

# Extension Express

## PREPARE BEEF COWS AND EWES FOR CALVING AND LAMBING!

By Rich Taber, CCE Chenango

Beef cattle have a gestation period of about nine months, and sheep about 5 months. It is during the last trimester of pregnancy that the animals need a sharp increase in the quality of their nutrition. The energy and protein needs of both classes of livestock increase dramatically just prior to calving and lambing. If we overlook this important time, calves and lambs can be born weaker, standing a lower chance of survival. Well, how do we go about this? In a nutshell, it mostly rests on the quality of the dry or high moisture hay products that you are feeding. A beef cow will typically eat around 25-30 pounds of hay a day, a ewe will consume about 4 to 5 pounds a day. We can get along just fine during the first and second trimester of pregnancy with our average quality hay that we either made ourselves or have purchased. During the final trimester of pregnancy, however, is when we need to bring out the higher quality goods that we have. This is especially true if we are of a grass-fed only persuasion; we might not have the luxury of feeding a little grain. If we are not strictly grass fed, and need to ramp up the animals' nutrition, then perhaps a bit of grain to supplement their rations may be in order, if the hay is lacking in quality.

We need to get away from the mentality of "beef quality, or heifer hay". This is a ploy sometimes used by people selling hay that is of too low a quality for milking dairy cattle. It may be later cut grass hay that may have been rained on. Some of this can be used in the fall when cows and ewes are in the earlier stages of gestation. As the winter waxes on, the unborn fetuses need more energy and protein. Its then a good strategy to start mixing in some of the higher quality hay that you have on hand. In the latter part of the gestation period, we need to be feeding the best quality hay that we can find every day. Early lactation, for both beef cattle and sheep, also demands that we keep feeding the best quality forages that we can offer until they are ready to start grazing on those lush spring grasses. We must also be vigilant in providing salt and minerals to the animals, and sheep will need a different mix than cattle. Sheep can suffer from copper toxicity if they are fed beef cattle minerals. You need to be very vigilant in ensuring that what ever class of animals that you have receives the correct mineral mix. Free choice minerals are to be preferred over salt and trace mineral blocks to ensure enough intake. Pay attention to those soon to be mothers, especially first calf heifers and yearling ewe lambs that have been bred. It will be time and money well spent!







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**Chenango County** 









SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator Neisa
Pantalia, joins 4-H Educator Erica Clark at
the Sherburne Library each month for
impactful programming. Together these
two educators collaborate to provide
programs that empower youth with the
skills to lead for a lifetime with STEM,
agriculture, healthy living, and civic
engagement. The program runs from
3:30pm to 4:45pm.

Call the library to check available dates and sign up!

(607) 674-4242











# SNAP-Ed collaboration with Karen Mulligan, Food and Consumer Science Teacher

# COOKING MATTERS<sup>®</sup>

SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator, Whitney Kmetz has established a great connection at SE School District with Karen Mulligan, the Food and Consumer Science Teacher. In Karen's classroom, students in grades, 7th-**12th** have been introduced to a empowering curriculum called Cooking Matters for Teens. This curriculum gives students the basic knowledge on how to prepare their own tasty meals and snacks at home. The children gain more confidence in the kitchen making recipes and have fun learning about new cooking techniques and how to make healthy choices for themselves, family members, and friends. At the end of the series the children are faced with an extreme food makeover challenge of taking an unhealthy recipe and making recipe modifications to see if it will be successful, and the **BEST** part is... they get to test the recipe out and eat it!



Want to learn how you can get this **FREE** curriculum into your **school** as a teacher??!!

Reach out to us today!

Call- (607) 334-5841 ext:1132 **or**Email- (Betty Clark) blc28@cornell.edu

Hey! March is National Nutrition
Month! Check out weekly tips on:
Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Chenango County Facebook page!







