PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK.

LEARNING LIVESTOCK

In this installment of Learning Livestock we will learn how farmers weigh animals. Most of us are already averse to utilizing our own scale at home but weighing animals is imperative to the business of farming. Some farmers get paid by how many pounds their animals gain in a year, while others monitor weight so they know if animals are in good condition to breed (both too light and too heavy are detrimental to conception), other farmers weigh to calculate the correct dosage of medications or vaccines, and still others weigh to determine the animals class for livestock showing at County fairs.

But how does one go about weighing an animal that may become uncooperative or aggressive when you handle it? Not to mention the fact that most livestock outweigh their owners by hundreds or thousands of pounds.

The most important factor in all of the following techniques is preparation. Animals live by routines and if you make brushing, touching, walking, and working with the animal’s part of their daily or weekly schedule they will have a much easier time with it when it really counts. Not only is the routine important but the manner is critical as well. Whenever you are working with animals you want to make it a fun experience, or at the very least not a scary one. This means no yelling or slapping animals, no banging on bars, and not working them individually if possible (all animals derive benefits from social...
interaction with other compatible animals). Training your animals to your handling facilities is one of the most important aspect of animal husbandry and one aspect that we strive to improve with all of our farmers. But back to the business of weighting the big boys and girls.

First and foremost you can use a traditional scale. Most cattle producers utilize this method as it requires the same equipment that is used to treat animals with medications or to perform checkups. The cattle are loaded into a corral, pushed through a chute where they stop at the end, and are weighed by a large flat floor scale. This scale has a digital screen just like your scale at home.

This scenario works well if your animals are used to being handled like dairy cows or trained goats. But if the livestock are wild or sick, and not in the mood to cooperate, you may need to restrain them in a head gate to get them to be still. More often than not you are treating them at the same time so the head gate would be necessary anyway. This device may look scary but it is basically a piece of equipment that keeps both farmer and livestock safe. It is big and bulky because the patients it serves are big and bulky!

Producers dealing with small ruminants such as sheep and goats have a couple of other options. They can utilize the floor scales that cattle use or they can get away with the old bait and switch routines. In this case the farmer stands on the scale and gets their personal weight. Then they pick up the animal and record their combined weight. Subtract one from the other and you have the weight of the animal. Sounds simple right? This technique works well if you have an animal that is small enough to pick up, you only have a few animals to weigh, and your animals are tame.

you are able to get a pretty good idea of the weight of the animal. They make tapes for all species of animal and although they are not precise, they are easy to use, easy on the animal, and are accurate enough for you to make decisions based on the reading.

The final technique for weighing animals is the estimation method. Now there is no doubt that after a few years on the farm you will develop your “farming eye” and this will allow most folks the ability to guesstimate the weight of animals based on sight alone. The more accurate method would be to take actual measurements developed specifically for that species, plug them into a formula and viola you’ve got your weight. Experienced cattle raisers are even able to tell if the animals have eaten that day or are pregnant just by looking at them.

Each method has its strengths and weaknesses but all are imperative to a sustainable operation.

If you want to learn more about raising livestock, check out my weekly blog:

jasondetzelccelivestock.wordpress.com/

Another technique that is especially popular with pig producers is a weighing tape. These tapes were developed after many thousands of measurements were averaged and collated. Basically, you give the animal a treat so it’s distracted then you run the tape around the animal’s torso in the indicated spot. By reading the measurement and comparing it to a table,
ASHOKAN WATERSHED STREAM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

LOCAL FLOOD ANALYSIS COMPLETED!

The Town of Shandaken recently completed a Local Flood Analysis (LFA) for the hamlets of Shandaken and Allaben. LFAs are engineering reports that describe location-specific flood hazards and offer recommendations to help mitigate flooding. CCEUC provides education and technical assistance for Towns to complete LFAs in partnership with NYC and the Ulster County Dept. of Environment.

"THERE ARE OVER 700 LOCATIONS IN THE WATERSHED WHERE A PUBLIC ROAD CROSSES OVER A STREAM."

ROAD-STREAM CROSSING INITIATIVE

CCEUC is launching a road-stream crossing inventory and assessment this summer in the Ashokan Reservoir watershed with funding from the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection. There are over 700 locations in the watershed where a public road crosses over a stream. Following this summer's assessment, CCEUC will work with watershed partners to generate and extend a prioritized list of crossings in need of improvement to create safer roads and healthier streams.

CCEUC Stream Educator, Tim Koch, examines a culvert scheduled for replacement and re-sizing on Upper Boiceville Road in the Town of Olive. CCEUC is working with the Ulster County Dept. of Environment to identify under-sized culverts in the Ashokan Watershed and educate landowners on the benefits of enhancing stream crossings and floodplains.

