

Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County

# FARM FLASH



AUGUST 2024

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For Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County Federal Reporting please consider taking this anonymous survey via the link or by scanning the QR Code.

[https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_40ffQqIRwkkRXZc](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_40ffQqIRwkkRXZc)



# Upcoming Events

## **FarmSafe: Manure Management and Gas Safety Seminar**

**Date:** August 10th

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Collins Farm - 8744 Thomas Road, Rome NY 13440

Join us for an essential seminar on FarmSafe: Manure Management and Gas Safety, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County. This informative event, featuring presentations by NYCAMH experts, is designed to equip our local agriculture community and first responders with critical knowledge and strategies to effectively handle hazards that come along with manure management and application.

### **Event Highlights:**

- **Workshop:** Learn from industry leaders about best practices in manure management and gas safety.
- **Q&A Session:** Get answers to your specific questions and concerns related to manure handling and gas safety.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with peers and experts to exchange ideas and build valuable professional relationships.

**Registration and Contact:** Registration is mandatory.

To register online: [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/ManureSafety_230)

[ManureSafety\\_230](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/ManureSafety_230)

You may also register by email or phone by contacting Maryellen Baldwin, at

[mfw73@cornell.edu](mailto:mfw73@cornell.edu) or by phone at 315.736.3394 ext. 177.

Secure your spot today and join us for this session on FarmSafe: Manure Management and Gas Safety, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County with presentations by NYCAMH.



## **Exploring the Positives of Roasted Plenish Soybeans: Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm -9pm**

Highly oleic soybeans (HOSB) also known as Plenish soybeans are gaining traction in the arena of building dairy rations. Farms looking to improve components and reign in feed costs have looked to roasted soybeans. Plan to attend a tour of a recently installed roaster and hear how introducing Plenish beans benefited one local farm. **Tour will be held at Collins Knoll Farm L.L.C located at 9499 Elm St. Chadwicks, NY.** Reservations are required by contacting Marylynn at [mrm7@cornell.edu](mailto:mrm7@cornell.edu) or by phone at 315.736.3394 ext. 132. Reservations allow us to contact you in the event of cancellations or changes. Please RSVP by August 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **Farm-Provided Employee Housing Guide Resources from Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development**

Do you provide housing for your employees? Explore the newly released **Farm-Provided Employee Housing Guide**. Providing adequate housing for farm workers presents significant challenges. From ensuring compliance with regulations and safety standards to enhancing efficiency and comfort, choosing the right accommodations is crucial. The culture surrounding farm-provided employee housing has a dynamic influence on the relationship between employers and employees. The **Farm-Provided Employee Housing Guide** is a comprehensive reference tool, addressing essential topics for responsibly providing employee housing. It emphasizes regulatory compliance and management strategies that establish and maintain safe, healthy living environments for residents.

### **Important Topics:**

- State and Federal Regulatory Compliance: Which rules apply to your housing situation?
- Who is responsible?
- Why should there be an assigned manager?
- Training for new residents;  
    "Orientation Guide for Occupants of Farm Housing"
- Why inspections are important;  
    "Inspection Checklist for Farm-Provided Worker Housing"
- Tips on cleaning and maintenance;  
    "Cleaning Schedule for Farm-provided Employee Housing"
- Emergency Preparedness; "Fire Safety Fact Sheet"
- Links to informative resources

Please reach out to us at C.C.E. Oneida to obtain a manual or visit the Cornell Agricultural Workforce and Development webpage: <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/>

# Optimizing Your Farm for a Profitable 2024 Harvest Season

Maryellen Baldwin

As summer draws to a close, farmers nationwide are gearing up for the bustling fall harvest season. The success of this pivotal period hinges not only on maximizing yields but also on meticulous planning and proactive measures to minimize errors. Preparing your farm for a profitable 2024 harvest involves strategic steps that ensure efficiency, crop quality, and overall profitability. Here's a comprehensive guide to essential preparations for a successful harvest season:

## 1. Equipment Readiness and Maintenance

Preparing farm equipment is not a last-minute task but a year-round commitment. Implementing an effective equipment management system is crucial. This system allows you to track maintenance schedules, monitor equipment performance, and address any issues promptly. Before the harvest season begins, conduct thorough inspections of all machinery and implements. Ensure they are in optimal condition for seamless operation during critical harvesting periods. Investing time in equipment maintenance now prevents costly breakdowns and downtime later.