Here are some examples of recipes the students have previously made in class:

Peanut Butter Banana Pockets
Apple Salad
Peanut Butter Yogurt Dip
Homemade Ranch Dip
Turkey Cranberry Quesadillas
AND so many more!









We hope you will enjoy this nutritious, taste meal brought to you by our Grow Cook Serve Coordinator Alexis Woodcock. Please feel free to contact her if you are willing to grow, glean, or donate fresh produce to the Grow Cook Serve Program or if you would like to participate in a nutrition, gardening, or cooking workshop. Feel free to contact Alexis at: asw239@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 x1120

# One Pan Chicken Alfredo

From: Food Hero Serves: 8

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 Large chicken breast, cubed (about 1 cup)
- 2 Tablespoons oil
- 2 Tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 13/4 cup Low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 3/4 cup 1% or fat-free milk
- 1 Teaspoon garlic powder, or 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 Teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 Teaspoon dried basil
- 8 Ounces dry penne pasta (or other pasta of choice)
- 2 Cups of chopped broccoli (fresh or frozen)
- 1 Cup of grated parmesan

#### Instructions

- 1. In a skillet over medium-high heat, brown chicken
- 2. Add flour, broth, milk, spices and pasta to skillet and stir well.
- 3. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to simmer and cover. Cook until pasta is almost tender, stirring occa-
- 4. Add broccoli, cover, and cook until broccoli is ten-
- 5. Remove from heat and stir in cheese.

To see a demonstration of this recipe and others scan this code with your phone.









Chenango County is excited to announce that it received funding for the Grow Cook Serve Program for 2022 and 2023 from the United

Grow Cook Serve is a program which provides access to fresh local produce, to income restricted individuals and families, by donating produce from local farms and gardeners and providing self - sufficiency education.

Our goal is to help economically challenged families and individuals adopt life-long healthy habits by donating fresh produce to people in need; teaching cooking and gardening skills for people to become more self-sufficient; and providing nutrition education to facilitate healthy choices.

Along with produce donations and gardening classes Grow Cook Serve is looking forward to our continued collaboration with SNAP-ED, 4-H, Head Start and many food pantries across Chenango County.

If you are interested in volunteering to grow, glean, or donate fresh produce to the Grow Cook Serve program or would like to participate in a nutrition education, gardening, or cooking workshop, please contact Woodcock

at 334-5841 ext. 1120 or email asw239@cornell.edu.

# **HOW EPIGENETICS IS IMPACTING YOUR DAIRY HERD**

By: David R. Balbian CNY Dairy, Livestock, & Field Crops Team Regional Dairy Specialist



The first thing you are probably asking is "what is epigenetics?" It is the study of how behaviors and the environment can cause changes that affect the way your genes work. So, how does that apply to my dairy herd? Dr. Michael Van Amburgh at Cornell has done some early research on epigenetics in dairy cattle. A brief statement on the Cornell Animal Science website summarizing some of Dr. Van Amburgh research states the following: "... recent work has demonstrated that early life nutrient intake and growth rates prior to weaning have an epigenetic or developmental effect on the calf that results in greater milk yield over the life of the animal as an adult. Further, in collaboration with some colleagues, we were able to demonstrate that pre-weaning growth rates accounted for up to 25% of the variation in first lactation milk production. This is a significant finding and one that provides us with a new direction and with profound implications for early life management of calves and heifers. Further, as part of the research into early life, we have started to understand the role that components of colostrum play in communicating to the neonate and are currently conducting work to appreciate the effect of those lactocrine signals." Lactocrine signaling is the communication of milk-borne bioactive factors (MbFs) from mother to offspring.

We all know that quickly getting colostrum into that newborn calf has tremendous benefits in increasing immunity in that calf. We are beginning to understand that a second feeding of colostrum and early milk feedings, that we would typically not consider colostrum, also have benefits to the calf. More research still needs to be done to determine and fully understand what the impacts are and the mechanisms by which they are triggered.

