

NODPA News

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

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Alfred State heifer barn.

Alfred State College Offers Unique Blend of Organic Dairy Education

By Joan Sinclair Petzen
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock
and Field Crops Team

Nearly ten years ago, Alfred State College chose a path of operating both organic and conventional dairies to create a unique learning environment among dairy colleges. Farm manager Virginia Chamberlain has been managing the farm since the fall of 2013. In a college

farm setting, one must remember, the student – teacher needs come first when operating a farm laboratory.

“Alfred State started as an agricultural institution, so we take that heritage seriously as we think about farming and its future”, stated Joseph Greenthal, comptroller with the Pioneer Center at the College. He further said, “Our farm continues to evolve, and we look to create a niche in the industry as we invest

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The 15th Annual NODPA Field Days Organic Dairy: Preparing for the Next Generation October 1 & 2, 2015

By Nora Owens, NODPA Field Days Coordinator

In just a few weeks, the 15th Annual NODPA Field Days will take place in Pavilion, NY, an active farming community south of Rochester, NY. If you haven't done so already, now is the time to sign up and make your travel plans for two days of education, on-farm tours and workshops, socializing, and a terrific cookout at Letchworth State Park. NODPA Field Days kicks off with a tour of Cottonwood Farms, the family farm of the Tillotson family, Pavilion, NY, where they are all about looking toward and embracing the future. There, you

will see their robotic milking system, automated calf feeding system, compost heifer barn, sophisticated manure management system, and hear about their successful generational transfer. Following the full-morning farm tour, attendees will gather at BJ's Restaurant and Banquet Facility, a 5-minute drive from the Tillotson's farm, for meeting registration and lunch.

The educational program begins right after lunch and, as the title suggests, this year's

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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

From the NODPA President

L It's only a few short weeks until the Field Days in Pavilion, New York! You can see a schedule of the workshops and events in this newsletter, and I hope that you will consider joining us. Nora Owens has done a great job in organizing this annual meeting, and we are all grateful to the Tillotson family for hosting the Field Days farm tour.

To be brutally honest, some years it has been difficult to raise enough money to put on the Field Days through just a few large supporters. This year, the support for the event has been much broader. And although we continue to be grateful for those original sponsors, we are fortunate in having received generous support from a much wider pool of processors and small businesses. Cornell Cooperative Extension and Fay Benson's team at the New York Farm Viability Initiative/Organic Dairy Initiative are sponsoring the cookout at Letchworth State Park and have been instrumental in the planning process. New York State Department of Ag and Markets are lead sponsors, as well. It is truly heartening to have such broad support!

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This year's theme is "Organic Dairy: Preparing for the Next Generation". We want to especially invite those farmers who will be the next generation! And for this year, attending farmers that are 30 and younger will be offered a banquet dinner "on the house" with their registration. It is our way of letting young farmers know that we are glad they are joining us, and we value their thoughts and input in the workshops and discussions sessions.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in October!

Liz Bawden, NODPA President
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NODPA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance is to enable organic dairy family farmers, situated across an extensive area, to have informed discussion about matters critical to the wellbeing of the organic dairy industry as a whole.

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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

From the NODPA Desk: September 2015

By Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director

We work hard to get this issue of the NODPA News in your hands by the middle of the month as it contains so much information about our signature event of the year – NODPA Field Days and we want as many of you as possible to attend. We purposely rotate the event throughout our region to enable as many different producers as possible to take part. We always like to partner with local or regional organizations and we are very fortunate to be able to work with longtime proponent of organic dairy and friend, Fay Benson, and the New York Organic Dairy Initiative. He has made a number of introductions to key resources in the region, and has invited everyone to a Friday afternoon cookout at Letchworth State Park. We've been fortunate to have such good partners in New York, including the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell Cooperative Extension's Dr. Gerry Bertaldo and Joan Petzen, who will be participating in a number of our workshops. And, special thanks to the Tillotson family that will welcome us to their farm for the farm tour AND for our 2-hour, on-farm Cow Comfort workshop on Friday. As you can see from our program, they are deeply involved. And, as usual, we are greatly appreciative of all our sponsors. Thanks for your support!

The next NOSB meeting happens in northern Vermont and we go to print before the NOP publishes all the information about the meeting. While the agenda for the meeting will be mostly dedicated to the 2017 Sunset Review there are other issues around withdrawal times for Procaine and Lidocaine when used as a local anesthetic, to modify the withholding period to five days after administering, and the use of Parasitocides (Fenbendazole, Ivermectin, Moxidectin) plus the use of Mineral Oil for topical treatments and as a lubricant. I plan to attend the meeting and take the opportunity to speak in-person on the many issues facing organic dairies.

Over the past year, an effort has been building among organic farming organizations to discuss creating a more effective and clear voice for certified organic farmers. National policies, issues and institutions affect organic farmers, yet we, as producers, lack a strong presence to ensure that the certified organic farmers' viewpoint, needs and concerns are represented in the national arena. We are proud of the growth and grow-

ing prominence of certified organic production, and now is the time that farmers, who are at the core of this success, establish a focused and strong voice. As this initiative moves to the next stage of development, watch for the opportunity to participate in creating a national organic farmer alliance that would strengthen the organic farmer voice on the national level, as well as facilitate a stronger national organic farming movement.

NODPA, along with at least eight other organizations, submitted partial proposals to the USDA AMS on or before July 20th on a proposal for an organic check-off. NODPA's position in submitting the partial proposal was to ensure that there would be a democratic process in any decision on establishing an organic check-off, that all certificate holders would have a vote on such an important issue. OTA's proposal would have limited voting rights to the largest one third of certified farmers. We do not know how USDA AMS will use the partial proposals and how they will be incorporated into the OTA proposal when they publish the proposal(s) to form an organic check-off on the Federal Register for public comment. Hopefully, USDA will recognize the importance of allowing all members of the "organic commodity" the right to vote on establishing an organic check-off. NODPA is AGAINST ANY ORGANIC CHECK-OFF and will continue to organize against it, but OTA has purchased the right to submit a proposal so we need to ensure any process is democratic. USDA AMS has questioned the support for OTA proposal so please register your opposition to a check-off (if you haven't already done so) by going to www.noorganiccheckoff.com or write directly to Ed Maltby, NODPA, 30 Keets Road, Deerfield, MA 01342.

NODPA and many others submitted comments on the NOP's Origin of Livestock on July 27 2015 and we expect the publication of a final rule sometime in 2016, which, hopefully, will be implemented immediately. With the demand for organic milk at an all-time high and the conventional price heading rapidly downhill, dairies are being transitioned to organic under a number of different criteria enforced differently by certifiers, some of whom still allow continuous transition. If we already had a rule in place, this would be a great opportunity for those organic dairies that have replacements for sale to obtain a price for them that reflected the investment in inputs, equity and organic production. Unfortunately we don't.

Ed's note: In the July 2015 issue of the NODPA Desk we failed to identify Charlotte Vallaeys of the Food Safety & Sustainability Center, Consumer Reports who was in the photograph with Elizabeth Warren. Consumer Union is a member of NOC and Charlotte lives in eastern Massachusetts with her family. ♦

ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

Is Robotics Part of the Organic Dairy Farm of the Future?

By Rick Kersbergen Extension Professor
University of Maine Cooperative Extension

I recently was able to take a sabbatical and traveled to Europe to look at dairy systems. Most of my time was spent in the Netherlands where I was able to see lots of technology in action. I documented a lot of my travels in a series of blog posts that you can find at:

<http://umaine.edu/livestock/blog/category/cows-and-crops/>

Dutch farmers have invested heavily in the recent past to upgrade their facilities and barn infrastructure. Some of the upgrades have been due to incentives by the government to reduce ammonia emissions from manure and to take advantage of solar technology.

Nearly 90% of the farms I visited were robotic milking farms, and some estimate that nearly half of the dairies in the Netherlands use robotic technology. One of the organic dairy farms I visited was using a mobile robot that traveled to specific docking stations in the pastures. Starting in 2015, all dairy cows (organic or not) need to have access to pasture during the grazing season.

Robotics interests me for many reasons. Many of the organic dairies I work with in Maine face an aging crisis. Robotic technology may provide an incentive for another generation to continue the farm, as it provides producers with something they never have enough of...time. If you read popular press articles about farms that have switched to robotic milking, they all discuss the fact that families can now get time off to go to school functions, baseball games or just relax! Additionally, the time afforded by robotic milking also allows smaller farms with limited labor to take advantage of the narrow window of opportunity that nature provides to harvest optimum quality forage for the winter months. As one of the farmers I visited said..."I don't get up at 4am every day anymore, but my phone may get me up at 2am once a month to adjust something on the robot!"

There are many other reasons robotics may play a role in the small family farm of the future. When I visit dairy farms, I always try and make an appraisal of how content and "happy" the cows are in herd. How cows react to people or distractions are good indicators of how they are treated and their level of contentment. The higher the percentage of cows that are lying down chewing their cud, or

grazing in the pasture or eating at the feed bunk is an indicator of comfort. What I noticed in my travels was the calm nature of the cows on robotic farms. These cows are never "pushed" by people, so walking through some of the barns can be quite a challenge, as the cows don't get out of the way when you walk by!

Robotic milking offers other benefits as well. The information you can receive about individual cows is amazing. Not only is milk yield tracked, but also a host of other management data is available to the producer, including activity, milk quality, rumination and heat detection. Other robotic technology is also available, from calf feeding to mixing and feeding cows. At one farm I visited, I saw the feed in the feed bunk being pushed up for one group while another group TMR was mixed and fed out ... and I never saw a single person!

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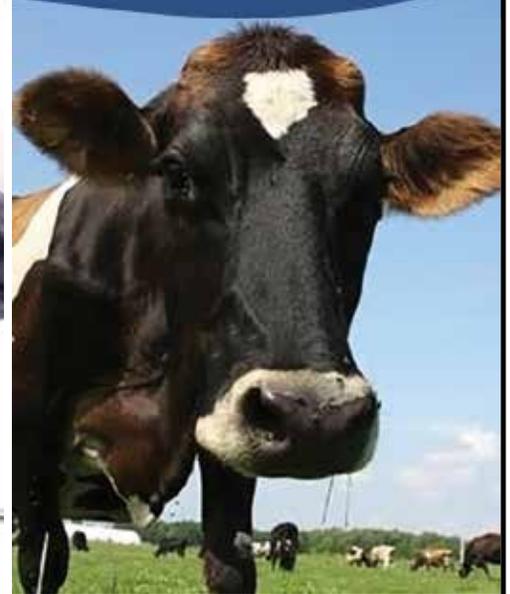
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— Josh Biemond



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(Above) At New Care Farms, the ideal cow gives 65 pounds of quality milk per day on native grass pastures that are managed the same way as the hay, for optimum balance of energy and nutrition. (Above, left) Josh and Rudi Biemond with their wives, parents and children getting ready to make their own brand of organic probiotic yogurt and fulfill the passion for farm to fridge good food.

Brothers Josh and Rudi Biemond “like making good food.” Very soon they will be making their own organic yogurt at Upper Canada Creamery with milk from their New Care Farms herd. Grazing and organic management have been mainstays here since 1989, and they were certified organic in 1996.

Udder Comfort™ yellow spray has been a big part of their fresh cow routine for 6 years. “We apply it 2x/day for the first 4 days after calving for a positive start on lactations,” says Josh. “It’s all we use. That’s it.

“I like the unique blend of essential oils in Udder Comfort, how it increases blood flow to focus the cow’s natural immune response,” he explains.

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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

Robotic Milker

continued from page 4

Obviously, there are some challenges, and these systems will not be for everyone. Most of the barns where robots were used were fairly new and designed to facilitate cow flow. Therefore, not only might you be investing in the robotic technology, but you may also need to construct new facilities as well. Pasture management as required by organic certification may also be difficult, especially if pastures are located a distance from the milking facilities.

While in Europe, I visited Germany and went to the “Eurotier” farm exposition. Robotics was definitely the main attraction that was drawing farmers in to the dairy pavilions. Numerous companies were showing off robotic feeding and milking equipment.

Most exciting to many of the visitors were the new rotary robotic milking parlors. Here are some links to more information about them and a large parlor installation in Finland.

- Hoard’s Dairyman: Robotic rotary parlor count is now 11 (http://www.hoards.com/blog_robotic-rotary-parlors)
- Dairy Herd Management: Finland’s largest dairy farm Finnmilk opens using an automatic rotary (<http://www.dairyherd.com/news/video-finland%E2%80%99s-largest-dairy-farm-finnmilk-opens-using-automatic-rotary>)

These parlors are becoming more attractive as the European Union is lifting the milk quota system and many farmers are con
continued on page 18



Contented farmer and cows on robotic farm!



Robotic mixer/feeding wagon

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

The Albrecht System for Soil Fertility: Part 2

By Neal Kinsey

The Albrecht Model of soil fertility refers to the principles Dr. William A. Albrecht used to develop a dependable system for testing soils and correcting nutrient needs to achieve top quality and production in agriculture. The program has to do with how he regarded soil fertility and approached it with measurable, scientific principles, which could be applied and proven right out in the field.