## 2. Inspection and Maintenance of Storage Facilities

The condition of storage facilities directly impacts the quality and marketability of your harvest. Begin by inspecting all storage bins and containers for damage, cracks, or signs of pest activity. Clean and sanitize storage areas to eliminate residues that could harbor pests or pathogens. Promptly repair any structural issues to prevent spoilage and maintain optimal storage conditions for different crops. Proper maintenance ensures that your harvested produce remains fresh and market-ready, protecting your investment in crop production.

## 3. Implementing Effective Weed Management Strategies

Weed control is essential for maximizing crop yields and reducing competition for nutrients and water. Develop a weed management plan tailored to your farm's specific needs and crop rotation schedule. Use a combination of cultural practices, such as crop rotation and mulching, along with targeted herbicide applications when necessary. Early intervention is key—address weeds promptly to prevent them from establishing and spreading throughout your fields. A proactive approach to weed management promotes healthier soil and enhances overall crop performance.

#### **4. Scouting and Pest Management**

Regular field scouting is critical for identifying potential pest issues before they impact crop health and yield. Prioritize scouting to monitor crop development, identify pest hotspots, and assess the effectiveness of pest management strategies. Keep detailed field notes and utilize technology like digital imagery to track changes in crop health and pest presence over time. Early detection allows for timely intervention measures, minimizing the need for reactive pest control methods and preserving crop quality.

#### **5. Planning for Optimal Crop Selection and Rotation**

Selecting appropriate crops and implementing a rotation plan is essential for maintaining soil health and maximizing productivity. Consider market demands, soil fertility, and climate conditions when choosing crops for the upcoming season. Rotate crops strategically to break pest cycles, improve soil structure, and optimize nutrient availability. Diversifying your crop selection can also spread risk and capitalize on market opportunities. A well-planned crop rotation strategy contributes to sustainable farming practices and long-term profitability.

Preparing your farm for a profitable 2024 harvest season requires foresight, planning, and attention to detail across all aspects of farm management. By focusing on equipment readiness, storage maintenance, weed and pest management, and strategic crop selection, you can enhance productivity, reduce risks, and ensure the highest quality harvest. Embrace proactive agricultural practices that promote sustainability and profitability, setting the stage for a successful year ahead in farming.

### **The Oneida County Public Market wants YOU!**

We are looking for vendors for our E-commerce website! If you want your product to reach a new audience of Central New Yorkers but don't have the time to set up a stand at the OCPM then this is the opportunity for you! If you'd like to find out more, email Audra at [ajb489@cornell.edu](mailto:ajb489@cornell.edu) or check out our website <https://oneidacountypublicmarket.com/e-commerce-vendor-information/>



## USDA to Forecast Fruit Production

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct a forecast survey for 2024 fruit production inquiry (apples and peaches) during August 2024. The survey will collect information about acreage and projected production from more than 350 growers in the northeastern region of the United States.

"The information from these surveys directly impacts our regions' fruit growers by providing a forecast of fruit production in the northeast," said Kevin Pautler, acting director of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Northeastern Regional Field Office. "Growers can use the survey results when making business plans and marketing decisions. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) relies on the average yields to administer farm programs. Cooperative Extension uses the data to provide needed outreach and education, and State Departments and Agencies of Agriculture use the information to aid growers."

In these surveys, NASS asks participants to answer a variety of questions about apples and peaches, depending on state and version of the questionnaire. For their convenience, survey participants have the option to respond online. As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only State and National level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results in the August 12th, 2024 Crop Production report. All previous publications are available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications>. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

## Help Spread the Word!

Cornell Cooperative Extension Broome County and the Farmers Market Federation of NY have launched the Cultivating Profitability: Farmers Market Benchmarks project to support farmers and producers across New York. The goal? To develop a set of industry standards and benchmarks that farmers can use to maximize their profitability.

We need your help to reach our goal of over 800 survey responses this summer. The survey, which takes only ten minutes to complete, collects data on pricing, sales, labor, marketing, and other factors influencing profitability at farmers' markets. Please help us by sharing with your networks.

Survey Link: [https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bmwR9wMcCbnAObU](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bmwR9wMcCbnAObU)



For more information, please get in touch with Maryellen Baldwin, at [mfw73@cornell.edu](mailto:mfw73@cornell.edu) or by phone at



USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
Broome County



NORTHEAST  
EXTENSION  
RISK  
MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION



### Bi-Weekly Ag Email

Sometimes information about upcoming events come in too late to make it into Farm Flash. In order to counteract missing out on information we created a bi-weekly Ag Email for updates exclusively on upcoming events, important deadlines and useful resources!