Some exciting additional work in the field of epigenetics has recently been published. It involves the impact that heat stress during the late dry period has on the unborn calf. This is not excessive heat stress, but heat stress that we would typically experience in upstate New York. Calves born to cows that experienced heat stress during the dry period had lower birth weights, lower weaning weights, and poorer immune development. These calves also produced less milk once they entered the milking herd. These negative impacts were then passed on to their offspring. This work is showing that the negative effects on the unborn calf are affect the calf that was exposed to heat stress prior to birth, but that animal then passes along those negative impacts to all of their offspring.

Multiple studies with young calves have shown that when heat stressed animals are provided heat abatement, feed intake and growth rates are improved. Work done by Dr. Jimena Laporta from the University of Wisconsin has provided us with some recommendations for heat abatement in young calves based on calf responses to the environment. Her research group proposes that heat abatement should be implemented in calves when the THI (Thermal Heat Index) is above 65 to 69. THI is commonly used as a practical indicator for the degree of stress on dairy cattle caused by weather conditions because THI incorporates the effects of both ambient temperature and relative humidity in an index.

# **SCHOLARSHIPS**

### 4-H DAIRY SCHOLARSHIPS - Deadline May 1, 2022

A \$500. Scholarship will be award to a youth who has been active in the Chenango County 4-H Dairy Program. Applicants must be a High School Senior and plan to further their education at a two or four year college or in a certificate degree program. Scholarship payment will be made to the winner upon presenting prof of college or program enrollment and after the successful completion of one semester. For more information contact Richard: rlt229@ cornell.edu or 334-5841 x 1115

Link to the application:

http://ccechenago.org/resources/4-h-dairy-scholarship



#### JERSEY CALF SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship of up to \$1000 will be awarded to a deserving youth between the ages of 8 and 16 (as of January 1 of the current year) to purchase a registered jersey calf. Preference is given to youth that do not currently own a jersey. The following requirements are due by March 15th to lyndalehr@gmail.com

- 1. Completed application
- 2. A recommendation letter from someone that knows you (4-H leader, 4-H agent, FFA Advisor, teacher, jersey breeder, etc.)
- 3. Parent acknowledgment

Additional requirement due by January 15th of the following two years to lyndalehr@gmail.com:

- A letter to the New York Jersey Club with an update on your calf (where did you purchase her, what is her pedigree, how have you cared for her, what shows did you attend, what have you learned, and what your future plans).
- A picture of you and your calf.

For questions, contact one of the following:

- Junior Activities Chairman: Lynda Lehr, 315-857-7161 or lyndalehr@gmail.com
- NY Jersey Club President: Sandy Ferry Scott, 518-522-3321 or slferry77@gmail.com

#### **About Betsy**

Betsy (Luchsinger) Czadzeck, lived and worked at the family farm, Silver Spring Farm, in Syracuse, N.Y., until 1996, when she married Roger Czadzeck and moved to his home in Clyde. Betsy managed the calf raising program at Silver Spring Farm and helped with other phases of the operation too. She was an invaluable asset because of her attention to detail and financial management skills. She was an integral part of the family team that found success in exhibiting Jerseys at five major shows across three decades. The tanbark trail included the New York State Fair, the Eastern States Exposition, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Show, the All-American Jersey Show and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF). Over the years, Betsy became well known to the exhibitors and followers of these events. She earned a reputation as being a friendly, cheerful, fun-loving, hardworking, and enthusiastic competitor. In 1996, she moved her herd of about 30 head to Roger's home place in Clyde. A year later, several others joined the herd, an inheritance from her father at his passing.



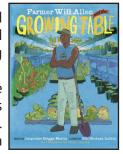
At Meadow Winds Farm, she continued to breed and market the same kind of genetics that captured prizes for Silver Spring Farm. Calves and heifers she consigned to local sales brought the top dollar, and often, young exhibitors various county shows and at the New York State Fair, won classes cattle carrying the Meadow Winds prefix. Betsy left behind a legacy for being a great friend and someone who would lend a helping hand to anyone. Betsy passed away February 12, 2021 and, in her memory, friends and family have funded a scholarship in her memory to continue to help kids own jerseys, as Betsy always did.



