13th, 20th, and 27th – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm each day – Join us at our thirteenth Winter Green-Up, the Capital District's original grazing conference! Speakers and topics are: Elizabeth Marks, USDA-NRCS biologist, Holistic Management Educator, and USDA Northeast Climate Hub detailee on "Climate Change Trends Over the Last 125 Years in NY and the Northeast and What Farmers Can Do to be Resilient to Them" on January 13th; Ed Rayburn, Extension Specialist at West Virginia University on "Capturing and Converting Sunlight to Healthy Soil, Meat and Milk; It's What Plants Do" on January 20th; and Fred Provenza, Professor Emeritus of Behavioral Ecology at Utah State University on "Nourishing the Wisdom Body" on January 27th. Three sessions are \$35, two sessions are \$25, and one session is \$15 – prices are per person. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/WinterGreenUp2021> - links to the Zoom meetings will be emailed to you after registration. For questions, contact Ashley Pierce at 518-649-0267 or arp253@cornell.edu. For assistance with registration, call 518-765-2518 or email cce-caahp@cornell.edu.

Sheep Production – online course – Thursdays, January 14th to February 18th – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Have sheep or thinking about getting a flock? Producers of all experience levels will find something for them in this lively, wide-ranging course. There is no one right way to raise sheep – this course covers many of these different options. Sponsored by the Cornell Small Farms Program – more information is available at <https://smallfarmcourses.com/p/bf-232-sheep-production>.

NOFA-NY Winter Conference – Rooted in Resilience – Saturday, January 16th to Saturday, January 23rd – This year's conference will be held virtually and will offer a full week of online workshops, discussion groups, and entertainment. We're also excited to feature the third biennial Northeast Organic Seed Conference, as well as NOFA-NY's 2021 organic dairy programming! You can register for the full conference or choose a one-day pass. Grazing-related workshops can be found under both the livestock and dairy tracks. For the full conference registration, we're offering two price points in an effort to make the conference more accessible to a broader audience. All full conference participants will have the same level of access regardless of how much is paid for registration. Learn more about [the 2021 Winter Conference here](#).

Pasture Biodiversity for Animal Health (webinar) – Thursday, January 21st – 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm - The health of livestock, humans and the environment are closely tied to plant diversity. Sustainable farming practices, which use grazing animals, are seen as a potential solution to continued biodiversity loss resulting from over-or-under grazing. There is evidence that healthy ecosystems with minimally disturbed soils, adequate access to diverse, high quality forages, and clean water have a robust correlation with livestock's well-being. In this webinar, Kara Kroeger, NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, will discuss how you can manage your pastures with regenerative methods to beneficially influence the health of your livestock and the ecosystem by fostering biodiversity both above and below ground. Sponsored by Food Animal Concerns Trust. Register at <https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=EF57DC86864D39>.

Grazing to Avoid Trouble (webinar) – Tuesday, January 26th – 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm - Join FACT and NCAT Livestock Specialist and sheep and goat producer Linda Coffey to discuss some of the problems farmers might encounter while grazing their livestock. Bloat, toxic plants, fescue toxicity, predator control, parasite management, and more will be addressed in this hour, with time for questions. Help us meet your needs by sharing questions or comments on issues you have faced when you register below. Linda Coffey brings many years of experience grazing sheep, goats, and sometimes cattle, as well as her work through the ATTRA program (www.attra.ncat.org) and will be providing those who register with many resources to help you improve your grazing and avoid trouble on your farm. Sponsored by Food Animal Concerns Trust. Register at <https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=EF57DE81824B3D>.

Webinars by eOrganic – available anytime - Learn the latest in organic farming practices and research by attending or watching an eOrganic Webinar. Sign up for upcoming webinars to watch slides, listen to the

presenter, and type in questions during the live events. To receive notices about upcoming webinars, and find out when we post the archived sessions, [sign up for the eOrganic newsletter](#). Register for upcoming webinars or browse our extensive archive of past webinars in chronological order, or [view them by topic](#). Past webinar topics include “Effects of Different Organic Pastures on Dairy Heifer Growth and Development”, “Forage Legumes in Pasture and Successful Inter-seeding”, and “Pasture Mixes to Improve Sustainability of Pasture-based Organic Dairy: Nutrient Quality and Dry Matter Intake”, among others. You can also find the webinar recordings of past webinars at the links below or on the [eOrganic YouTube channel](#). We now use Zoom for all webinars.

NRCS Conservation Webinars On-Demand – You can search for pasture and grazing related topics in these on-demand webinars <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/previous-webinars>

Penn State Extension Webinars - Find educational material about dairy cattle, including nutrition and feed management, grazing, health and care, reproduction, facilities and technology, and business management - <https://extension.psu.edu/animals-and-livestock/dairy/see-all-dairy/shopby/webinars>

Advance Notice:

Practical Advice for Solar Grazing Sheep (webinar) – Thursday, February 11th – 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm - Join FACT and panelists from the American Solar Grazing Association to discuss new trends in solar grazing, best practices for shepherds and solar developers, and how you can get started. Sponsored by Food Animal Concerns Trust. Register at <https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=EF57DD80844E31>.