Contact Audra Benincasa at (315) 736-3394 ext. 266 or [ajb489@cornell.edu](mailto:ajb489@cornell.edu) to be added to the Email Update List.



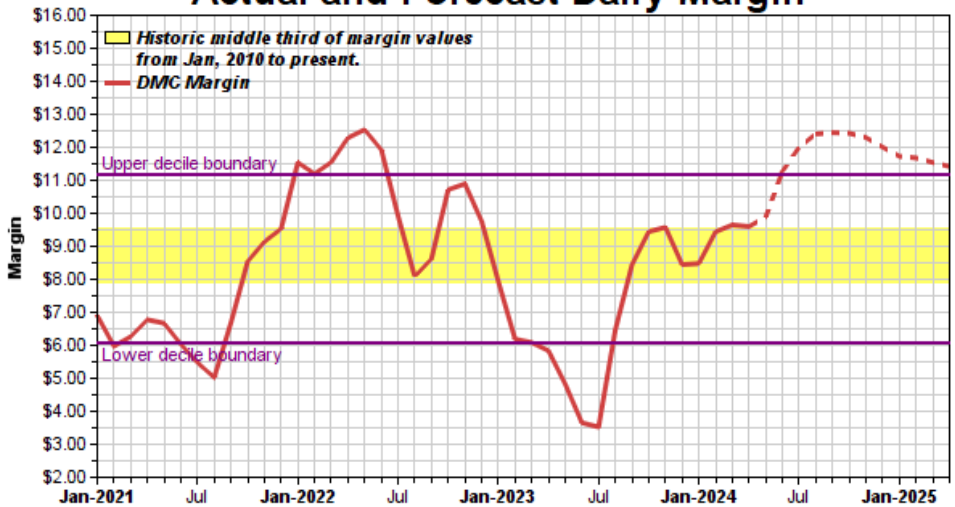
## Farmland for a New Generation

**CCE Oneida County can help you access farmland**, or someone to farm your land. Farmland for a New Generation New York, is a FREE website tool developed in partnership between the NY State Dept. of Ag and Markets, American Farmland Trust, and a network of 27 land trusts, CCE offices, and other agricultural organizations, all working together to bring a new generation of farmers onto land across the state.

CCE Oneida County is one such extension office that can help you register a profile on the site, find farmland or find a farmer to work your land. Your regional navigator at CCE Oneida County is Maryellen Baldwin, at [mfw73@cornell.edu](mailto:mfw73@cornell.edu) or 315.736.3394, ext. 177. At <https://nyfarmlandfinder.org>, you will find how to prepare a profile, trainings, materials, and documents to educate and support farmers and landowners.

We know, gaining hands-on farm experience is an important step for farmers before accessing farmland. Through working on a farm, you can enhance your knowledge of the agricultural industry and gain valuable insight into the day-to-day operations of a farm. Also, new this year is a database of Farm Jobs. Please call our office; at 315.736.3394, ext. 177 for additional information.

### Actual and Forecast Dairy Margin



Updated 6/14/24

## **The Economic Benefit of the New York State Fair and County Fairs for Farmers**

Myron Thurston

County and state fairs in New York play a pivotal role in supporting local farmers by providing them with valuable opportunities to showcase their products, build relationships with consumers, and generate substantial financial benefits.

First and foremost, county and state fairs serve as premier platforms for farmers to exhibit and market their agricultural products. At these fairs, farmers have the chance to display a wide range of goods, including fresh produce, livestock, dairy products, and artisanal crafts, to a large and diverse audience. The exposure gained from participating in fairs can lead to increased sales and brand recognition, ultimately driving up revenues for farmers. By connecting directly with consumers and showcasing the quality and variety of their offerings, farmers can attract new customers and expand their customer base, resulting in a boost in sales and profitability.

New York State set aside \$50,000 in the 2024 NYS Budget to help promote county fairs through their Agricultural Fairgrounds Advertising, Promotion, and Education Program. The program's focus is to promote county fairs to local residents in those communities and across the state. Goals include enhancing and encouraging visitor participation and appreciation, expand on existing efforts to attract visitors and showcase agriculture, and expose consumers to the fair vendors to create meaningful, long-lasting brand recognition.

As Commissioner Ball stated, "New York's county and youth fairs are community landmarks, providing essential education – from local food specialties to cultural experiences – that connects more New Yorkers to the thriving agricultural industry at work all around them. Through our Agricultural Fairgrounds Advertising, Promotion, and Education Program, these local fairs are receiving critical funding to help boost these tremendous efforts. As the summer season approaches, I look forward to visiting fairs across the state to see these projects come to fruition."