# 4-H UPCOMING PROGRAMS

We know that an agriculturally literate student understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life. The Agricultural Literacy Week program has educated over 750,000 students about essential agriculture industries and our food system in New York. Looking forward to 2022, it is our pleasure to invite you to read to one of your local classrooms this year.

The book selected for the 2022 Agricultural Literacy Week program is Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Volunteers will be virtually visiting local elementary schools throughout the week of March 21st – 25th, 2022 to read a fun and engaging book, and answer questions. Classroom teachers will have the option of continuing the learning experience by being provided a kit to make their own classroom compost bin. The book will be donated to the school library in order



for students and teachers to reference it throughout the school year. Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table show how agriculture is a unifying factor for communities all over. Whether you have 100 acres or a rooftop, there are opportunities for growing food and sharing the journey from soil to table with those around. This story also showcases the unique diversity of agricultural operations that is especially applicable to New York's combination of rural, suburban, and urban landscapes.

Your involvement in reading to students during Agricultural Literacy Week would be an exciting opportunity to publicly support agriculture and provide a high-quality educational learning experience for children throughout New York State to learn about nutrition and the food system. If you choose to participate in this exciting educational event, please contact our local county coordinator Craig Brown at cbrown@cornell.edu or by phone at 1-607-334-5841.

# UPCOMING 4-H OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAMS:

Sign-up with Erica at elc97@cornell.edu

March 18th, 6:00 - 7:30, Almost a Full Moon

Walk at Rogers Center, in Sherburne

April- Field Trip to S. Otselic Fish Hatchery:

More info soon





#### 4-H SEWING CAMP

Mar. 16th - Sewing Camp meeting, 6pm @ CCE

Mar. 26th - Sewing Trip meet @ 7:45 Mar. 29th - Cloverbud Day, 4:30 @ CCE Apr. 5th - Cloverbud Day, 4:30 @ CCE

Apr. 11 - Cloverbuds 9 - 11:30, Intermediate & Advanced, 1 - 3:30

**Apr. 12-14th** - Intermediate & Advanced 9 - 12:00 @ CCE

The schedule for camp looks different this year so please call for more dtails. Registration is required:

Rhonda at: rlt236@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 x 1111

# CNY 4-H LIVESTOCK RODEO

Join Broome Educator Brian Aukuma and Chenango County Educator Craig Brown for our CNY 4-H Livestock Rodeo program at the Broome County Fairgrounds! The focus of this program is sheep and meat goats and includes training on show preparation, showmanship, animal preparation, and livestock training. The cost is \$10.00.

Scholarships are being provided to all CCE Chenango youth who wish to attend! Contact Craig at cbrown@cornell.edu

Register at: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event\_registration/main/events\_landing.cfm?event=CNYLivestock-SheepandGoats\_203













# **4-H NEWS**

Our 4-H'ers have been busy with Club, County, and Community Service activites. It's great to see youth active and impacting our communities!

#### **TEEN COUNCIL** (ages 14 and up)

The Teen Council meets monthly focusing on Community Service, Leadership, and Civics. At their February meeting they worked on a team building, Leadership exercise. The were given random objects where they needed to work together in order to come up with writing and performing a skit. They also began working on their next Community Service Project.

Youth ages 14 and older are welcome to join us. Contact Richard at: rlt229@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 x 1115

#### SHOOTING SPORTS

At the very cold January Shooting Sports Program our 4-H'ers were able to try their hand at using a Laser Shot Program. This gave them a chance to practice their marksmanship until the indoor range warmed up. Once things warmed up a bit they were able to venture onto the range putting their practice into action.