The Albrecht program is the foundational approach for achieving excellent soil fertility. However, this system is not a single program or approach to soil fertility. It is specifically modeled on what program is required for correcting fertility based on the actual needs of each soil and the economics required to achieve maximum production. There are three parts to this system. We utilize and teach all three of these programs to those clients who want to learn any or all three parts of the Albrecht system. This is the true Albrecht Model for soil fertility.

The first and most utilized is building up medium to heavy soils that are lacking in fertility. This approach involves correcting the soil to 65-70 % calcium and 10-12 % magnesium in order to achieve the needed fertility and the correct physical structure.

The second is not as well understood even by many who profess to use the Albrecht program. It has to do with soils that are so sandy that adjustments have to be made to reduce the calcium and increase the magnesium for the best response in soil and plant health and crop production.

But when first tested for one of our new clients, the soil in Iowa that was making very high yields of soybeans did not match up with either of these first two programs. And though after his death, I had read where Dr. Albrecht wrote about soil with calcium levels of 80% as being an excellent soil, since that differed greatly from what he taught should be used in our area, I suspected that this work had to be earlier in his career - long before 68% calcium was determined to be the amount of calcium required on the fertile soils of the Midwestern US.

But top soybean yields on soils with 80% calcium were actually being produced on that farm. Ten bushels per acre better than the best I had seen, but far different in terms of soil fertility than what we recommended for the medium to heavy clay soils in other areas of the country. How could this be so?

The third is a far less utilized program and has to do with

supplying sufficient levels of nutrients in soils that are excessive to extremely excessive in one or more of the four major cations, calcium, magnesium, potassium or sodium. For extremely excessive soils, use of an additional test, referred to as cation displacement and used to establish the soil's true exchange capacity is generally required before the true fertility needs of that soil can be realized. Though calcium may be so excessive it is damaging to soils and crops, at this level of 80%, on soils where all other needed nutrients are present in minimally sufficient amounts, it is as productive as soils with adequate fertility and 68% calcium and 12% magnesium.

In terms of cropping, this may be the most economical way to help soils with excessive calcium. But having a high calcium soil does not assure the ideal soil structure. It is the chemical make-up of each soil that determines its physical structure. When a soil has the correct chemistry, the physics of that soil is also correct. When the chemistry and physics are right, so long as the principles to avoid soil compaction are observed, the environment for the biology will also be right. That is why so much emphasis is placed on achieving the exact level for each nutrient, based on the specific requirements of every different soil.

Soil nutrients are supplied based on any deficiencies or excesses. When there is too much of one element in the soil, it will generally inhibit the availability of one or more other needed elements. Supplying what is missing in terms of measurable nutrients is the first key to assuring a most productive soil. This is why the Albrecht program emphasizes "feed the soil and let the soil feed the plants."

You cannot manage what you cannot measure. Using the Albrecht system, even the trace element levels in the soil take on measured significance. But micronutrients only work properly when adequately supplied, and only when the needed levels of primary and secondary elements are also present.

The Albrecht system has been developed to accomplish this. And, as the Albrecht Model for soil fertility, these principles are presently being used successfully for all types of food and fiber crops all over North America and around the world.

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ORGANIC PRODUCTION: NEW IDEAS

CALF IMPRINTING

By Sonja Heyck-Merlin, Clovercrest Farm, Charleston, ME

What do some Kentucky Derby racehorses and the Jersey calves raised on our central Maine farm have in common? Both have gone through a process known as imprint training or imprinting at birth. Roughly five years ago we were encouraged by an experienced horse trainer with a background in natural horsemanship to experiment with imprinting our newborn heifer calves. We took her advice because she stressed that it wouldn't take a lot of time, it was virtually free and we would see positive results two years later when we milked these heifers for the first time.

The term imprinting was popularized by Dr. Robert Miller, a veterinarian, in the early 1990's and according to Miller the practice "offers a singular opportunity to permanently mold a horse's personality. For a short time, the new born foal is programmed to imprint stimuli. The right procedures at the right time yield dramatic results. There is no time a horse will learn faster" (robert-miller.com). Some advantages of imprinting include developing a bond between the newborn and its owner and desensitizing the animal to certain sensory stimuli.

Successful Strategies on the Organic Dairy Farm

Beginning in this month's NODPA News, we are going to spotlight successful strategies or best practices that you use on your organic farm. There are so many practices, tips, and ways of doing things that we can share with one another that work well but may not find their ways onto paper because they aren't steeped in a deep body of research. We will do our best to include them in the Successful Strategies column in future NODPA News editions. This month's strategy comes from Sonja Heyck-Merlin who successfully uses 'imprint training' on her calves. We invite you to send in your ideas or call/email/mail with your thoughts: noraowens@comcast.net, 413-772-0444, NODPA, 30 Keets Road, Deerfield, MA 01342.

Although the practice of imprinting foals varies it generally includes hand rubbing all parts of the body including the ears and inside the mouth and picking up the feet. Some people also expose the foal to electric clippers, squeeze a girth around them and put a halter on and off a few times. The process is not




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stopped until the foal relaxes and accepts what the trainer is trying to teach; the foal must submit to the process. Basically, the idea is to expose the foal to any stimuli that it will eventually experience when it begins formal training at around the age of two. These steps are continued for the first few days of the foal's life.

We generally imprint our calves within a few hours of birth when they are first separated from their mother. If a calf was born during pasture season the imprinting might occur up to twelve hours post-calving. The first colostrum feeding is the perfect opportunity to spend a few extra minutes imprinting the calf.

Because we are expecting that each of our heifers will become a milk cow, we focus our imprinting on stimulating the udder and we pretend to dip the animal and then proceed to go through the same motion we use when wiping a mature dairy cow. They often respond by kicking their hind legs or tossing their head but it is important to stick with the process until they stop resisting. Usually they calm down within the first



Imprinting on day-old calf.

strokes of the imprinting process.

We also simulate the experience of having a collar changed by rubbing the animal's neck as well as spending some time rubbing the animals ankles preparing them for the leg bands that they'll eventually adorn. In total we spend about five minutes imprint-

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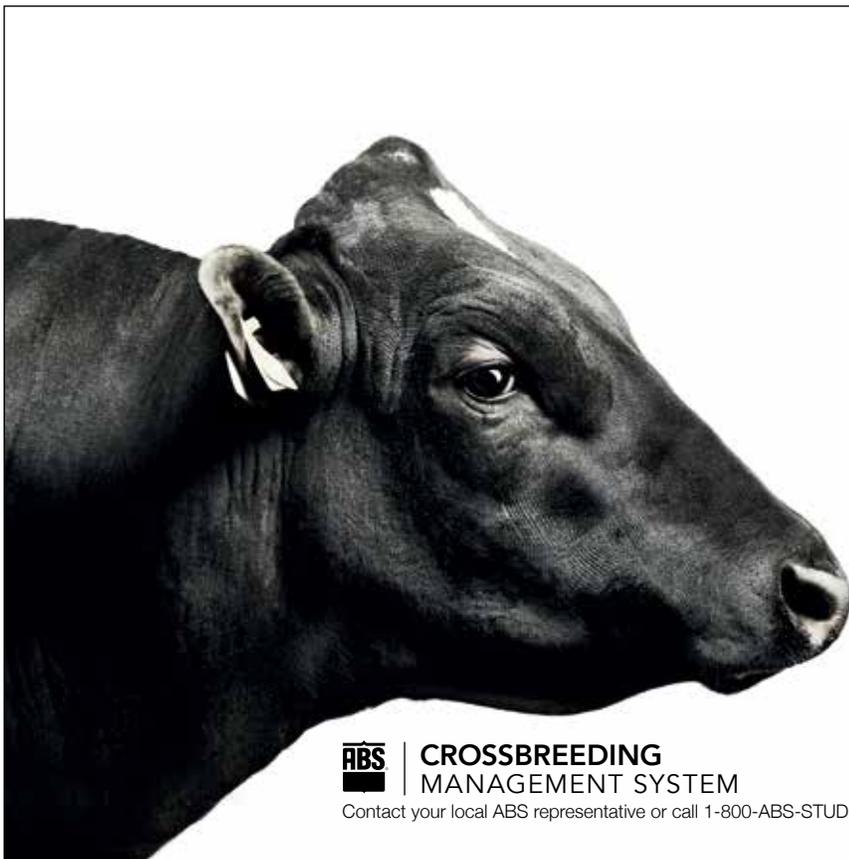
Massaging the teats on day-old calf.

Calf Imprinting

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ing a heifer but research for this article has convinced us that we should focus on repeating this process over the next few days.

Freshening first calf heifers can be a time consuming struggle; unpleasant for both the cow and the milkers. Since instituting these basic steps, milking heifers has become a job our team of primarily female milkers is able to accomplish without help. Although it still often takes two people, one with the milking



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ORGANIC PRODUCTION

machine and one standing by holding a tail or soothing the animal, it is an entirely different experience than it used to be. The first calf heifer seems to remember the imprinting and quickly accepts its new role as a milk cow.

Roughly one third of our first calf heifers show no signs of stress when they are milked for the first time; they stand in their tie stall without backing up, there is no kicking during the wiping process and they do not kick off the milking unit. Within a few days these heifers are able to be left alone during milking. The next third of our first calf heifers are not as easy to handle during the first week of milking- they often need to be short chained and are more irritated by our milking prep procedures. They may also kick off the machine once or twice. However, they are still able to be milked safely by one person. The remaining third are more challenging to milk but often all we need to do it have a second person stand by and stroke the

animal or occasionally hold up its tail.

Unfortunately because we haven't kept comprehensive imprinting records dating back to the beginning of this practice we can't clearly correlate the behavior at freshening with imprinting at birth.

It is important to do a more scientific study of the effectiveness of imprinting on dairy heifers. It could prove to be valuable for all dairy animals and farmers. Regardless of future scientific studies, we will continue to use this gentle non-invasive technique and we would be greatly interested to hear if others have similar experiences. The only difficult thing is that it takes two years to see results. ♦

For a demonstration of calf imprinting, please see Sonja's video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9wZbY3k3_I&feature=youtu.be

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Organic Production

Pasture, Calves and Internal Parasites

By Hue Karreman, VMD

At this time of year, well into the pasture season, it is usually good to discuss internal parasites in calves. I really think that parasitism, whether internal stomach worms and coccidia or external flies and mange are truly a weak link in the chain of organic livestock health. I say this coming from being on the “front lines” for many years now. I see too many calves on pasture that don’t look so great late in the summer – whether “natural raised”, certified organic or conventional.

It must be remembered that if pasturing animals in the same areas year after year, there will be parasites waiting for each group as they arrive. Pastures look really nice early on but those stomach worm larva that are invisible to our eye are out there rapidly multiplying and loading the animals that are out there eating the pasture plants. That’s because the stomach worm larva hatch from the eggs in the freshly deposited manure and crawl onto the grass blades to be taken in again by the animal to start their life cycle all over again - to feed from and reproduce themselves within the animal’s digestive system.

This is why I am in favor of clipping pastures or at least dragging pastures with a set of chains: it smears out the manure paddy and

those larva will dry out in the sun and wind and not live to climb onto the grass blades to be eaten and taken in again. You should, however, wait about 3 days before clipping or dragging pastures so the dung beetles can do the majority of their work in helping to break down the manure. Additionally, the horn flies will have laid their eggs within the first three days of the fresh manure being deposited, so dragging after that will help reduce their offspring (maggots) from developing into more horn flies that torment animals.

Classic Signs of Parasite Infestation

What do your calves on pasture look like right now? Are they sleek and in good body condition just like when you weaned them or set them out to pasture? They certainly can be if fed well – which usually means making sure that there is sufficient energy (carbon/ carbohydrate) in their diet to balance out all the protein (nitrogen) from green pasture. Or do they look a bit more ragged now - perhaps a bit pot-bellied, their hair somewhat dry looking and reddish black (not shiny black as it could be), with thin back leg muscles and some dried diarrhea up high on their legs and tail? If so, these are classic signs of internal stomach worm infestation.

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It would be wise to catch a few up and look in their eye sockets to see how pink or pale white the sockets are. In sheep and goats, it is common to use the FAMACHA test which basically looks at their eye sockets and, depending on how white (indicating anemia), this will indicate when to treat them with a conventional wormer. While the FAMACHA test is technically not valid for calves, looking at their eye sockets will still reveal the degree of blood loss as well. Calves just hide it until later in the disease than do sheep and goats.

In organic agriculture, with the requirement of animals 6 months and older to get a minimum of 30% dry matter from pasture over the grazing season, it is only a matter of time before the young stock, which are not immunologically mature against stomach worms, will become challenged (and possibly infested) if feeding and pasture management is not top notch. A big part of it all is proper feeding to ensure excellent energy intake while on pasture. This can be from high energy forages or giving some grain. The immune system depends heavily on proper daily energy intake. It should be noted that adult animals do NOT need to be wormed as they can live in balance with a stomach worm challenge in their environment – unfortunately young stock cannot because they haven't experienced worms previously. Note: lung worms can, and do, infect adult cattle especially in wet years.