Moreover, county and state fairs offer farmers the opportunity to network with other industry professionals, suppliers, retailers, and potential buyers. These networking opportunities can lead to new partnerships, collaborations, and distribution channels, opening up avenues for increased sales and business growth. By forging strong relationships within the agricultural community and beyond, farmers can gain access to valuable resources, market insights, and support.

County and state fairs often host competitions, contests, and auctions that allow farmers to showcase the quality and excellence of their products. Winning awards or securing top placements in these competitions can significantly enhance the reputation and marketability of a farmer's brand, leading to increased consumer demand and premium pricing for their products. The prestige and recognition associated with winning accolades at fairs can translate into financial gains for farmers, as consumers are willing to pay premium prices for award-winning goods.

Fairs provide farmers with the opportunity to educate the public about agriculture, sustainability, and rural life. Through interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and educational sessions, farmers can raise awareness about the importance of local food production, environmental stewardship, and the challenges facing the agricultural industry. By fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of farming practices among consumers, farmers can cultivate a loyal customer base that values their products and is willing to pay a premium for locally sourced, sustainable goods.

In addition to direct financial benefits, county and state fairs can also have indirect economic impacts on farmers and the agricultural sector as a whole. By attracting large numbers of visitors, tourists, and vendors, fairs stimulate local economic activity, create job opportunities, and support ancillary industries such as hospitality, transportation, and retail. The influx of visitors to fairs can result in increased demand for local goods and services, providing farmers with new avenues to market their products and capitalize on the heightened consumer interest.

Overall, the financial benefits for farmers participating in county and state fairs in New York are multi-faceted and substantial. From increased sales and market exposure to networking opportunities and industry recognition, fairs offer farmers a platform to grow their businesses, connect with consumers, and enhance their profitability. By leveraging the unique advantages of county and state fairs, farmers in New York can reap significant financial rewards and secure a competitive edge in the agricultural marketplace.

**Contact Information for Local Agencies that support Agriculture**

NYS DEC 315-793-2554,  
Oneida Co Soil & Water 315-736-3334  
USDA Farm Services 315-736-3316  
Oneida County Farm Bureau  
1-800-342-4143  
Farm Net 1-800-547-3276

## Farmers Are Holding On to 36% More Corn Compared to a Year Ago. What You Need to Know About USDA's Surprising Changes.

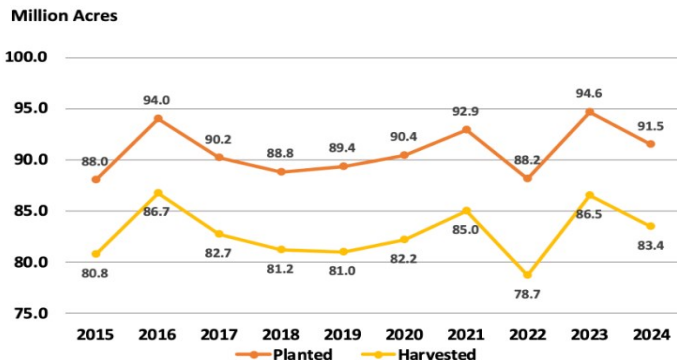
With planted acres for corn above pre-trade estimates at 91.5 million acres, the combination of more acres and growing stocks sent corn prices tumbling.

Here's a quick recap of what USDA had to say in Friday's June Acreage and Grain Stocks reports:

- 2024 corn planted acreage at 91.5 million, which is down 3 percent from 2023, but above the 90 million acres in the March Prospective Plantings report.
- Soybean acreage was pegged at 86.1 million acres, up 3 percent from last, but down from the 86.5 million in March.
- HALL wheat is estimated at 47.2 million acres, slightly lower than the 47.5 in March, but down 5 percent from 2023.
- All cotton planted acres for 2024 is estimated at 11.7 million acres, up 14 percent from last year.
- The June Grain Stocks Report estimates on farm stocks are up even more, up 36.5 percent. USDA says there are more than 3 billion bushels of corn currently stored on the farm, which is the highest level since 1988.