Other Interesting Events:

Since many of our readers do more on their farms than graze livestock, we have added this 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.

Virtual NYCO Meeting – Expanding No-Till Crops – Tuesday, January 12th – 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

This year's New York Certified Organic (NYCO) meetings will be held via Zoom. We will keep the same days as we have had for the past 28 years for the discussion based meetings, the second Tuesday of January, February, and March. We will start at noon and go to 1:30 pm. Half the time will be a speaker and half the time will be discussion between organic farmers in attendance. The one thing missing will be the dish to pass lunch.

On January 12th, Cornell University Soil and Crop Sciences Professor Matthew Ryan will seek input from the audience on what components of a cropping system would be needed to allow organic crops such as wheat to be grown under no-till management. He will also show the video of this summer's organic field days highlighting their work on no-till wheat and soybeans, done at the Musgrave Research Farm.

[Click here to register once for all three meetings](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the meetings.

For more information, visit the [New York Organic Dairy website](#) or contact NYCO Meeting Coordinator Fay Benson at afb3@cornell.edu or 607-391-2669. Other contacts for the NYCO meetings are: Emily Reiss, at Kreher Family Farms, Clarence, NY, and Luke Gianforte of Gianforte Farm, Cazenovia, NY.

Social Media & Online Marketing Course – Thursdays, January 14th to February 11th – 6:00 pm

Are webpages still useful? Does Facebook drive sales in real life? What do hashtags do? What kinds of photos do customers respond to? What are good strategies for low-cost online sales/marketing? What is Square and should I be using it? If you've been struggling with questions like these for your farm, this course is a great starting place for you. Take our [Social Media & Online Marketing](#) online course and learn how to build a successful online presence, grow your customer base, and sell more product. This course is for aspiring, new, or experienced farmers, but it assumes participants will be beginner to intermediate social media/online marketing users who are interested in polishing and expanding their skills for increased social media traffic and online marketing for farm businesses. Students should have basic digital proficiency, including use of email, internet searches, and may already have some personal and/or business social media accounts set up, including Facebook, Instagram, etc. The course is not geared to advanced online marketing users and/or those who anticipate the majority of their farm sales to come from online sources.

PRO-DAIRY Forage Management Online Course – January 15th to March 15th

The Forage Management Course will begin with agronomic factors that influence forage quality and follow key strategies for harvest, preservation and feed out of quality feed. It will be valuable for decision makers and key employees in the cropping and feeding system on the farm. The course will include a mix of basic “101” level material combined with more advanced concepts and recent research findings.

Who Should Attend?

This course will focus on practical information for day to day management and decision making of forage crops from crop selection to feed out on a dairy farm. Aspects of the course will be specific to Northeast U.S. growing conditions and horizontal silos (bunks, trenches, drive over piles) but most of the material will be applicable to any dairy operation and storage structure.

Topics Covered

- Fermentation and Silage Science
- Forage Variety Selection & Quality Considerations
- Forage Harvest Management
- Silage Storage & Management
- TMR Mixing Procedure & Maintenance
- Feed Out and Feed Bunk Management

Registration is \$265.00 per person. A discount of \$25 applies for registrations completed before January 2.

[Link to Forage Management Course information](#)

[Link to Forage Management Course registration](#)

Pasture News and Resources:

Safety for Supplementing Heat to Livestock

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program (SWNYDLFC) shares considerations for using supplemental heat sources around livestock. While there are many ways to supplement heat, mindful steps need to be taken to ensure that those heat sources are both effective and safe. [Read more.](#)

REMINDER - New York State Forage Exchange Announced

Within New York State several regions have experienced drought conditions reducing the quality and quantity of forages produced for dairy and livestock production. To help agricultural producers locate forage to

purchase, or for producers that have forage to sell, Cornell Cooperative Extension announces the NYS Forage Exchange website, nysforageexchange.com <<https://cornell.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7dc0fe090189ae764dc64e4fc&id=5cb121d8e5&e=267f6a3967>>

The NYS Forage Exchange provides a free system to match potential sellers and buyers of forage within New York State. Sellers can easily register within the system and then post the forage they have available to sell. Potential purchasers can browse the advertisements, and then contact the seller through email for additional information or to complete purchase arrangements.

Watch this screencast on how to use the NYS Forage Exchange. <<https://cornell.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7dc0fe090189ae764dc64e4fc&id=955c69df8b&e=267f6a3967>>

This is a moderated website, so all ad submissions are reviewed for appropriateness before publication on the forage exchange website. The information provided is general and educational in nature. Employees of Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension do not endorse or recommend any specific product or seller listed on this site.

Don't Forget to Monitor Snow Loads on Barns and Farm Structures

With heavy snowfall blanketing several regions of New York State, the State Department of Agriculture and Markets is reminding farmers about the importance of monitoring the weight load on structures, especially barns and other agricultural buildings, on their farms. [Read more.](#)

Notes:

Want to submit an event? Interested in subscribing? Simply send an email to karen.hoffman2@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"

Non-Discrimination Statement

Non-Discrimination Policy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

To File an Employment Complaint

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's [EEO Counselor](#) within 45 days of the

date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html.

To File a Program Complaint

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9419, by fax at (202) 690-7442, or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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](#).