I think a good goal is to raise calves that do have some challenge with stomach worm larva in the pasture, yet are managed and fed

well enough that instead of becoming infested, they instead build immunity due to a low level exposure. This is a kind of a natural vaccine effect. Unfortunately not many farms seem to be able to achieve this. The result is somewhat stunted calves that likely will freshen a month or two later since they won't reach breeding size as quickly. However, calves that do make it through this tough period of life – usually between 4-11 months of age – start looking really nice again by a year old and go on to do fine. Even if they did look crummy due to a significant stomach worm infestation, after about a year old they will be really strong against pasture stomach worm challenges for the rest of their lives.

Certified Organic Internal Parasite Infestation Treatment

So how do we treat internal parasite infestations on certified organic farms? Well, as of this writing, ivermectin, moxidectin and fenbendazole are allowed to be used – but only for an emergency need when methods acceptable to organic have not succeeded in restoring an animal to health. If a farmer uses these in lactating cows, a 90-day milk withhold is required. Typically in the past I have recommended a wormer as a one-time single treatment – essentially to re-set the individual animals which are infested – and then get the management in place to keep things in prevention mode rather than reaction (treatment) mode. Note that the

continued on page 14




Proper dry cow management is one of the keys to a successful dairy.

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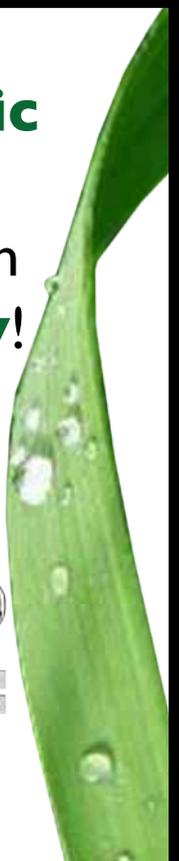
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ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Parasites

continued from page 13

NOSB is voting to sunset (remove) ivermectin and moxidectin at their next meeting in Vermont at the end of October. If you have strong feelings about this topic please write to them. However, when I was on the NOSB and we voted to allow fenbendazole (Safeguard® crumbles) it was with the intention of removing ivermectin and moxidectin someday. The reason is that both are technically antibiotics as well as ivermectin being lethal to dung beetles and moxidectin being harmful to fish if it gets into the water.

Fortunately, there are many plant based medicines being used around the world against internal parasites. In a chapter I wrote on plant based medicine for the book Veterinary Herbal Medicine by Wynn and Fougere (Mosby, 2007), I reported on a study that showed birdsfoot trefoil and chickory interplanted into pasture decreased stomach worm larva burden significantly compared to straight white clover and rye pasture. This is because of tannins contained in the birdsfoot trefoil and chickory which helps the digestive tract of the animal to repel the stomach worms.

However, we are later in the grazing season, so what should we

treat with right now if our young stock looks crummy? One treatment is to give 10cc orally of the high iron and mineral supplement “Ferro” once daily for 5 days in a row – this is highly effective. Another would be to try Agri-Dynamics Vermi Tox as both have some positive benefits as shown by clinical trials at Chico State University. Weaned cattle are dosed at 1 oz. /300-400 lbs. for 3 days in a row. Remember, at this time you can use ivermectin, moxidectin or fenbendazole if your animals are in really bad shape – and you probably should at that point.

Remember, now is the time to really check your young stock on pasture for signs of internal worm infestation. If they are infested and nothing is done about it, the first batch of damp cold weather will likely bring on pneumonia – and that is not at all desirable. Remember, animals always tell us the truth by the way they look. So be mindful: stop and observe your animals and take action now if needed, not later. ♦

Hubert Karreman is a veterinarian who has been working with organic dairy cattle since 1988. After a few years of consulting in the organic sector, he is happy being back in practice and working hands-on with organic livestock in the Lancaster PA area. He has given invited talks about organic livestock health care in many countries and is owner of CowMaster, LLC, the supplier of Phyto-Mast multi-purpose tubes. He can be contacted at 717-405-8137 or penndutch@earthlink.net.

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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

All Certified Organic Farmers & Handlers Are Eligible for Reimbursement for up to 75% of Certification Costs

SIGN UP TODAY - Deadline: September 30, 2015!

Certified farmers, handlers and processors in all 50 United States (and some territories) are eligible for 75% of certification fees (up to \$750) for each certified scope. The refund is available for 4 certification scopes: crops, livestock, handling (processing) and wild crops. Certified entities could receive up to \$3,000 for all 4 scopes.

- You must apply every year in your state for the refund.
- There is plenty of money to fund this – if you are turned away or limited to 1 scope, ask again, or contact your certifier.
- Watch for application deadlines in your state – but rules are now more flexible, so if you think you have missed the deadline, ask for help or contact NOC.

More Information about the Program:

- All organic certified entities – farmers, handlers/processors – are eligible to receive cost-share reimbursement of 75% of the actual cost paid to your certifier, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification category for each year that you certify.
- To qualify, applicants must be certified organic by a USDA-accredited certifying agency.

- You are eligible to receive a payment for each category you are certified under. If you make one payment for all, your state will simply divide the total payment and give you the total of 75% (up to \$750) for each. This may result in a reimbursement more than \$750. The maximum any one entity can receive is \$3000 (\$750 X 4).
- The 4 eligible Scope/categories are: Crops, Livestock, Processing/Handling, and Wild Harvest.
- This reimbursement is annual, just like your certification payment. You must re-apply each year.
- Ask your certifier – they have the information on how you can apply. Most programs are run through your State Department of Agriculture, but some are administered through a certifier.
- Because the federal government runs on a fiscal year, October 1 through September 30, and state deadlines may vary, your deadlines may get confusing. Make sure you apply for each year you are certified (and have paid), and this should get worked out at the state level.
- This is a partial reimbursement for money you have already paid to comply with this federal program; it is not a subsidy or a handout.

Contact your Certifier or your State Department of Agriculture. Procedures and application deadlines may differ in each state. If you are not getting the information you need or are turned away or limited by your state, please contact the National Organic Coalition at info@NationalOrganicCoalition.org

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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

Organic Milk Pay, Retail and Feed Prices for September 2015

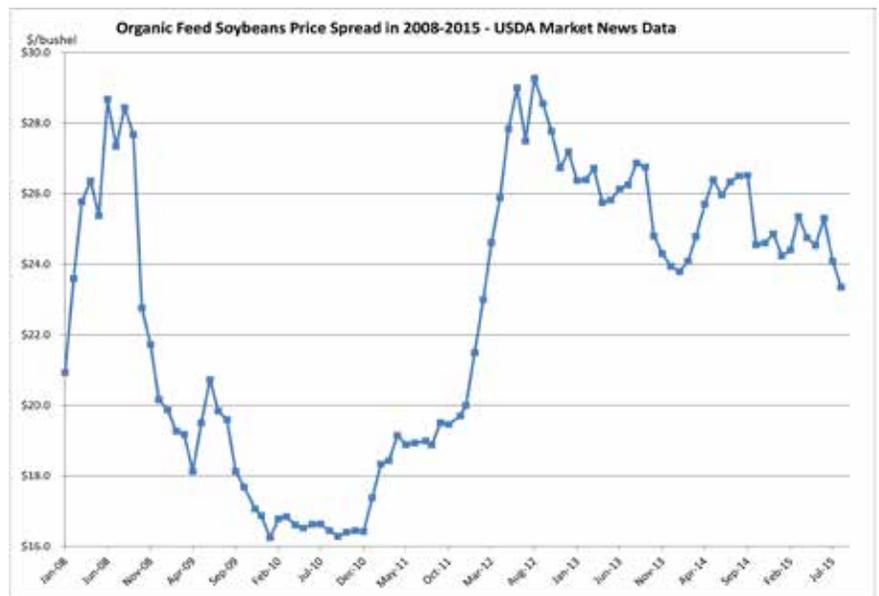
By Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director

Total retail sales for organic fluid milk for June 2015 show no increase on June 2014 sales, but sales of non-fat products continue to drop while whole milk continues to increase. We have no data on total organic milk production so it's not possible to estimate if this lack of growth in fluid sales is the result of consumer demand or lack of supply.

Retailers are being shorted as organic milk is being diverted to manufacturing use as demand for a consistent supply of organic ingredients increases dramatically with rising interest in non-fluid organic products. Organic processors also have many different plant-based beverages that compete in the dairy case for space. Processors shorting retailers on dairy products may mean increased facing/shelf space for those products and less for dairy beverages. We also have no data on organic imports and how many manufacturers are sourcing organic whey and milk powders, and at what price. Recent equivalency agreements have opened the door to increased imports from Europe, which will require more policing to ensure that none come from livestock treated with antibiotics, which is allowable under some European certifiers.

Currently there is no independent data for producers to evaluate what is happening in the market, what the future of the market may be and how many imports of cheaper organic cheese, whey and milk powder are undermining the pay price for US producers. With the organic dairy market becoming increasingly global, producers need more independent information on which to base their business decisions. There is a great opportunity to increase the amount of organic data available to producers by sharing what is already available in many different agencies at USDA and possibly making it more accessible through one organic portal on the web.

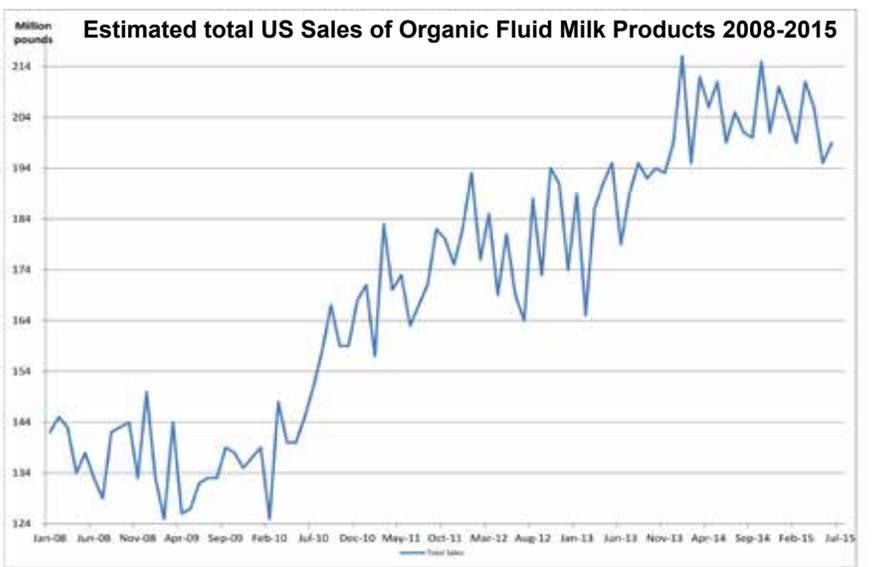
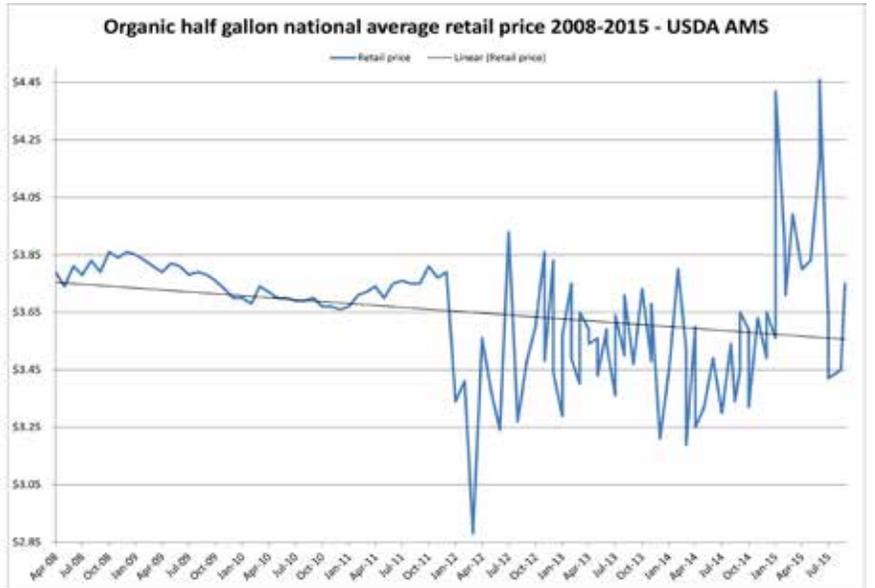
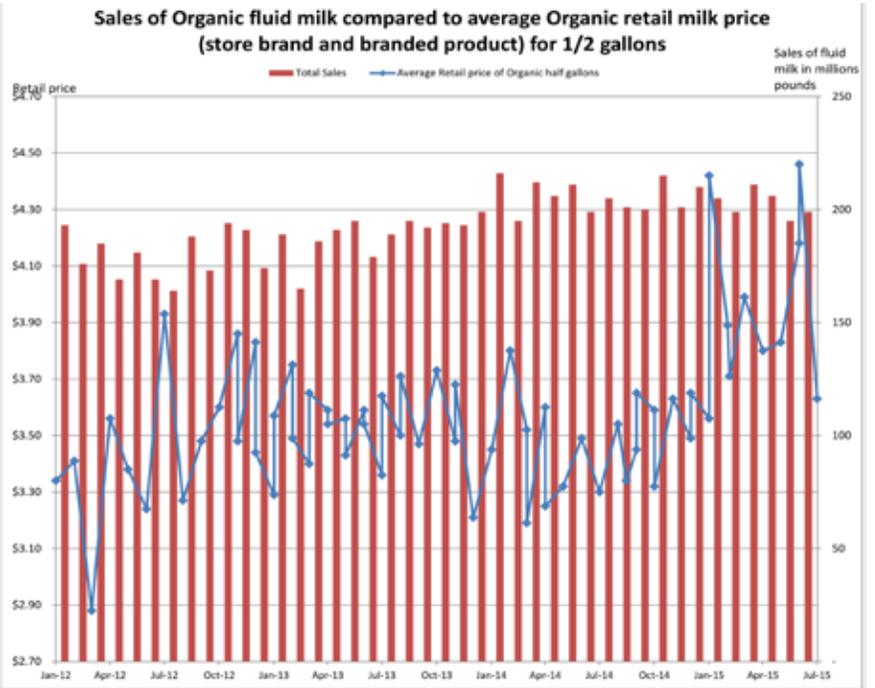
With this need in mind, Congress included \$5