### Corn Acres United States

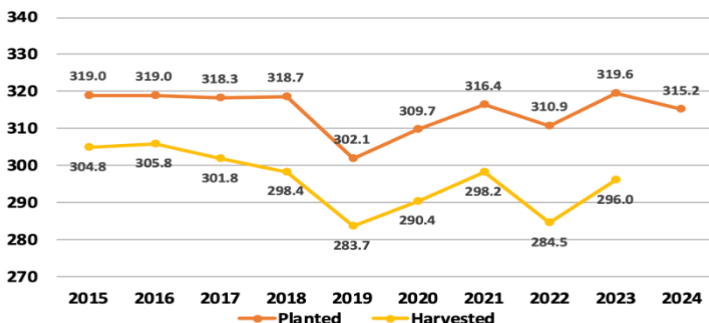




## Principal Crop Acres United States



Million Acres



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

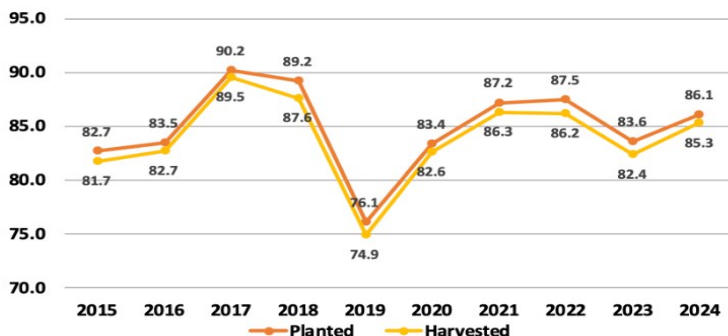
June 28, 2024



## Soybean Acres United States



Million Acres



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

June 28, 2024

### A Cellular Explanation to Why Milk Production Tanks in Summer Heat

ML Collins

We know full well the impact of extended high temperatures and humidity on our lactating herds. Moreover, research and data now explain that even dry cows and subsequent offspring can potentially be impacted from heat stress. While well-managed farms do their best to offer cow cooling methods it's almost impossible not to experience a drop in milk during the summer months. A recent study conducted by Virginia Tech monitored and studied 16 lactating

cows in summer like conditions created in environmental chambers. The chambers allowed conditions to change to reflect varying levels of heat stress. Researchers took the data derived from the study to better understand from a cellular level what causes the drop in milk production.

In the cow's udder are mammary glands comprised of epithelial cells that are responsible for milk production. These cells secrete milk into the alveoli, which expand to accommodate the volume of milk they hold until harvest during milking. The study compared cells taken from the heat stressed chamber occupants to that of a control group, here is what was noticed:

- Less alveoli open space in heat-stressed cows, meaning they had a reduced capacity to hold milk
- A higher number of alveoli per area due to less filling
- Greater death loss of secretory epithelial cells

Ben Cor, associate professor at Virginia Tech, explains that milk yield is highly influenced by cell numbers. Previous data sets have shown that an 82% increase in the number of epithelial cells leaving the mammary gland occurs after 10 days of heat stress. Recall that heat stress does not wait to show up in August. Typically we see signs of heat stress when the thermometer reaches the mid to upper sixties. In addition to production losses, the study evaluated changes to immune building cells in the mammary gland, particularly a granulocyte known as a neutrophil. During the ten day study the results showed a 70% to 80% decline in granulocyte viability. This means that while this immune building cell was still present in the mammary gland, it was not capable of attacking infections present or developing in the udder. This could help to explain the other seasonal challenge to milk production, increased somatic cell count.

While the dog days of summer will pass and production will ideally rebound, don't rest on your heels thinking your herd is in the clear. Make time to continue to plan for and re-evaluate your farms heat abatement and cooling efforts. Prioritize the lactating herd, while also looking for ways to meet the specific needs of both dry cows and young stock.

## **Take Steps Now to Make a Biosecurity Action Plan**

Biosecurity is top of mind for many dairy and beef producers, following the discovery of avian influenza virus Type A (H5N1) in dairy herds for the first time this spring.

“This discovery has brought a higher level of awareness for producers to take biosecurity seriously, and to take proactive steps to protect their animals and their business,” said Joe Gillespie, DVM, Boehringer Ingelheim. Developing and implementing a biosecurity action plan can help limit the potential access of pathogens coming in or going out of your operation. Dr. Gillespie recommended the following four tips to help you get started:

### 1. Start with the basics

“A biosecurity plan doesn’t have to be complicated,” asserted Dr. Gillespie. “If you’ve considered what your risks are and have worked with your herd veterinarian to develop a plan that helps reduce those risks, that’s a great start, and you can build on it over time.”

Having a plan for new animals arriving on the farm is a good first step to help reduce the chance of pathogens being brought into the farm via animal movement. Work with your herd veterinarian to develop protocols for testing and quarantining animals to reduce the risk of introducing new pathogens to the existing herd.

Another biosecurity basic is limiting nonessential access to animals and facilities. “If you’re not an essential part of the production team, there should be no need for you to be in with the animals,” said Dr. Gillespie.