# **OUTDOOR COOKING** (ages 12 and over)

The Outdoor Cooking Program 4-H'ers braved the cold weather in January to make Shepard's Pie in a cast iron Dutch Oven. They did an awesome job and managed to avoid frost bite as well. In Febrauary the kids had a bit of a break from the extreme cold and made stuffed baked potatos, foil dinners, and banana boats.

Outdoor cooking 4-H'ers meet monthly, in all sorts of weather, trying their hand at different foods that can be cooked outside over a variety of heat sources. For more information or to sign up:

Contact Richard at rlt299@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 x 1115

#### **4-H OUTDOOR ADVENTURE ICE FISHING TRIP**

Thank you to everyone who came out to ice fish with us in January at Balsam Pond, in McDonough. We had a great group of 4-H'ers and their families participating. Everyone got a chance to test out the different ice fishing equipment & gear. Some of the youth made their own tip-ups at a workshop with Ken Smith and even caught a fish on one of them! We had a campfire to warm up by and enjoyed marshmallows & hot cocoa. We hope to fish with you all again in the warmer weather!

#### DAIRY BOWL

On January 8th we began our 2022 Dairy Bowl Practices which run every Saturday until the District Contest on March 19th at Oxford Middle School. This year's youth so far have learned about proper nutrition, the seven breeds of dairy cattle, pasteurization, mastitis, and bovine anatomy. They have played dairy bingo, dairy bowl jeopardy, and even taken an inside look at a cow's ruminant digestive system! We looked at the largest stomach compartment the rumen, examined the honeycomb walled reticulum, the pages of a booklike omasum, and the "real stomach" the abomasum

which holds hydrochloric acid and other digestive enzymes. Each week our kiddos dive right into their learning experiences, and we could not have done it without our amazing dairy bowl volunteers Megan Piela and Victoria Ryan. Thank you for your commitment to our local youth!











## **HIPPOLOGY / HORSEBOWL**

Throughout January / February we have had approximately 25 4-H'ers at any given meeting gather to learn all they can about the wide world of horses. They have worked hard learning about breeds, colors, markings, gymkhana, different equine disciplines, nutrition, different kinds of tack, the digestive system where they build their own from random objects, and so much more. There is so much more to learn as these kids are preparing for the competitions which take place on March

#### AG IN THE CLASSROOM IS ALL ABOUT THE KIDS!

Last month our participating school districts learned about the ruminant digestive system that is found in herbivores such as cattle, goats, sheep, and deer. Each classroom received a special visit from Mr. Brown's two little doelings (young girl goats) Sprinkles and Bungee. These two little ladies spent the better part of their time jumping around while our educator discussed care procedures, nutrition, and goat facts vs fiction. On March 18th, any 4-H youth interested in experiencing this Ag in the Classroom lesson is encouraged to join us for our Monthly 4-H Community Club meeting! #agintheclassroom #4HGrowsHere

Why is it so hard to have a proper conversation with a goat? Because they are always BUTTING in!

# KIDS IN THE KITCHEN with GROW COOK SERVE Mar. 15th and Apr. 19nd, from 5:15 to 6:15. Cooking via zoom.

Learn cooking basics and ways to incorporate more fruits & veggies into your meals. The program & food are free! Adult supervision is required. Contact Erica at elc97@cornell.edu

#### 4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

What a terrific turnout for presentations this year. It was fantastic seeing approximately 32 4-H'ers gather to do their presentations. What a creative, energetic, and wonderful group of kids! All sorts of topics and skill levels were represented. We want to send a BIG THANK YOU to our volunteers and judges, you all did an amazing job!

Some of our 4-H'ers will be going on to compete at the regional competitions taking place over the next few months. We will keep you posted as the results of those competitions unfold.