million in the last Farm Bill for the “The Organic Data Initiative” whereby the USDA is instructed to examine which data for organic milk (dairy products), livestock, grains, fruit/vegetable, etc. is not available to the USDA, and what could be gathered, how, the cost, etc. For dairy, it would be great to have all the information from the FMMO that addresses supply and manufacturing use, plus information from NASS that could be used to have a safety net program for organic dairy similar to what is provided for conventional dairies. Not having this data puts producers at a distinct disadvantage in negotiating a fair pay price.

Organic corn and soybean prices are dropping to 2008 levels as there is an increase in cheaper imports to satisfy the increased demand for feed, mostly from the rapidly expanding organic poultry market. The effect of the weather, especially in the drought areas, and uncertainty around the progress of harvest, plus the range of quality, protein levels, test weights, disease issues and yields makes it difficult to predict what the domestic supply will be. Lower prices and an increased dependence on imports are no incentive for conventional producers to transition. Organic dairies need a strong domestic supply of organic feed grains to provide the long term sustainability necessary to justify the investment in organic dairy infrastructure; domestic organic feed growers need a strong stable price that reflects their costs of inputs. ♦

NODPA has three publications, available on NODPA’s website Resources page, to help producers in making decisions on their contracts. They can be downloaded for free or we can send you copies if you do not have access to a computer.



ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

NOSB Meeting Comes To Vermont

The NOSB meeting will be held at the Stoweflake Conference Center, 1746 Mountain Road, Stowe, Vermont 05672 and starts on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 9:00 am and run to Thursday, October 29, 2015, ending at 6:00pm. The National Organic Coalition (NOC) will hold its pre-NOSB meeting on Sunday October 25 at the Conference Center -- all day long! These meetings are an ideal time to hear from colleagues around the country with passionate and varied opinions.

The NOSB will meet to discuss: substances petitioned for addition to or deletion from the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List), substances due to sunset from the National List in 2017, and seek guidance on organic policies. In terms of numbers to be voted on at the October meeting in Vermont: Livestock will be presenting 42 substances for Sunset 2017 Review; Crops 43; and Handling 105. There will be substances of interest to NODPA members in all of these subcommittees and this is an ideal opportunity to express your comments, in person, on all these materials, plus any comments on priorities for organic research related to livestock.

The NOP will announce the agenda and details for the next meeting just after we go to press with this edition, probably on September 8th. The NOP and NOSB have been working collaboratively to find ways to increase opportunities for greater participation by a broader range of people over a longer period of time, and by more pathways. They will announce details of their trial 'Oral Public Comment by Webinar' and concentrating public comment on the first day of the NOSB while members are still fresh. Commenters will be able to use this electronic meeting to share their thoughts. The comments made in the webinars will be placed on the record, recorded and available for NOSB members to review. Individuals can choose to give oral comment on either the webinars or sign up for a time slot as part of the in-person comment time on October 26. In order to bring their policies in line with what they are proposing, the NOSB will be proposing changes to the PPM regarding emergency electronic attendance, as well as webinars and virtual meetings. They will put the agenda and work plan in the September 8th posting on the Federal Register, in order to get public comment, but there will not be a vote in October in order to allow time to digest the public comment and possibly re-draft the proposal.

NODPA has asked the NOP and NOSB to add withholding times on different drugs to the NOSB Work Agenda and urged them to have a discussion document this fall and then proceed to a vote



Stoweflake Conference Center

quickly. The withholding time on different drugs seem to have an arbitrary withdrawal time.

Lidocaine and procaine are used as a topical treatment, external parasiticide or local anesthetic as applicable. Under the current regulations they require a withdrawal period of 90 days after administering to livestock intended for slaughter and 7 days after administering to dairy animals. Lidocaine is a local anesthetic. It numbs ONLY the area to be worked on. To our knowledge there is no scientific basis for the current withholding time and NODPA will support a proposal of a withholding time of only 5 days for all livestock, dairy and slaughter. NODPA also supports a proposal to shorten withholding periods on Fenbenzadole and Moxidectin. We understand from discussions that this will be more complex proposal because of the need to change how Moxidectin is listed.

Taking the time to ensure that we have a scientific basis for the use and withdrawal time of different drugs will benefit organic livestock producers, so NODPA fully supports the NOSB's work on these issues. ♦

ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

Robotic Milkers

continued from page 6

sidering expansion. While "traditional" robotic milking is most efficient and effective for farms in the 60- 300 cow farm range, many of the larger farms have stayed away from this technology as large parallel or herringbone milking parlors are more efficient when milking large herds. The advent of robotic rotary parlors may change all that. Goat robotic rotary parlors were also very popular at the show!

If you are considering investing in robotic milking technology, I suggest you do a lot of homework. Larry Tramel at Iowa State University has spent a lot of time developing some tools for evaluating the potential for such an investment. Some of his information is available at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/dairy>

The 15th Annual NODPA Field Days

Organic Dairy: Preparing for the Next Generation

October 1 & 2, 2015

BW's Restaurant and Banquet Facility

Davis Countryside Meadows, 11070 Perry Road, Pavilion, NY 585-584-8450, <http://www.dcmeadows.com/>

continued from page 1

NODPA Field Days is all about the future of organic dairy, from the personal to the global. We will explore new and evolving, timesaving technologies; talk to the next generation of young farmers about what will keep them on the farm or return to it; and hear about successful strategies for keeping the farm in the family—and that's all happening before the social hour, trade show and banquet on Thursday. Following Thursday's banquet and NODPA's annual meeting, our keynote speaker, founding director of the National Organic Coalition, Liana Hoodes, continues the focus on the future with her presentation: The Organic Brand: Where We've Been and Where We are Going. The evening wraps up with a whole group discussion about Working Together for a Sustainable Organic Dairy Future, facilitated by A. Fay Benson. As we've seen at past NODPA Field Days, some of the best 'networking' takes place on Thursday evening following our formal presentations.

On Friday, we continue to look forward, first by looking at the future of 'Grass Milk,' and how it's done since we first addressed this trend at the 2014 NODPA Field Days, and then by hearing about what's new in Washington DC, and what the future holds regarding organic policy and regulation that will impact the lives of organic dairy farm families. Then, we depart from our usual NODPA Field Days format and return to the Tillotson's family farm for a 2 hour, on-farm workshop on Optimizing Cow Comfort in the Barn and throughout the Farm, led by Dr. Gerald Bertoldo, Dairy Management Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension and his team.

This year, we will wrap up NODPA Field Days with a short drive

down the road to the beautiful Letchworth State Park for a cookout that is hosted by the New York Organic Dairy Initiative. They've invited us all out to this beautiful park, frequently referred to as the Grand Canyon of the East, for a great lunch and final opportunity to visit with old and new friends. By the way, we will hold our Door Prize Drawing at the cookout, so be sure to hold on to your tickets!

One thing we don't tinker with is the opportunity to check in with your fellow dairy farm families and industry professionals. We have our Thursday Social Hour and Trade Show (plus, the trade show is open throughout the 2-day event) planned, so bring your questions and comments for the representatives of businesses and organizations that support the organic dairy industry, and plenty of ideas and gossip for your fellow attendees.

There are a couple of important things to note this year: farmers 30 and under will be our guests for Thursday night's banquet (a \$25.00 dollar value) and lunch will be free for everyone on Friday, thanks to the NY Organic Dairy Initiative, but we need to know how many will be attending, so you must let us know when you register for Field Days.

We hope to see all of you on October 1st and 2nd in Pavilion, NY for this forward-thinking NODPA Field Days with a program that will be of interest to all. Early registration is always helpful to our planning process, so please send in soon or go online, http://nodpa.com/fielddays_registration_2015.shtml to sign up. If you have questions, please email NODPA Field Days Coordinator, Nora Owens, at noraowens@comcast.net or call her at 413-772-0444.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE ON NEXT PAGE >

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FIELD DAYS 2015

Thursday, October 1, 2015

8:30 – 9:00 am Farm Tour registration.

Cottonwood Farms, The Tillotson Family Farm, 10770 Cook Road, Pavilion NY, 14525. Coffee and light refreshments will be available.

9:00 – 11:30 Farm Tour

Noon – 1:00 Field Days Registration and Lunch

BJ's Restaurant and Banquet Facility, Davis Countryside Meadows, 11070 Perry Road, Pavilion NY 14525

1:00 – 2:30 Organic Dairy and Robotic Milking: a useful tool to balance a farmer's life or an expensive toy?

Richard Kirshbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, who recently spent time in the Netherlands studying robotic milking systems, will share his experiences and discuss the future of robotic milking in the US.

2:30 – 3:00 Milk Break

3:30 – 5:00 The Next Generation of Organic Dairy Farmers: What do 'Millennials' see as the future of farming?

A panel of young men and women who have chosen to farm will give their perspectives on farming in the future and why they've chosen farming as their career path.. Virginia Chamberlain, Alfred State University Farm Manager, Stephen Gould, HAR-GO Farm, Pavilion, NY, Peter Martens, Lakeview Organic Grain, Penn Yan, NY, invited; moderated by Joan Petzen, Farm Business Management Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension.

5:00 – 6:00 Social Hour and Trade Show

6:00 – 7:00 Banquet Dinner and NODPA Annual Meeting

7:00 – 8:00 The Organic Brand: Where we've been and where we are going

Keynote speaker and recent National Organic Coalition Executive Director Liana Hoodes will share her experiences and thoughts about how the Organic industry is evolving, or not. Liana Hoodes has worked on organic and sustainable agriculture policy for over 20 years, most recently as the founding Director of the National Organic Coalition, which she left in January 2015. Currently, Liana is consulting and organizing to advance high-integrity organic as the alternative to the current United States food and agriculture system in the grassroots, regional, and federal arenas.

8:00 – 9:00 Working Together For a Sustainable Organic Dairy Future

A discussion facilitated by A. Fay Benson, Project Manager NY Organic Dairy Initiative, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Cortland, NY

9:00 pm Meeting ends

Friday, October 2, 2015

6:30 – 9:00am Continental breakfast

7:00 – 9:00 Producer-only meeting

Henry Perkins, facilitator, Maine Organic Milk Producers President and past NODPA president

9:00 – 9:45 Grass Milk: Checking in on the trend of grass-fed organic dairy and the 'grass-milk' market. Speakers to be announced

9:45 – 10:00 Milk Break

10:00 – 10:45 What's New in Washington?

Q & A with Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director and Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administration, NOP, USDA-AMS (invited)

10:45 – 11:00 Travel to Cottonwood Farm, Pavilion

11:00 – 1:00pm Optimizing Cow Comfort in the Barn and throughout the Farm

Gerald R. Bertoldo, DVM, Dairy Management Specialist, NWN Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team, Cornell University/Pro-Dairy, will lead this on-farm workshop in which participants will identify key factors impacting cow comfort and strategies for optimizing cow comfort and health.

1:00 – NODPA Field Days Cookout

The New York Organic Dairy Initiative will host a cookout at Letchworth State Park to conclude this year's NODPA meeting. Door Prize Drawing will take place at the cookout. It is a beautiful time of year to view the magnificent falls of the Genesee River.