If visitors do need to be in with the animals, provide disposable footwear, disposable clothing covers and other precautions that limit the ability for a pathogen on their person to spread throughout the operation. Require anyone coming onto the farm to check in with the office, so you have a way to track who’s coming and going and manage traffic flow.

### 2. Implement employee training

Once you have a biosecurity plan in place, it’s important to maintain that plan and regularly train employees on protocols.

“Training employees on biosecurity protocols at least quarterly helps strengthen their understanding of the plan and their observation skills to help them identify risks,” Dr. Gillespie stressed. Review your farm biosecurity plan with your herd veterinarian annually, when significant changes to your operation happen or when your risk level increases. For example, you may need to adjust your plan when building new facilities, exploring new, diversified market opportunities or when the disease risk is elevated.

### 3. Use your resources

There are many industry resources available to help you build a biosecurity plan. Dr. Gillespie recommends starting with your state Department of Agriculture or Animal Health Department. Making connections and having a plan on file with your state agency can be an advantage if a disease outbreak does occur.

“If you have a biosecurity plan on file, such as a Secure Beef Plan or Secure Milk Supply Plan, your state agency knows you’ve put forth the effort to understand your biosecurity risk,” said Dr. Gillespie. “If there is a disease outbreak, producers with a plan in place will have better access to markets or other avenues to manage their livestock, making commerce easier.”

In addition to a biosecurity plan, Dr. Gillespie recommends securing your premise identification number (PIN) or location identifier (LID), if you don’t already have one. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this information allows state officials to quickly and precisely identify where animals are located in the event of an animal health or feed safety emergency.

#### 4. Understand the role of vaccines

Vaccines play an important role in protecting cattle from common everyday health challenges, such as bovine respiratory disease. However, vaccines alone aren’t enough when it comes to a comprehensive biosecurity plan.

“Having animals vaccinated and immunized is important, whether you’re building a biosecurity plan or not, but many transboundary diseases don’t currently have vaccines available,” noted Dr. Gillespie. Transboundary animal diseases (TADs), like foot-and-mouth disease and avian influenza viruses, are highly transmissible livestock diseases that can cross borders and spread quickly. TADs pose a serious threat, endangering animal well-being and affecting international trade and global food security.

“Implementing a biosecurity plan that assesses and prepares you for both the everyday and the less common, but potentially deadly, pathogens will help you protect your business no matter what comes your way,” concluded Dr. Gillespie.

Talk with your herd veterinarian today for more information about biosecurity plans and protocols.

## **Preventing Farm Accident: Steps to Ensure Safety** Maryellen Baldwin

Farming, while vital to our economy and livelihoods, remains one of the most hazardous occupations. Each year, farm accidents underscore the importance of prioritizing safety measures. These tragedies not only affect families and communities but also highlight the urgent need for proactive safety practices on farms. By implementing preventive measures and fostering a safety-conscious environment, farmers can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Here’s a comprehensive guide to preventing farm accidents and ensuring a safe working environment:

### **Understanding the Risks**

Farming involves working with heavy machinery, livestock, and



various hazardous materials, making it inherently dangerous. Common causes of farm accidents include machinery mishaps, falls, livestock handling incidents, and exposure to toxic substances. Recognizing these risks is the first step toward implementing effective safety protocols.

### **Steps to Prevent Farm Accidents**

- 1. Invest in Training and Education:** Proper training is essential for all farm workers, including family members and seasonal employees. Ensure everyone understands how to operate machinery safely, handle chemicals, and manage livestock. Offer regular safety training sessions and provide resources such as manuals and safety guidelines in accessible formats.
- 2. Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Equip all workers with appropriate PPE, including helmets, gloves, eye protection, and hearing protection. Make sure PPE is well-maintained, properly fitted, and worn consistently during risky activities.
- 3. Maintain and Inspect Machinery:** Conduct regular inspections and maintenance of all farm equipment. Follow manufacturer guidelines for upkeep and repair to prevent machinery malfunctions that could lead to accidents. Ensure machinery guards are in place and functioning correctly.
- 4. Establish Safe Work Practices:** Develop and enforce safety protocols for specific tasks, such as handling livestock, operating machinery, and working at heights. Implement procedures for confined spaces and grain storage to prevent suffocation and entrapment incidents.
- 5. Control Hazardous Substances:** Store chemicals, pesticides, and fuels in designated areas away from living quarters and water sources. Use proper labeling and secure containers to prevent spills and contamination. Provide training on handling and disposing of hazardous substances safely.
- 6. Ensure Adequate Lighting and Signage:** Maintain well-lit work areas and install clear signage for hazards, emergency exits, and safety protocols. Adequate visibility reduces the risk of accidents, especially during early morning or late-night operations.
- 7. Encourage Communication and Reporting:** Foster a culture of safety where workers feel comfortable reporting hazards and near-misses without fear of reprisal. Conduct regular safety meetings to discuss concerns, share updates on safety protocols, and reinforce best practices.
- 8. Plan for Emergencies:** Develop and communicate emergency response plans that address injuries, fires, chemical spills, and other potential crises. Ensure all workers know emergency procedures and have access to first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and emergency contacts.
- 9. Promoting a Safety-Conscious Culture**  
Beyond implementing safety measures, promoting a culture of safety is crucial. Encourage open communication, collaboration, and continuous improvement in safety practices. Regularly review and update safety protocols based on feedback, technological