SMATER LUNCHROOMS

Our very busy Eat Smart NY educator, Katie Sheehan-Lopez, has already completed Smarter Lunchroom assessments in all 10 Kingston schools, including the newly opened Kingston High School cafeteria. She also provided professional development training for the Kingston food service staff.

VENDING MACHINES

Vending machines located on the City of Kingston’s property have been assessed to make sure they meet compliance with the City’s healthy vending policy. The City of Kingston requires "that no less than 50% of the food and beverages sold in vending machines the City of Kingston..."
owned or leased facilities shall be: 100% fruit juice; water; fruit based containing at least 50% juice and no added caloric sweeteners; other non-caloric beverages including diet sodas; sports drinks less than or equal to 100 calories; no greater than 12 ounces except for water; with preferences for juices in small size portions (6 ounces). Snack/foods shall meet all the following criteria per individual package: not more than 250 calories or 230 mg of sodium; does not contain trans fat added during processing; gluten-free, peanut-free and whole grain options are provided."

Keep an eye out for Katie on Spotlight on Wawarsing TV show on May 17! Check her out on last year’s “Spotlight” which can be found on Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County’s YouTube page!

RAPP is currently working on a project with local artist and photographer Star Nigro. Star has worked with RAPP in the past on various intergenerational activities and was excited to come back to work on this educational project. The youth will be creating a mural to be used for outreach in the community and it will include undertones of family, unity, love and support. All things that encompass a happy relationship. Youth will paint four of the 32 tiles in their own style to complete the 5’x 9’ wooden rectangle frame, donated and created by Marco Anthony of The Green Palette. Prep work with the youth started in September 2017, with a mock mural and plans to display the finished product for Earth Day in April 2018 are underway. Follow Ulster County Relatives As Parents Program on Facebook to receive updates on progress.

MURAL MANIA

“NO MATTER HOW DIFFERENT WE ARE, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER.” MCKAYLA, RAPP YOUTH
4-H TECH WIZARDS

STEM MENTORING PROGRAM

We are continuing to work hard to save the 4-H Tech Wizards STEM Mentoring Program. The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Ellenville Million Fund has agreed to match up to TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS! With the help of you, our supporters and our sponsors, we have just met their match!

Thank you Ellenville and Kingston School Districts for providing bus service and space.

AMERICAN GOAT FEDERATION 2018 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The AGF 2018 Scholarship program is now accepting applications for youth scholarship applications from youths ages 12-20. For more information on application process and requirements go to americangoatfederation.org.

STATE TEEN ACTION REPRESENTATIVE RETREAT, APRIL 13–15

The State Teen Action Representative Retreat (STARR) is a three-day, fun-filled event where 4-H members participate in a variety of workshops and activities meant to challenge, excite and further develop life skills.

CORNELL’S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE OFFERS PRECOLLEGE COURSE IN EQUINE CARE

Equine Practice: A Veterinary Perspective, running July 15 to August 4, 2018, is a three-week summer course offered by Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine in conjunction with Cornell University Summer College. This hands-on, three-credit program is open to high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

The course teaches students the basic principles of horse husbandry, emphasizing anatomy, nutrition, preventive medicine, first aid, common infectious and metabolic diseases, lameness, breeding and foal care, and farrier care. To learn more or register go to https://www.sce.cornell.edu/sc/programs

"RAISE YOUR HAND" FOR NEW YORK 4-H TO WIN $20,000 IN NATIONAL COMPETITION!

From April 1 to May 15 the 4-H alumni and friends “raise your hand” competition will take place on-line. New York could win up to $20,000 for the most votes! Stay tuned for more information on voting.

THANK YOU BETH ALDEN, SUNY ULSTER AND ALL VET SCIENCE PRESENTERS!

Thank you for another great year, supporting 24 4-H teens through nine weeks in the Veterinary Science program! Graduation will be taking place on March 29.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO DONATE TO OUR PROGRAM BY GOING TO GOFUNDME.COM/SAVEULSTERMENTORING

THANK YOU ALL GOFUNDME DONORS!