FIELD DAYS 2015

Directions

From the West & East:

To the Farm Tour at Cottonwood Farms

10770 Cook Road, Pavilion, NY:

Take the NYS Thruway (I-90) to exit 47 to I-490 toward NY-19, LeRoy/Rochester; continue on I-490 E and take exit 1 toward NY 19, LeRoy/Brockport. Continue on NY 19 South, then turn left onto the ramp to US-20 W and turn right onto US-20 W, then turn left onto Cook Rd.

To BW's Restaurant at Davis Countryside Meadow

11070 Perry Rd., Pavilion, NY:

Take the NYS Thruway (I-90) to exit 47 to I-490 toward NY-19, LeRoy/Rochester; continue on I-490 E and take exit 1 toward NY 19, LeRoy/Brockport 5.9 miles and turn left onto Perry Road and travel for 5.5 miles until you reach the restaurant.

From the South (south central PA and NY):

While using GPS or doing a Google or Mapquest search is recommended if coming from this direction, here are general directions, with specifics as you get close to Pavilion, NY:

To the Farm Tour at Cottonwood Farms:

Merge onto I-86 W/NY-17 W/NY-15 N via EXIT toward Rochester/Jamestown. Take I-390 N. Take the NY-408 exit, EXIT 7, toward NY-63/Geneseo. Turn right onto Mount Morris Geneseo Rd/NY-408, which becomes NY-63. Stay on NY 63 for approximately 14.5 miles and then turn right onto Cook Road. 10770, Cottonwood Farm is on the left.

To BW's Restaurant at Davis Countryside Meadow:

Follow the above directions until you travel approximately 12.5 miles on NY 63, then turn right on Perry Road, Highway 50. The restaurant is on the left.

Accommodations

Batavia and Geneseo are both approximately 15 minutes from Pavilion NY. There are moderately priced motel accommodations in Batavia, NY and slightly more expensive options in Geneseo, NY. Visiting travel websites such as www.expedia.com or www.kayak.com will help you find good lodging options in the area. Campgrounds and RV Sites are about 15 minutes away, too. Lei-Ti Campground & Recreational Community, 9979 Francis Rd, Batavia, NY 14020, has trailer hook-ups and cabin rentals but no tent camping; www.leiti.com/, and Genesee Country Campgrounds, 40 Flint Hill Rd, Caledonia, NY 14423, has tent, trailer and cabin options; www.geneseecountrycampground.com/

About NODPA

The mission of the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance is to enable organic dairy family farmers, situated across an extensive area, to have informed discussion about matters critical to the wellbeing of the organic dairy industry as a whole. Contact: Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, 413-772-0444; email: ednodpa@comcast.net; website: www.nodpa.com or www.organicmilk.org Do you have questions about NODPA Field Days? Contact Field Days Coordinator Nora Owens: noraowens@comcast.net, or call 413-772-0444

REGISTRATION

NODPA's 15th ANNUAL FIELD DAYS & PRODUCER MEETING & DINNER

Cost		Qty.	Total
Registration: Thursday & Friday			
Free	Organic dairy & transitioning producers & families		
\$30	All who aren't organic dairy producers		
Meals			
\$10	Thursday lunch for Adults		
\$5	Thursday lunch (under 11)		
\$25	Thurs. dinner for Adults		
\$12.50	Thurs. dinner (under 11)		
Free	Transitioning farm member and farmers under 30, Thursday evening dinner		
\$5	Friday breakfast (7:30-9 am)		
\$10	Friday lunch (under 11, half price)		
\$35	NODPA News Subscription (6 issues)		
	Donation to NODPA		
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www.nodpa.com/fielddays_registration_2015.shtml



Organic Industry News

Let there be light on pork checkoffs

Farm and Food File by Alan Guebert

On Aug. 14, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia gave members of the National Pork Producers Council and the farmer-directors of the checkoff-collecting National Pork Board one more reason to loathe the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

In a terse, 11-page order, Circuit Judge Cornelia T. Pillard lit the blowtorch on a long-smoldering lawsuit that promises to set the NPPC and NPB's hair on fire.

Plaintiffs are the Humane Society, the Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement and a pork producer named Harvey Dillenburg. They "claim that the National Pork Board has misappropriated millions of dollars from a fund for pork promotion," Pillard wrote.

"The plaintiffs filed suit in federal district court and the court dismissed their claim for lack of standing. We reverse."

Those final two words promise to open the door on one of the sweetest "sweetheart deals" ever pulled off in the deeply checkered history of federal commodity checkoffs.

This deal, laid out in the original 2012 lawsuit, began in 2006 when the checkoff board, with the approval of the secretary of the Department of Agriculture, bought four trademarks with the slogan "Pork: The Other White Meat" from the National Pork Producers Council — for \$60 million."

It was a sugar-soaked deal because the checkoff board already, in 1986, had spent \$4.5 million for the development and implementation of "The Other White Meat" slogan.

In August 1987, NPPC filed a trademark application for the slogan despite federal checkoff language that, according to the Humane Society lawsuit, "dictates that trademarks developed with checkoff funds shall belong to the United States government."

For nearly 20 years, "Pork: The Other White Meat" continued to be the board's primary advertising message each year through the 2006 purchase date. All was paid for entirely from checkoff dollars.

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In between, however, a 1999 USDA Office of Inspector General report concluded that the checkoff board had “relinquished too much authority” to the NPPC. The office recommended a separation of the checkoff board and the NPPC.

Shortly thereafter, hog farmers, distrustful of both groups, voted in a national referendum to kill the checkoff. The incoming Bush Administration’s new USDA boss, Ann Veneman, however, negotiated a deal to separate the board and the NPPC and life for both went on despite the producer vote.

A key part of the Veneman deal gave the board “most trademarks and property ownership” developed under contract except for — you guessed it — “The Other White Meat” slogan. It was licensed by NPPC to the board “at the rate of one dollar per year.”

By 2004, though, the board and NPPC had a new deal in place that paid the NPPC \$818,000 per year for the trademark, not \$1. The board’s boss at the time, Steve Meyer, wrote that the increase would “allow the NPPC to get the money they need for the next four years.”

In 2006, that fee became \$3 million per year for 20 years when the board agreed to purchase the trademark from the NPPC.

In 2011, however, the board shelved “The Other White Meat” campaign (for the uninspiring “Pork: Be Inspired”) but the \$3 million annual payments continued.

For what?

According to the initial, 2012 lawsuit filed by Humane Society, the money was simply “checkoff expenditures being used to further NPPC programs that are intended to influence legislation and government policy which constitute prohibited uses” under the federal laws that implemented the checkoff in 1986.

The Aug. 14 appeals court ruling means the 2012 suit will proceed and USDA will be forced to produce a record of what happened under its administrative watch. That will be embarrassing.

It could also prove embarrassing for federally chartered checkoffs, many of which resemble government-mandated, non-refundable slush funds used by Big Ag to promote Big Ag.

Little wonder, then, why Big Meat hates the Humane Society. It is shining lights into corners that most in U.S. agriculture, often even USDA, want kept dark.

To view this story at its original source, follow this link: http://globegazette.com/business/let-there-be-light-on-pork-checkoffs/article_b473db95-9e9f-5780-a6b0-af9917cfaca2.html

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Location: Fremont, Michigan.

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Location: Michigan City, Indiana 46360

Farm raised good quality Jersey and Jersey X Holstein heifers. Raised on pasture & grain. Wormed, dehorned, vaccinated, titted and sleeved. Good frame. Not feed lot cattle. 550-650 lbs. Call 903-790-2461 no text please. Chuck Castloo, crcastloo83@yahoo.com

Location: Coke, Texas

Certified Organic Jersey cow, currently dry, due in September; low cell, great genetics. Please email for more info and photos. Jeremy Russo, southwindfarmstead@yahoo.com

Location: N. Rupert, VT

5 Jersey/Holstein cows & heifers. 2 are fresh a month, the rest are due to freshen within the next couple weeks. These are solid animals; we are just over crowded at the moment. Contact: Conor MacDonald, maclockie@gmail.com, 603-651-9042.

Location: Washington, ME



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EMPLOYMENT

Certification Program Manager

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) announces a job opening for Certification Program Manager. This position will oversee PCO's certification programs, including compliance and enforcement. This position will also be responsible for maintaining policies to be consistent with federal regulatory requirements. The planned start date for this full-time, exempt position is Dec 2015; salary range: \$45,000 – 55,000, depending on experience. To view a job description visit: www.paorganic.org/jobs

Location: Spring Mills, PA

Materials Program Manager

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) announces a job opening for Materials Program Manager. This position will oversee PCO's material review program, including the publication of PCO Materials Lists, developing policies relevant to material review under the organic regulations, and will actively perform material review. This planned start date for this position is Dec 2015. This is a full-time, exempt position; salary range: \$45,000 – 55,000, depending on experience; to view a job description, visit:

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HERD MANAGER WANTED

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continued on page 34

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Organic Industry News

What Eating Organic Food Does for the World

By Lisa Bunin, PhD

Organic Policy Director, Center for Food Safety

Sure, I eat organic food because I think it's healthier for me than food grown with synthetic, toxic agrochemicals or food that's been genetically engineered or injected with growth hormones. But equally important to me are the multiple ecosystem services and broader benefits for society that organic farming provides.

For starters, when you eat organic, you support a system of food production that taps into the very best of what nature has to offer. You eschew farming practices that aim to overpower nature's complex ecological systems by taming them with artificial chemicals. You reject the growing of a single crop on sterile land bereft of vegetation that extends for miles. And you sustain organic farmers and farming practices that enrich nature's ecology by producing strong plants that resist pests and disease and produce healthy and delicious food.

Nourishing Soils

When you eat organic, you endorse farming systems designed to maintain and improve the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of soil. Organic farmers manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through the application of organic matter and compost, as the organic regulations require. They plant cover crops for weed suppression, to increase earthworms and beneficial microorganisms in the soil, and to add essential plant nutrients that assist in plant growth and seed and fruit production. These practices also mitigate the adverse effects of climate change by improving soil's water-holding capacity and regulating soil temperatures so that crops can survive during droughts, floods, and bouts of extreme heat or cold.

Flourishing Environments

When you eat organic, you contribute to conserving water, protecting biological diversity, and defending wildlife, wild nature, and pollinators like bees, and butterflies. Standard organic farming practices such as planting high residue cover and rotational crops, like oats and hay, create large volumes of plant biomass that increase the amount of carbon stored (sequestered) in soils. These practices also prevent erosion and topsoil loss. Planting native hedgerows creates wildlife habitats and attracts pollinators, beneficial insects, and birds that fertilize crops and combat pests. Hedgerows have the added benefit of filtering waterborne pathogens in their root systems, filtering windborne pathogens on their vegetation, and regulating water flow to crops.

Healthy Workers and Communities

When you eat organic, you also champion a healthier environment for those who grow your food. That's not to say that farm work, organic or not, is easy. But a farm is certainly a healthier place for farmers to work when they are not exposed to synthetic fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides as they labor. Growing



organic is also healthier for farming families and the communities where food is grown because those major sources of hazardous air and soil borne farm chemicals are largely eliminated. So are the accompanying social costs of ill health, reproductive disorders, and compromised immune systems. Since antibiotics and non-naturally occurring growth hormones are prohibited in organic animal rearing, organically raised animals receive more ethical treatment. Humans benefit, too, from not eating meat injected with drugs.

With all of the societal advantages of organic food production systems, it's not surprising--and it's certainly justifiable--that organic farmers get paid a premium price for the food they grow. After all, they use their labor, ingenuity, experiential knowledge, and instincts to maintain crop yields, instead of relying on quick toxic chemical fixes or unproven genetic engineering technology. They produce healthy food that's good for the planet and all of its inhabitants, and they deserve to get paid a fair price for it.

So, when you eat organic, you can feel confident that you are contributing to a better world by supporting farmers and farming practices that steward the fertile land upon which a secure food future depends. What's more, you help ensure that current and future generations of farmers can continue to provide themselves, their communities, and the world with healthy and nutritious, fresh food.

Given all of these benefits of eating organic, I have to agree with the take-home message of Maria Rodale's book *Organic Manifesto*: "If you do just one thing--make one conscious choice--that can change the world, go organic. Buy organic food. Stop using chemicals and start supporting organic farmers. No other single choice you can make to improve the health of your family and the planet will have greater positive repercussions for our future."