advancements, and regulatory changes.

## Conclusion

Preventing farm accidents requires a proactive approach that prioritizes safety at every level of farm operations. By investing in training, maintaining equipment, establishing safe practices, and fostering a safety-conscious culture, farmers can mitigate risks and protect the well-being of everyone on the farm. Remember, safety is everyone's responsibility, and each preventive measure taken contributes to a safer and more resilient farming community.

As you prepare for the challenges of farming, commit to prioritizing safety as an integral part of your operations. By making safety a priority today, you safeguard the future of your farm and ensure a safe working environment for generations to come.

More information and resources can be found online at <https://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/farm-safety/>

## Future of Dairy Farming Highlighted in World Dairy Expo Virtual Farm Tours

World Dairy Expo Virtual Farm Tours have brought some of the best dairy operations from near and far to Madison, WI for over 20 years. The four dairies to be featured during WDE 2024 continue that tradition while showcasing environmental stewardship, quality genetics, technology advancements, diversification and more. During Expo's Virtual Farm Tours, dairy owners and managers share a visual presentation, with time for questions and an open discussion afterward. Below is the 2024 World Dairy Expo Virtual Farm Tour schedule that can be enjoyed in person at WDE or online through ExpoTV at [www.worlddairyexpo.com](http://www.worlddairyexpo.com).

Tuesday, October 1: **Hosted by: Schoepp Farms LLC – Lodi, Wis.**

Schoepp Farms is a well-diversified grazing and cash grain operation that grows over 400 acres of corn, soybeans, winter wheat and alfalfa, as well as 110 acres of grass pasture that are dedicated to raising 200 dairy heifers, 30-50 dry cows and 15 grass-fed beef. Their 30-plus years of no-tilling crops and rotational grazing have made soil erosion almost nonexistent on their operation, allowing the farm to weather droughts and extreme rains with minimal yield losses.

While Schoepp Farms no longer manages a milking herd, the family will demonstrate the rewards of sustainable farming methods and showcase the groups and organizations that facilitated their transition to land management practices that have increased profitability.

Wednesday, October 2: **Hosted by: McCarty Family Farms – Rexford, Kan.**

Sponsored by: DeLaval, Inc.

Over 100 years ago, the McCarty family milked cows by hand in a barn without electricity. In 2000, the family moved to Rexford, Kansas, where they have grown to include 6 locations, including a partnership dairy in Ohio, an on-site milk processing plant and two on-site visitor centers. Across these locations, the McCarty family milks 19,000 registered Holsteins using two 120-stall DeLaval carousel parlors at their newest location. McCarty Family Farms prioritizes sustainability, striving to be responsible stewards of the land while maximizing genetic progress in their cattle. For all these efforts, McCarty Family Farms has received numerous awards, including the International Dairy Foods Innovative Dairy Farm of the Year, the US Dairy Sustainability Award, and Holstein USA's Progressive Genetics Herd Award.

Thursday, October 3: **Hosted by: Vandoske Dairy Farms – Cleveland, Wis.**

Sponsored by: Compeer Financial

Vandoske Dairy Farms is a third-generation dairy farm currently owned and operated by Bob and Tara Vandoske and their children, Brianne, Reid and Brooklyn. Established in 1945 by Bob's grandparents, the herd has grown from just 18 cows to over 600 cows today. The herd is 100% registered Holsteins, with a rolling herd average of 30,400 lbs.

Vandoske Dairy Farms has received many awards for their practices and animals. They're a frequent winner of the Milk Quality Award given by the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) and bred the Junior Bred & Owned Champion at World Dairy Expo in 2019 and 2021. The Vandoskes also recently hosted their local dairy breakfast and opened a direct-to-consumer ice cream store.