# Be sure to check the write upss about each activity listed for more details

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Leaders Assoc. mtg. 6pm	3	4 Hippology Horsebowl 6pm	5
6	7	8 CNY Dairy Day Zoom	9	10 4-H Fun Night 5:00-6:30	11 Hippology Horsebowl 6pm	12 Outdoor Cooking 10am Dairy Bowl 1:30
13	4-H Teen Council 6pm	4-H Kids in the Kitchen	16 4- H Sewing Camp Mtg. Livestock Auction mtg.	17 4-H Full Moon Walk 6-7:30	Hippology Horsebowl 6pm	Horsebowl Dairy Bowl Competition
20	21	CCE Board Mtg., 7pm	23 4-H Pheasant orders due Outdoor Adventure	24	25 Hippology 6pm Dairy Discovery	26 Sewing Trip 8:45-12
27	28	29 Cloverbud Sewing Camp 4:30	30	31		

#### LEADERS/VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION MEETING-

The Leaders Association is a group of 4-H Leaders and Volunteers that meet approximately six times a year to aid in the success of 4-Her's throughout Chenango County. Their goal is to assist the extension educators, provide a forum in which leaders may discuss and exchange ideas, and raise money that will benefit 4-Hers' and leaders as determined by the Association. Past monies raised have gone toward College Scholarships, 4-H Camps, 4-H National Competitions, Startup monies for new clubs, Sewing Awards, and more. It is the mission of this Association to help in any way to promote 4-H in Chenango County.

#### **CCE BOARD MEETINGS -**

The CCE Board meetings are open to the public. These meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm, unless otherwise stated. You should call ahead if you are planning on attending. Contact Alice at: ama42@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 x 1118

#### LIVESTOCK AUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING-

The Livestock Auction Committee is made up of a group of volunteers that provide support for 4-H youth interested in raising animals. The group offers Scholarships for 4-H'ers to try their hand at raising species that they don't already have knowledge of. They also help in setting up the Livestock Auction at the Chenango County Fair. If you are interested in more information about this group please contact: Craig at: cbrown@cornell.edu or call: 607-334-5841 x 1112



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 4-H Hippology 6pm	2 Hippology Competition Horse Presentaions
3	4	5 4-H Cloverbud Sewing Camp 4:30	6 4-H Outdoor Advemture	7	8	9 4-H Outdoor Cooking 10am
10	11 4-H Sewing Camp Teen Council	12 4-H Sewing Camp	13 4-H Sewing Camp	14 4-H Sewing Camp Community Club Fun Night	15	16
17	18 CCE Board Mtg., 7pm	19 4-H Kids in the Kitchen	20 Livestock Auction mtg. 6:30	21 4-H Community Club 5:00-6:30	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### **CENTRAL NEW YORK DAIRY DAY -**

Does your herd respond poorly to positive management & nutritional changes? These pieces of the pussle may help explain why. Tues. March 8th, via zoom. FREE, but you must pre-register! Register online at https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1774

#### **4-H UNIQUE ANIMAL PROJECT -**

How about day old pheasant chicks!

Through DEC's Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program pheasant chicks are available, for a \$5 donation, to 4-H'ers who are able to provide a brooding facility, a covered outdoor rearing pen, and an adequate release site. Approved applicants receive the day-old chicks in April, May, or June. All pheasant release sites must be open for public pheasant hunting opportunities or released at the DEC pre-approved release sight in your county.

Email Erica at elc97@cornell.edu for more info & to order pheasant chicks ORDER DEADLINE: March 23, 2022

#### **COMMUNITY CLUBS - FIND YOUR SPARK**

(All enrolled 4-H/Cloverbuds) Join us for one of our monthly hands-on educational programs led by 4-H Educator Craig Brown. Held every 2nd Thursday of the month, unless otherwise specified on a holiday. Registration is required. Visit our web page to learn more or contact Craig at: <a href="mailto:cbrown@cornell.edu">cbrown@cornell.edu</a> or 607-334-5841 X 1112

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Chenango County



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The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County Board meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Satellite Room at 99 North Broad Street, Norwich, NY. Please feel free to join us!

# Current Staff (607) 334-5841

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Building Custodian

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