Watch the video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcCenocXKGI>

Buy Organic Manifesto

http://www.rodale.com/organic-manifesto---signed-copy/E000368.html?dwvar_E000368_color=N01#q=organic

Lisa J. Bunin, Ph.D., Senior Organic Policy Director, Center for Food Safety, 303 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111, (831) 704-7901 or (415) 826-2770, lbunin@centerforfoodsafety.org, www.centerforfoodsafety.org

Organic Industry News

NY Organic Dairy Initiative:

Education, Research and Support for the New York Organic Dairy Industry

By Nora Owens, NODPA News Editor and NODPA Field Days Coordinator

As the planning process got underway for the 15th Annual NODPA Field Days, one person emerged as a strong supporter and advocate for holding this year's Field Days in western New York: Fay Benson, Project Manager for the NY Organic Dairy Initiative (ODI). While many New York organic dairy farmers may be familiar with ODI, it seems like a good time to provide some background on this initiative. According to Fay, the New York Organic Dairy Initiative was created in 2005 by a collaboration of Cornell University's Small Farm Program, NOFA-NY, and funding from the NY Farm Viability Institute. Recognizing the growing interest by consumers and farmers in organic dairy, this group's goal was to provide research and exten-



Fay Benson

sion to New York's Organic Dairy Industry. Fay Benson was brought on to be the project manager for the ODI. In 2005, he had recently joined Cornell Extension after spending 20 years as a dairy farmer with the previous 7 years as a certified organic producer, first shipping organic milk in 1997. His experience was very helpful in providing service to dairy farmers, processors, and other industry personnel. Since its inception, the ODI has been a conduit for conversation between all facets of New York's Dairy Industry. One of the key efforts was the organization of the NY Organic Dairy Task Force which has met twice a year for the past ten years. The Task Force consists of a balanced membership of organic dairy and organic grain farmers, organic certifiers, organic dairy processors and other support agencies. The group identifies opportunities and barriers to growing a strong organic industry in New York State. In addition, the ODI focuses on education and research, successfully utilizing the 'farmer to farmer' meeting format. There are a number of these meetings around the state but the longest running farmer to farmer meeting is the NY Certified Organic Meetings (NYCO) which has met for the past 21 years at Cornell University Experimental Farm in Geneva NY the second Tuesday of January, February and March. NYCO was originally started by a group of organic grain farmers including Mary-Howell and Klaas Martens. The Organic Dairy Initiative has organized the meetings for the past 8 years. There are many resources from these meetings posted on our web page at:

<http://blogs.cornell.edu/organicdairyinitiative/>

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ORGANIC PRODUCTION: FEATURED FARM

Alfred State College Offers Unique Blend of Organic Dairy Education

continued from page 1

in our facilities and look for ways to broaden our offerings to our current and prospective students.”

The farm is located on 1100 acres of land, 550 acres of which are tillable, and 62 are dedicated to pasture. The remainder of the land near campus is woodlands. Much of the tillable acreage is located in Groveland, New York and was “inherited” from the New York State Prison System when they disbanded their farming operations.

Since 2009, the farm facilities have been retooled and a new robotic freestall was completed in 2011. Alfred’s organic dairy is housed in the three-row freestall with a covered feed alley and milked robotically. Manure from the freestall is scraped into a concrete manure storage with three months capacity. Their conventional herd resides in a tie-stall barn and is milked in a single-side herringbone milking parlor. The two herds are clearly identified with contrasting color ear tags.

Another key resource at the Alfred State College dairy is Farm Manager Virginia Chamberlain. Virginia grew up near Syracuse, New York next door to the small dairy her father and grandfather ran until the milking herd was sold when she was twelve. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire – Durham, in 2011, where she worked with both conventional and organic dairies. Virginia participated in the University’s Cooperative Real Education in Agricultural Management program, CREAM,

a student-run cooperative. CREAM is a yearlong course that gives 25 students the opportunity to gain hands on experience in working with Holstein dairy cows, while managing and operating a small business.

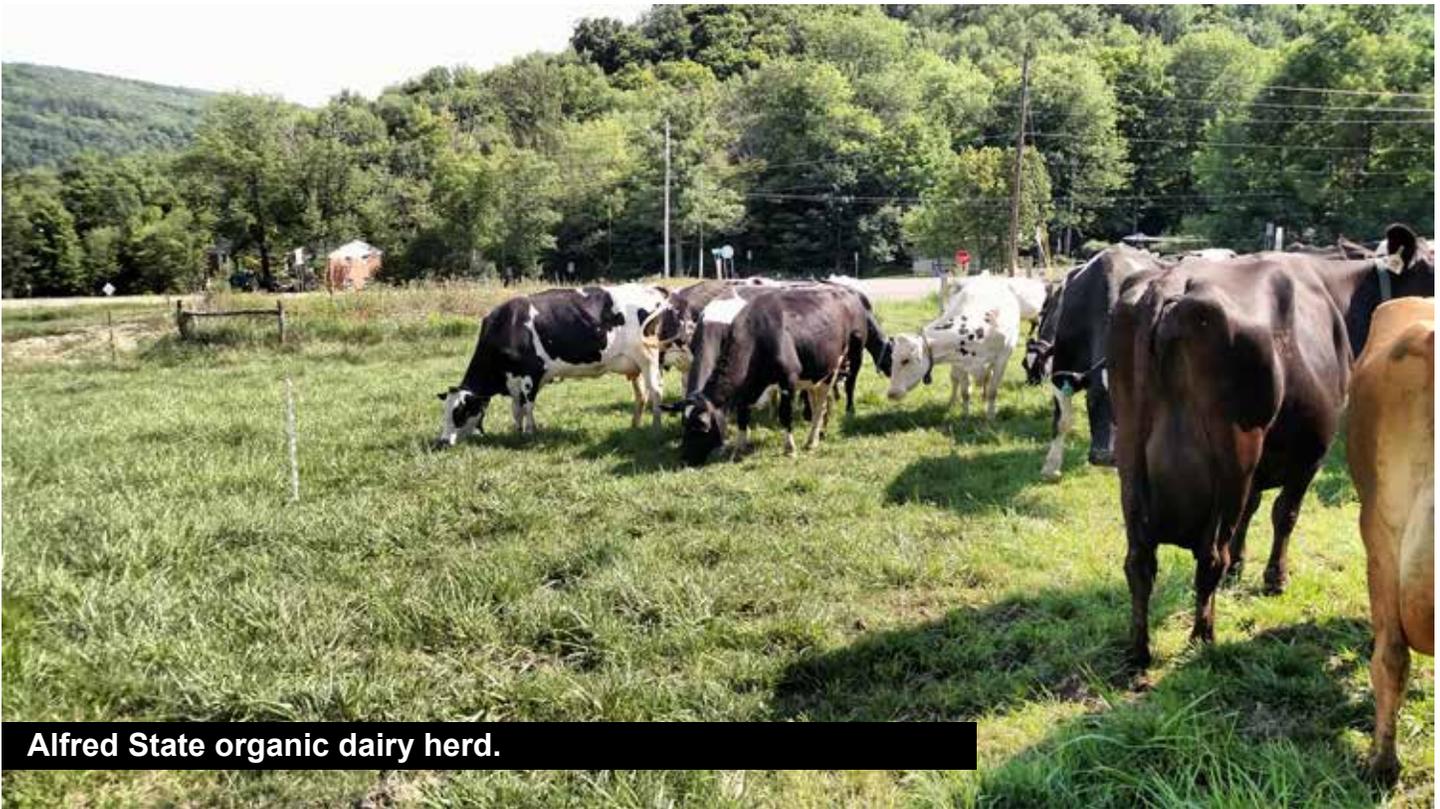
According to Virginia, “After working with cows again in college I was hooked. Cows continue to inspire me to this day. The dairy industry has such a wide range of opportunities, you can really do anything you want through the medium of cows.” Since college she did herd work on both a conventional robotic and an organic dairy. Virginia says, “I was drawn to Alfred because it had two of the things I’m passionate about: grazing and robotics all in a college setting.” With her passion and leadership, Virginia is able to manage the Alfred dairy to help faculty achieve their goals with students.

Alfred’s organic farm is certified by NOFA- NY. Alfred works closely with certifier, Erica Worden and Organic Valley field representative Dave Hardy. Because of their position as a teaching institution, an exception was granted to allow organic and conventional herds on the same site. Feed for the two herds is segregated in two different storage and mixing areas. Much of the Alfred acreage was able to be certified organic when they started the transition of the organic dairy because of careful planning of their cropping practices and they are in the three year process of transitioning more acreage at Groveland to organic.

For now, let’s focus on the organic herd. It consists of two-thirds Holsteins with Genex based breeding that originated from the



Farm manager Virginia Chamberlain at the robot computer.



Alfred State organic dairy herd.

Attica Prison herd. This part of the herd completed their transition to organic in 2012. The remainder of the herd, Jersey/Holstein crosses, were purchased as a whole certified herd.

The new freestall at Alfred features sand bedding and is ventilated with sidewall curtains. Stalls are bedded weekly. The 60-cow herd produces 60 pounds of milk per cow per day and each cow visits the robot 2.5 to 2.7 times per day in the winter when confined and 2.0 to 2.3 times per day in the summer when on pasture. The organic herd somatic cell count runs between 70,000 and 80,000 in the winter and peaks in the summer at 120,000 cells/ml. For components, their butterfat test is 3.8% and protein is 3.0%.

An independent nutritionist is contracted to develop rations for both college herds. A partial total mixed ration (TMR) is fed in the barn four to five times throughout the day to entice cows to return from pasture to the robot to be milked and to feed. Approximately eight pounds of grain is fed through the robot in addition to the TMR. Farm Manager Chamberlain describes their farming system as fairly high input.

Milking herd feeding includes rotational pasture with fresh forage offered twice daily by moving fences and switching paddocks. They strive for a 21-day rotation across all paddocks. Their goal is to feed 40% to 45% of dry matter from pasture in the summer. In winter of 2013 and summer of 2014, they did not have organic corn silage to feed so the ration consisted of hay crop silage, dry hay and grain. In 2014, organic corn silage was added to the winter ration at the rate of 15 pounds of dry matter per cow. They continue to feed corn silage in the summer of 2015 with observed

benefits of more consistent body condition scores and milk urea nitrogen levels, and more consistent milk production.

A bedded pack barn with a south facing feed apron houses the dry cows and heifers for both the organic and conventional herds in separate sections. Each pen has access to pasture. During the summer, heifers are all grazed after weaning. Calves 4 to 6 months of age have access to pasture with limited rotation, moving fence every two to three weeks. Heifers 7 to 10 months of age are on full rotational pasture feed. Breeding age animals feed mostly on pasture and are given just enough TMR to attract them back to the barn each day to be able to catch them up for breeding. Bred heifers and dry cows receive pasture, a mineral package and kelp.

Because this is a state owned herd, all livestock must be sold at a public sale. Therefore, cull cows and bull calves are marketed through traditional auction markets along with those from their conventional herd. During 2015, Alfred was able to offer 10 organic dairy heifers for sale. They anticipate heifer sales to be able to supplement milk sales as an income source going forward.

Alfred's organic dairy is on a full vaccination protocol based upon stage of lactation. It is the same as their conventional herd, excepting JVac. Veterinary costs in their conventional herd, including the synchronization program, run four times that of the organic herd. They see more mastitis, pneumonia and transition cow issues in the conventional herd, which is averaging 80 pounds of milk per cow per day. Supportive treatments for the organic herd include Bovacalc to all fresh cows, flushing with

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FEATURED FARM

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aloe vera and betadine tablets for metritis, and Udder Comfort rub and frequent milk out are used if mastitis arises. Clinical cows are kept separate to facilitate frequent milk out, and put through the robot and back to the special pen until the infection is cleared.

Chamberlain mentioned some needs she sees for the organic dairy business in the region. First of all, more competition in the marketplace for grain and supplies would help producers keep costs under control. Increased availability of “organic-minded” veterinary and other service professionals would be valuable resources for producers in the region. Faculty in the veterinary technology and dairy programs are also resources for the Alfred State College Dairy. Alfred currently coordinates with a neighboring farm for delivery of pelleted feed on the same load so both farms save on delivery costs.

“Alfred’s potential in the organic community is just budding”, according to Chamberlain. Now that they are becoming an established organic dairy, they are looking forward to hosting more field days and are planning a lecture series/discussion group for organic producers. Alfred seeks to be at the forefront of helping farmers learn how to talk about what they do and how they do it. It is important to note, when “students come first” sometimes a college farm must maintain costly endeavors for educational purposes as opposed to choosing alternatives that might make

more business sense for an independent dairy farm.

Currently, there are 65 students in the Ag program and typically graduate around 25 each year. Students graduate with an Associate’s degree or continue their education in baccalaureate programs either at Alfred State or at other institutions. Their students come to Alfred primarily for dairy, but increasingly they are seeing students interested in organic dairy, organic crop/vegetable production and Ag business. These students represent a broad range of backgrounds, but most commonly are from farming backgrounds and range in age from 18 to 50 and are about evenly divided between men and women. Most of students find positions in agriculture or return to the family farm after graduation. The program has an employment and transfer rate of 93 percent – 57 percent are employed; 36 percent transferred to continue their education.

The Dairy Program at Alfred State College has a central goal of graduating students with good, solid dairy skills, who can be successful working with cows. Students have the opportunity to work hands on in both production systems comparing and contrasting the pros and cons of each system. Producers using either system can learn from one another to become better dairy managers. Alfred State is carving out a niche in dairy education to meet the needs of a diverse dairy industry in the region and their organic dairy is an important part of the package they offer.

Joan Sinclair Petzen, Business Farm Management Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock

continued on next page

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HEALTHIER ANIMALS: Our Fish & Seaweed contains macro and micronutrients, amino acids, vitamins, trace elements, trace minerals, enzymes, naturally occurring growth promoters, and omega oils.