Friday, October 4: **Hosted by: Woldt Farms LLC – Brillion, Wis.**

Sponsored by: Complete Management Consulting LLC

As a fourth-generation dairy farm, Woldt Farms LLC has grown since beginning in 1911. Daryl and Amy Woldt, the current owners, purchased the farm from Daryl's parents in 1990 and currently milk 1,650 cows in a double-16 parallel parlor. Daryl and Amy have five daughters – Kelsey, Kayla, Kristen, Karly and Kortney – involved in the operation on various levels.

Woldt Farms LLC strives for sustainability as a part of the Lower Fox Demo Farms and Calumet County Ag Stewardship Alliance. As part of their efforts, 95% of their acreage is either no-till or uses cover crops to protect the land. Woldt Farms LLC also prioritizes its community involvement to connect with consumers of all ages, hosting their county's Sundae on the Farm twice.

Serving as the meeting place of the global [dairy](#) industry, World Dairy Expo is the premier forum for the global dairy community to learn, share, create commerce and showcase competition. The annual event will return to Madison, Wis. October 1-4, 2024, where dairy producers near and far can experience the world's largest dairy-focused trade show, a world-class dairy cattle show, attend seminars, meetings and presentations highlighting the latest and greatest in the industry and connect with other producers. Download the World Dairy Expo mobile app, visit [worlddairyexpo.com](http://worlddairyexpo.com) or follow WDE on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Spotify, or YouTube for more information.

## **Eating in Season**

Audra Benincasa

In the summer months we are surrounded by nutritious and vibrant fruits and vegetables, ready to be consumed at the peak of freshness. It seems as though you can't pass a corner without a farmer's market, farm stand, or fresh produce sign on it.

Coming into August, we have the dinner-plate staples, sweet corn, zucchini and summer squash, lettuce, cucumbers, and tomatoes. While desserts are bursting with the summer flavors of peaches, plums, blueberries, watermelon, and cantaloupe.

Seasonal eating is beneficial to both your health and the economy. Supporting local farmers and farmer's markets helps money stay in your local community, while bringing in more local jobs. The consumer can feel relief in their wallet and fullness in their belly. Buying local, in season produce is something to feel good about and is something to practice as often as you can.

So eat what's in season! Enjoy that sweet corn on the grill and a big slice of blueberry pie this summer. Come see what's in season at your local farmer's markets to get the freshest local produce, and meet a new face or two.

## A Helping Hand for Our Local Agriculture Community

New York State has faced significant challenges recently due to severe weather, causing substantial damage across our region. We understand this has been a difficult time for many, especially our farmers who have been directly impacted.

If your farm has been affected by the recent inclement events such as tornadoes and severe weather, it's crucial to document and report the damage promptly. This includes property damage, power outages leading to milk loss, livestock losses, damage to stored feed, or any other impacts you've experienced.

Here's how you can act:

- **Ensure Safety First:** Prioritize the safety of yourself, your family, and your animals. If there is an emergency, dial 911 immediately.
- **Document Damage:** Take photos and make detailed notes of all damage incurred. This information will be essential for insurance claims and disaster assistance applications.
- **Contact Your Support Networks**
  - **Cornell Cooperative Extension:** Reach out to your local office. For Oneida County, call 315-736-3394.
  - **USDA/FSA Service Center:** Contact your county office. For Oneida County, call 315-736-3316.
  - **Farm Bureau:** Contact John Wagner, Region 5 Manager, at 315-761-9770.
- **Explore USDA Disaster Assistance:** The USDA offers a range of programs to help farmers recover from natural disasters. This includes financial assistance, crop insurance, and risk management programs. Visit your local USDA Service Center to learn about available options. <https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery>
- **Stay Informed:** Keep updated on disaster relief efforts and resources available through local agencies and organizations like the Emergency Management Division. <https://agriculture.ny.gov/emergency-management>

Agriculture is at the heart of our community, and we are committed to supporting our farmers during challenging times.

Together, we can gather the necessary information to advocate for disaster declarations and ensure that assistance reaches those who need it most.

For more information visit our site - <https://cceoneida.com/environment/emergency-preparedness>

Let's work together to recover and rebuild stronger than before. Stay safe, stay informed, and know that support is available for you.



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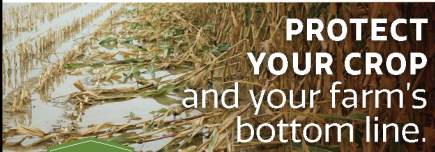
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