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(800)259-GROW[4769] www.neptunesharvest.com



Alfred State Dairy Barn

and Field Crops Team, will be facilitating *The Next Generation of Organic Dairy Farmers: What do 'Mellennials' see as the future of farming?* panel discussion, at the 15th Annual NODPA Field Days

on October 1 & 2, 2015 in Pavilion, NY. Joan can be reached by email at: JSP10@Cornell.edu or by phone, 585-786-2251, ext. 122.

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1/4 Page Ad (3.5" W x 4.75" H) = \$168

1/8 Page Ad/Business Card:

(3.5" W x 2.25" H) = \$90

Commit to a full year of print advertising and get 10 percent discount: Full: \$575, Half: \$290, Quarter: \$160, Eighth: \$85.

Classified Ads: Free to organic dairy farmers and business members. All others \$20 for the first 30 words; \$.20 per word over 30

For advertising information call Nora Owens:
413-772-0444 or email noraowens@comcast.net.

Please send a check with your ad (made payable to NODPA).
30 Keets Rd., Deerfield, MA 01342

Organic Milk Sought CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley

CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley is the nation's largest farmer-owned organic cooperative. With members throughout New England, the Northeast and Southeast, we offer a stable, competitive organic milk pay price to members. We are forecasting solid growth in these regions and welcome the opportunity to talk with producers about joining our Cooperative.

We offer veterinary support, quality services, organic food, the Organic Trader buy/sell newsletter and inclusive communications from a farmer-owned cooperative with over 25 years of organic farming and marketing experience. Our Feed Department sources organic feed purchases for our member operations. Please contact our Regional Managers or Farmer Relations for further details.

- In New England, contact John Cleary at (612) 803-9087 or john.cleary@organicvalley.coop or Steve Getz at 207-465-6927 or steve.getz@organicvalley.coop.
- In New York, contact David Hardy at (608) 479-1200 or david.hardy@organicvalley.coop.
- In the Southeast, contact Gerry Cohn at (919) 605-5619 or gerry.cohn@organicvalley.coop.
- Central to Western PA, contact Solomon Meyer at (814) 515-6827 or Solomon.meyer@organicvalley.coop.
- In Southeast Pennsylvania and Maryland, contact Terry Ingram at (717) 413-3765 or terry.ingram@organicvalley.coop.

Farmer Relations is available from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Monday through Friday at (888) 809-9297 or farmerhotline@organicvalley.coop and online at www.farmers.coop.

Upstate Niagara

Upstate Niagara is a member owned dairy cooperative dedicated to high quality dairy products. We are currently seeking new organic member milk. Upstate Niagara offers a highly competitive organic pay program with additional premiums for milk quality and volume. For producers interested in transitioning to organic production, we also have programs to assist you in the transition process.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Mike Davis at 1-800-724-MILK, ext 6441. www.upstateniagara.com

Natural by Nature

Looking for an organic milk market? Natural Dairy Products Corporation (NDP) was founded in 1995 as a family owned and operated organization producing organic dairy products under the Natural By Nature brand name. Natural By Nature

organic dairy products are produced with great care and distributed nationwide.

We are actively seeking organic, grass-based dairy producers in the southeastern PA, northern MD and DE areas. NDP pays all hauling and lab costs, and we are currently offering a signing bonus, so this is the time to call! We'd be happy to answer your questions ... please call 302-455-1261 x221 for more information.

Maple Hill Creamery

Seeking 100% Grass Dairy Farmers! Maple Hill Creamery, located in Stuyvesant, NY is a small manufacturer of 100% grass-fed organic yogurt. We are growing rapidly and are looking for more 100% grass-fed farms in the NY state area to join us.

We offer:

- Six month winter premium
- Grass fed premium paid OVER organic milk price
- Grass fed dairy technical assistance / mineral program
- Organic transition payments possible
- Requirements:
- No grain, no corn silage
- Just pasture, dry hay and baleage
- Certified Organic

Please CALL US with questions! Phone: 518-758-7777

Dairy Marketing Services Organic

More milk is needed by Northeast organic customers! Dairy Marketing Services can help you facilitate the transition from conventional to organic production. Count on DMS Organic specialists for organics, transition stabilizers, pasture requirements, pasture supplies and more. Call David Eyster at DMS: 1-888-589-6455, ext. 5409 for more information today!

Stonyfield Farm, Inc.

Stonyfield Farm, Inc is looking for producers to support their comprehensive line of organic yogurt and diversified portfolio of organic dairy products. We offer a stable price platform with competitive premiums for components, quality and volume. In addition, we offer a comprehensive technical assistance program designed with producers to help them achieve their unique business goals. We are actively seeking producers looking to grow their business today and for the future.

Please contact our Farmer Relationship Manager, Kyle Thygesen for further details at kthygesen@stonyfield.com or (802) 369-0267.

To be listed, free, in future Organic Milk Sought columns, contact Nora Owens at 413-772--0444, noraowens@comcast.net.

NET UPDATE

Recent ODairy Discussions

*By Liz Bawden, Organic Dairy Farmer,
NODPA President*

One farm was experiencing a calf health mystery. A fast-hitting scours hit every newborn calf at 6 days old when the calves were placed in one area in the barn. The calves were removed; the area was scraped down, limed, and let dry. Seven months later, calves were housed in that area again, and the same pattern appeared. Calves not housed in that area of the barn had no health issues. One producer suggested that the contaminated area may be harboring *Clostridium*, as this is a spore-forming pathogen and would be difficult to eradicate. Two vets weighed in on the subject, one felt that *Cryptosporidium* may be the culprit, and suggested that the farmer should get an early fecal test done on the next infected calf to be certain. Stray voltage was also suggested since it seems unlikely that a pathogen would be so confined in one small area.

A first calf heifer developed gangrene mastitis shortly after giving birth to a healthy calf. One quarter was swollen and hard, delivering only a few squirts of smelly, reddish brown liquid. The affected quarter and teat were turning purple, and the cow was sluggish. Vets agreed that antibiotics will be required to save the cow - 25cc of penicillin given twice a day was suggested. Supportive therapy was also suggested: IV dextrose with Phytobiotic tincture, Vitamin C, and Bovi-Sera. Large doses of Echinacea were also suggested. One vet was reminded of an issue in a herd she was treating: mycotoxins in the feed caused all the first-calf heifers to come in with gangrene at freshening. So she suggested that other heifers due to freshen soon should be put on some liver support: Milk Thistle, Burdock root, and Yarrow.

Fly control for heifers on pasture was an issue for one producer. The replies reminded us all that fly control is always a multi-pronged approach, and suggested to think of "dry" and "wind". Anything to keep things dry - areas around water troughs, corners of the barn, even dusting the animals with lime. Wind such as tunnel ventilation or Cow-Vac make it hard for flies to fly. Harrowing pastures to break up cow pies reduces horn flies. One farmer uses an essential oil fly spray (Crystal Creek No-Fly) mixed with vegetable or mineral oil in a hand-held spray bottle. With a hard pump, he can spray heifers 10 to 15 feet away, knocking off the face flies and horn flies.

There was a discussion on the merits of diatomaceous earth for internal parasites. One vet suggested that it was over-rated as a dewormer. Another suggested that research on small ruminants shows it can be effective if used as follows: Use 20 grams/100 lbs. of body weight of diatomaceous earth. Make a paste using equal parts by volume of Cayenne, Garlic (crushed fresh cloves), and

continued on page 34

Website & E-Newsletter Advertising

NODPA is pleased to provide additional advertising opportunities for our organic dairy supporters and resource individuals through our Website and our monthly E-Newsletter.

Website Advertising

Three banner ads are located at the top of the home page and at least 10 other pages on NODPA's website. NODPA.com receives over 2500 visits each month navigating to an average of 3 pages per visit.

Ad Design: Display-ready ads should be 275 pixels wide by 100 pixels tall. Your ad can link to a page on your website.

Cost: Display-ready ads are \$150 per month.

E-Newsletter Advertising

Two banner ads are located at the top of each E-Newsletter, going out monthly to over 2,000 individuals through our E-Newsletter, the NODPA-ODairy discussion forum, and NODPA's Facebook page.

Ad Design: Display-ready ads should be 300 pixels wide by 125 pixels tall. Your ad can link to a page on your website.

Cost: Display-ready ads are \$125 per month.

Discounted rates for commitments of 6 months or more.

Interested in one or both of these opportunities? For more information, contact Nora Owens at:

Email: noraowens@comcast.net

Phone: 413-772-0444

Go to the following web page for more information:

www.nodpa.com/web_ads.shtml

Subscribing to ODairy:

ODairy is a FREE, vibrant listserv for organic dairy farmers, educators and industry representatives who actively participate with questions, advice, shared stories, and discussions of issues critical to the organic dairy industry.

To sign up for the ODairy listserv, go to:

www.nodpa.com/list_serv.shtml

Classified Ads

continued from page 25

operation of grass-fed, organic registered Jersey cows in Alabama. The individual will be responsible for all facets of day-to-day operations, including the construction planning and equipment purchasing of the milking parlor. For more information, please contact Tammy Hobson at 334-624-4660.

EQUIPMENT

Two barley sprout systems for sale; asking \$20,000.00 for each system. Both systems put out 2200 pounds of sprouts a day. The systems are self-contained, water and lighting is automatic. Contact: Ron Dyk, roncond@hotmail.com, 406-580-4644

FORAGES, BEDDING & GRAINS

Dry hay for sale. Large round bales; first and second cut. Good for cattle or horses. Certified organic. Stored inside. Stanley Longley, 802-326-4151 Montgomery, Vt.

4'x4' Outlage/Grass Bales For Sale. Wrapped; 600 available; \$40 per bale, quantity discounts available. Heds-Up Farm, ed@hedsupfarm.com, 315-794-3909

Location: Hamilton, NY

Glensfoot Farms in Cherry Valley, NY, grows, bales, and delivers high quality certified organic hay Baleage. Contact Todd Gohde (607) 287-8411 or tgohde@nycap.rr.com for availability and pricing. Round bales of first or second cutting are available for sale, and custom orders can be arranged.

Location: Cherry Valley, NY

LAND FOR SALE

Perry Farm – Brownington, Vermont: Request for Proposals

The Vermont Land Trust (VLT) is working with the owners to provide a farmer with the opportunity to acquire this 134-acre farm. VLT is seeking a farmer



MOSA
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mosa@mosaorganic.org
608-637-2526

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who will operate a commercial farm business and contribute to the agricultural community. This has been a well-maintained farm with land that is certified organic. VLT is in the process of conserving the land. An interim lease-to-purchase agreement will be possible prior to the completion of the conservation process. For maps, photos and more information on the Perry Farm Request for Proposals (RFP) please visit:

<http://www.vlt.org/initiatives/perry-farm-for-sale>

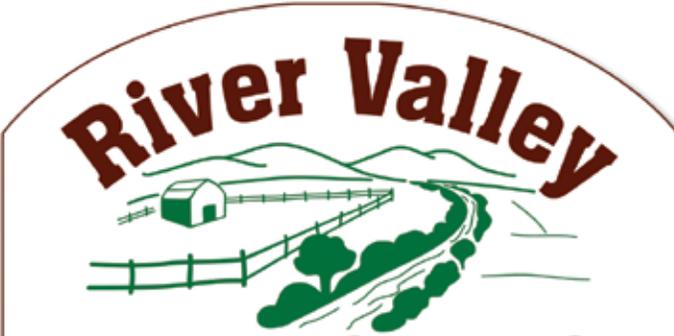
NET UPDATE

Odairy Discussions

continued from page 33

the diatomaceous earth. Fill boluses, and (ideally) start to administer the week before a full moon. They should be treated 3 times, seven days apart.

Pinkeye was a problem for several producers this summer. They shared their treatments: one farmer suggested an increase in Vitamin A for prevention, and he used a homeopathic spray for pinkeye. Another recommended free-choice Thorvin kelp, beginning a couple months prior to the season. He likes Dr. Paul's Wound Spray as a treatment, used 4 to 6 times a day. Another



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glues a patch over the eye to protect it from the sun; animals with pinkeye should at least be brought inside. A vet performs an eye flap suture procedure to protect the eye and allow healing. Another producer feeds kelp to keep iodine and copper levels up; if there is an outbreak of pinkeye, he adds additional iodine to the water. A spray made with Calendula tincture and homeopathic Hypericum, diluted in water was also recommended. Purple Loosestrife was also recommended – either dried and fed at a rate of 1 tsp per 500 lbs. twice a day, or made as a tea with 1 tsp per pint of water, then strain and cool to use it to flush the affected eye daily.

A cow was diagnosed with a digestive problem. She isn't eating much, has trouble getting up, and has very runny manure. It was suggested that the cow be removed from pasture, and fed just dry hay and maybe some oats for 4 to 5 days. Probiotics like yogurt or sauerkraut would help, also Slippery Elm or Mallow. One farmer suggested that a cud exchange might help. Take the cud from the mouth of a healthy herd-mate, and put it in the mouth of the sick cow. In his experience, the sick cow turned around quickly.

Liz farms with her husband and son in Hammond, NY. You can reach Liz by phone or email: 315-324-6926, bawden@cit-tele.com.



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Hauler Bob Meendering (l) and DFA Member Rick Bousquet (r)

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Calendar

September 16-18, 2015

Generations of Opportunity: Sun and Water, Sons and Daughters Mt. Pleasant, MI

Farm tours, featured speakers: Dr. Daphne Miller, Nicolette Niman, Mark Schatzker; seminars include Grazing for Soil Health, Grass Finishing Strategies and Finances, Farm and Ranch Succession, and much more. For more information and registration please go to www.grassfedexchange.com or contact Kathy Richburg, kathyr.gfe@gmail.com, 256-996-3142.

September 17, 2015, 12:00 pm

**Temple Grandin to visit Ontario County
Lawnhurst Farms, LLC, 4124 County Road #5, Stanley, NY 14561**

Dr. Temple Grandin is the author of many books including Humane Livestock Handling, Animals Make Us Human and The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's. She is a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University and also designs livestock handling equipment. Dr. Grandin will offer a presentation to the public later that evening on life with autism and trends in the livestock industry at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva at 7:00 p.m.

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Classified Ads: Free to organic dairy farmers and business members. All others \$20 for the first 30 words; \$.20 per word over 30

For advertising information call Nora Owens:
413-772-0444 or email noraowens@comcast.net.

Please send a check with your ad (made payable to NODPA).
30 Keets Rd., Deerfield, MA 01342

Thanks to the Pennsylvania Beef Council, the Happiness House, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Upstate Niagara Milk Cooperative for their generous support in making these events possible. Cost: \$25.00. The afternoon meeting is hosted by Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team. For more information, call Cathy Wallace, 585-343-3040 x138.

September 21, 2015

Irrigation, Pasture Renovation, and Cow Health

Tyler & Melanie Webb, Stony Pond Farm, 336 Emch Drive, Enosburg Falls, VT

Knowing strategies for dealing with challenges, such as cow health complications, implementing irrigation, and improving soil quality, can improve farm profitability and ease the stress of management. In addition to talking to the Webb's, we will be joined by a trained veterinarian to discuss tools for identifying and treating common metabolic diseases such as milk fever, ketosis, and grass tetany. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch from NOFA-VT's Pizza Oven). Contact Sam Fuller, sam@nofavt.org, (802) 434-4122 ext. 14

September 21st - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Glynwood Farm Skills Workshop: Fencing

Hudson Valley Farm Business Incubator, Pine Farm, 7 Pine Road, New Paltz, NY (Ulster County)

This workshop will begin with an overview of different fencing options. Participants will get hands-on experience building different types of fences, including techniques for hand-setting posts, instruction on building corners and gate ends, and practice installing five-strand high tensile fence and woven wire fences. Troy Bishopp will be presenting. The workshop will take place in the field, so attendees should wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Lunch will not be provided, so attendees should bring their own bagged lunch and water bottles. The RAIN DATE for this workshop will be Tuesday, September 22. Cost: \$50 - to register visit <https://www.glynwood.org/event/farm-skills-workshop-fencing/>.

September 23rd - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Dairy Pasture Walk Crystal Valley Farm

Chris, Judy, Greg, and Elena DiBenedetto
257 Route 3, Halcott Center, NY (Delaware County)

We will see some key aspects of their grazing system includes the built in flexibility for creating their paddocks using polywire and step-in posts combined with flexibility in managing pasture sward heights and quality with hay making. In addition, we will visit the recently installed solar powered well and water system for their dairy pastures. Come prepared to walk the pastures, rain or shine. There is no cost to attend. Light refreshments will be provided after the walk. To register call Kim @ 607-865-7090 or email kmh19@cornell.edu

September 24-27th, 2015

2015 Draft Animal-Power Field Days

Cummington Fairgrounds, 97 Fairground Rd, Cummington, MA

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance Producer Milk Check Assignment Form

I, _____ (please print name on your milk check)
 request that _____ (name of company that sends your milk check)
 deduct the sum of :

_____ \$0.02 per hundredweight to support the work of NODPA
 _____ \$0.05 per hundredweight to support the work of NODPA (the amount that has been deducted in the past for national milk marketing but can now be returned to you as an organic producer if you have applied for the exemption.) If you need assistance in applying for the exemption, check here _____
 _____ \$0.07 per hundredweight (the \$.05 marketing check-off plus \$0.02)

as an assignment from my milk check starting the first day of _____, 201____. The total sum will be paid monthly to NODPA. This agreement may be ended at any time by the producer by sending a written request to their milk buyer with a copy to NODPA.

Milk handlers please send payments to:
 Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA), Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, 30 Keets Rd, Deerfield, MA 01342

Producer signature: _____ Date: _____
 Producer number/ member no: _____ E-mail: _____
 Number of milking cows: _____ Tel #: _____
 Certifying Agency: _____
 Farm Address: (please print) _____

Producers—please send this to NODPA, Attn Ed Maltby, Executive Director, 30 Keets Rd, Deerfield, MA 01342, so we can track who has signed up and forward this form to the milk handler. Thank you.

Subscribe to the NODPA News and support NODPA!

By becoming a subscriber you will receive 6 copies of the NODPA News and help support the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance. NODPA depends on your contributions and donations. If you enjoy the bi-monthly NODPA News; subscribe to the Odairy Listserv (http://nodpa.com/list_serv.shtml); visit our web page (www.nodpa.com) or benefit from farmer representation with the NOP and processors that NODPA provides, please show your support by making a generous contribution to our efforts.

Note that if you sign up for the NODPA Voluntary Organic Milk Check-Off, you will be automatically signed up as a NODPA News subscriber.

_____ \$40 to cover an annual subscription to NODPA news	_____ \$300 to \$500 to become a Friend
_____ \$50 to become an Associate member (open to all)	_____ \$500 to \$1,000 to become a Patron
_____ \$100 to become a supporter of NODPA	_____ \$1,000+ to become a Benefactor
_____ \$150 to become a Business Member	

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Date: _____ Are you a certified organic dairy producer? YES NO
 Number of milking cows _____ Milk buyer _____

Are you transitioning to organic? YES NO If yes, anticipated date of certification: _____

Please mail this form with a check to: Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, 30 Keets Rd, Deerfield, MA 01342, or by fax: 866-554-9483 or by email to ednodpa@comcast.net. Please make your check payable to: NODPA

Credit card: Master Card Visa Card #: _____
 Name on Card: _____ Expiration Date: __ __ 201__ Security Code on Card: _____

Calendar

continued from page 36

The largest draft animal/ sustainable land use conference in the region! We offer a full day of intensive all day workshops with some hands on opportunities. Two days of workshops and demonstrations aimed at working equines and bovines, animal husbandry, training, farming and forestry equipment and practices. Learn practical applications for everyday work with your animals and land. Great meals and time for socializing and networking, on site camping and more. For more information and registration, visit <http://www.draftanimal-power.org/>

September 27 & 28, 2015

MOFGA's Common Ground Country Fair, Unity, ME

For more information, call MOFGA at 207-568-4142 or visit their website:

<http://www.mofga.org/TheFair/tabid/135/Default.aspx>

September 30, 2015

Fall Feed Inventory and Land Improvements

Seth Gardner, McKnight Farm, 440 Snow Hill Road, E. Montpelier, VT 05651

Farmers who take careful inventory of their stored forages can plan ahead for optimal nutrition through the winter as well as avoiding shortcomings in feed quality and milk production. Join us at McKnight Farm to discuss strategies for evaluating feed stock needs and action plans. Additional topics will include grazing, land improvements including tillage, establishing new seedings, 'new' species, and managing soil fertility. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch from NOFA-VT's Pizza Oven). Contact Sam Fuller, sam@nofavt.org, (802) 434-4122 ext. 14

October 9th

UNH Organic Dairy Research Facility Tour and Tuckaway Farm Field Walk

Lee, NH

Friday, October 9th, Field Trip to UNH Organic Dairy Research Facility and Tuckaway Farm, Lee, NH 03861 Join us for a tour of the first certified organic university research dairy in the U.S. with a focus on 1) the facilities (bedded pack, milking parlor, composting facility and wood shaving mill) and 2) updates in animal science research. After the tour, we will visit Tuckaway Farm, run by Dorn Cox, for a field walk. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and dinner). Contact Sam Fuller, sam@nofavt.org, (802) 434-4122 ext. 14

October 20, 2015

PASA Field Day: Happy Animals Work for a Living II

Spring Meadows Farm, Millerton, PA, Bradford County

Andy Lyon will be our host for this full day event covering how pastured livestock can be used to improve the land. Andy will lead participants through his farm to see his pasture systems for American Buff geese and Idaho pastured pigs, as well as how he uses a hen wagon with his calves. All of his methods are a way to reduce his labor inputs, while improving pastures Andy will also demonstrate how to use oxen as working animals and participants will get a chance to test drive the team! www.pasa.org for more information.

November 6-8, 2015

2015 Annual Convention of the New England Farmers Union

Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

SAVE THE DATE! Visit for more information: <http://www.newenglandfarmersunion.org/event/2015-annual-convention-of-the-new-england-farmers-union/>

November 13 - 14, 2015

NESAWG's It Takes A Region Conference

Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, NY

SAVE THE DATE! NESAWG's conference draws together hundreds of people working to transform the northeast region's food system each year. <http://nesawg.org/our-work/conference>

December 2 - 4, 2015,

8th Annual Young Farmers Conference, Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture

Pocantico Hills, New York

This conference provides participants with access to inspiring keynotes and unique workshops that address soil science, technical skills, agricultural policy, farm business management, conservation and more. yfc@stonebarnscenter.org, 914 366 6200 x134

December 13-16, 2015

6th National Conference on Grazing Lands -- Grapevine, TX

This is a one-of-a-kind, producer-based conference which brings together ranchers, farmers, land managers, grazing specialists and conservationists from across the nation for education, technology advancements and grazing land sustainability. We also are bringing together renowned speakers Dr. Don Ball, Dr. Garry Lacefield, Kathy Voth, Dr. Rachel Gilker and Peter Ballerstedt to the conference program. On-line registration is now live! Regular conference attendees, speakers, exhibitors and sponsors can register for the conference here: <http://www.cvent.com/d/brqxxm>. Remember to register early for the best rates!

ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

From the MODPA Treasurer

A What a summer it has been. Here in my neck of the woods the crops are looking pretty good. A little more heat would be nice but all things considered things are good. We have had an abundance of moisture here which has made for excellent pasture. The small grain harvest was ok this year. Hard to get done around the rain but ok yields. The corn is looking good but needs a little time. Most got a late start. Time to start laying the ground-work for next year.

On the milk front there has not been a lot of change. There continues to be good demand for our product. Keep up the good work. One of the issues I have seen is the lack of ability of the bankers to understand and discriminate between the conventional market and the organic market. We need to do a better job of educating them. They are hesitant to believe that this pricing can last. We can make sure that it does if we all play our cards right. We need to produce just enough or even a touch short. We cannot afford to go down the path that conventional has. Greed has killed off many a good cash cow. The checkoff continues to make news. NODPA has submitted a proposal that is more realistic than the one proposed by the OTA. I still do not feel we even need a checkoff. Just look down the road at your conventional neighbors. Doesn't appear to have done them much good. We ALL need to make sure that our opinions are heard. Not just a handful of chosen ones.

As always, feel free to contact me or any of the board members with your thoughts and concerns. We love to hear from you. If you get the chance take time to take in a field day this fall. NODPA's field day is a great event to attend if you can. Wishing all of you a safe and bountiful fall.

Bruce Drinkman
MODPA Treasurer
3253 150th Avenue
Glenwood City, WI 54013
715-265-4431

Become a Member of MODPA!

Member dues are \$35 per year, for which you receive our newsletter and become part of our team working for the best interests of all organic dairies.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Certified Organic Dairy? Yes No # of cows: _____

Transitioning: _____

I wish to support MODPA (check whatever applies):

___ By becoming a state rep or director.

___ By supporting MODPA with a %/cwt check-off.

___ By providing a donation to support the work of MODPA. \$_____ enclosed.

Please send this form to: Bruce Drinkman, MODPA Treasurer, 3253 150th Ave, Glenwood City, WI 54013

About MODPA

The Midwest Organic Dairy Producer Alliance (MODPA) represents organic dairy producers in WI, MN, ND, SD, IA, NE, KS, MO, IL, IN, OH, & MI with the mission "to promote communication and networking for the betterment of all Midwest organic dairy producers and enhance a sustainable farmgate price." To ensure a fair and sustainable farm gate price.

1. Keep family farms viable for future generations.
2. Promote ethical, ecological and humane farming practices.
3. Networking among producers of all organic commodities.
4. Promote public policy, research and education in support of organic ag.

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