Bernadette Miller, Melanie Forstrom, Amy Gudmundsen, Emily Gallo, Ramona Richardson-Young, Sarah Gruber, Marie Raymond, Janis O’Neal, Jodi Hemstreet, Lydia Reidy, Jared Buono, Kathy Ambrosini, Carolina Paula, Kayla Altland, Abe Uchitelle, Elliot Glass, Barrett Clark, Kathryn Pickard, Kathryn DiGiovanni, Eileen Uchitelle and all anonymous donors!
For the latest event details and registration information, visit our event page on our website at ulster.cce.cornell.edu/events

**MARCH 31**

Spring Fun Fest
Organized by 4-H Teen Council. At High Falls Firehouse, $2-child, $3-adult, $6-family

**APRIL 7**

Dehydrating Food Preservation Kitchen Class
10 am to 12 pm in uptown Kingston at Bluecashew, 37b N. Front St., Kingston. Together we’ll make a delicious lunch, all from dehydrated foods, showing students how to best put their dried goods to use. Registration required. $65 pp.

**APRIL 9**

ServeSafe Food Safety Manager Course
9:30 am - 3:30 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. $75 for Re-certification, $150 for Certification.

**APRIL 10**

Chicken Health Symposium
6 pm to 8 pm at CCE Ulster, Kingston. We will review best practices for preventing and treating your chickens so then can be as healthy and productive as possible. Pre-register.

**APRIL 14**

The Stream Explorer’s Youth Adventure
For Ashokan Watershed residents in grades 3-7 at the Ashokan Center in Olivebridge. Registration required.

**APRIL 14**

Annual Garden Day
“Trowl to Table” from 8:30 am to 4:15 pm at SUNY Ulster Stone Ridge. Pre-registration is required, $45.

**APRIL 21**

Savory Crepe Making Class
10 am to 12 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. $35 pp per class, discount $30 for 2 or more people or classes.

**APRIL 26-28**

Seedling Sale
Low-cost fruit, vegetable and native shrub perennial seedlings. Pre-order.

**MAY 1**

Small Ruminant (Goat and Sheep) Parasite Control
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. We will discuss the lifecycle and biology of parasites affecting small ruminants and the many ways to treat them. $20 pp or $10 for CCEUC Ag Enrollees.

**MAY 1-3**

3-Day Food Preserver Training
This workshop teaches the scientific basis of home food preservation and provides a hands-on experience. $395, pre-registration required.

**MAY 5**

Boiling Water Bath Canning Kitchen Class
10 am to 12 pm in uptown Kingston at Bluecashew, 37b N. Front St., Kingston. Learn how to safely preserve jams, pickles and chutneys. Students will take home a jar of what we can in class. $65 pp.

**MAY 7**

ServeSafe Food Safety Manager Course
9:30 am to 3:30 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. $75 for Re-certification, $150 for Certification.

**MAY 8**

Small Ruminant (Goat and Sheep) Parasite Control
10 am to 1 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. We will discuss the lifecycle and biology of parasites affecting small ruminants and the many ways to treat them. $20 pp or $10 for CCEUC Ag Enrollees.
**MAY 16**

Texas BBQ Kitchen Class
6 pm to 8 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. $35 pp per class or $30 for 2 or more people or classes.

**MAY 19**

Perennial Division Workshop
Learn to divide perennial plants and ornamental grasses at the Xeriscape Garden at SUNY Ulster. Take home plants from the garden. $20, starts at 10 am.

**MAY 19**

Cake Decorating, Basic Sugar Flowers Kitchen Class
10 am to 1 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. Create sugar flowers; make simple flowers, delicate filler flowers and foliage for your birthday, wedding or graduation cakes! $35 pp per class or $30 for 2 or more people or classes.

**MAY 20**

Family Fun and Fish Day
1 pm to 3:30 pm at Kenneth Wilson Campground in Mount Tremper. Learn to fish and enjoy a free barbecue lunch. $6 parking fee. Registration required.

**JUNE 2**

20th Annual Great Plant Swap & Sale
9 am to 12 pm plant drop-off and voucher pick-up at Forsyth Park Pavilion, 157 Lucas Avenue in Kingston. Then from 11 to 11:30 am is a swap only, followed by the swap and sale from 11:30 am until plants are gone!

**JUNE 11**

Knife Skills (part of the Kitchen Classes Series) 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. Chop like a pro, and cut your cooking time in half! Learn how to bone a chicken, and take home your chopped vegetables and chicken ready to go in the pot. $35/person per class or $30 for 2 or more people or classes.

**JUNE 16**

Gardening in a Changing Climate
10 am to 10:30 am at the SUNY Ulster Xeriscape Garden, 491 Cottекkill Road, Stone Ridge. Learn about how climate change affects your garden. Free.

**JUNE 28**

Making Strawberry Jam Kitchen Class
6 pm to 8 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. Learn the boiling water bath method which is used to preserve jams, jellies, chutneys and pickles, and learn about safe food preservation. Take home a jar of jam. $35 pp per class or $30 for 2 or more people or classes.

**JULY 16**

Gardening in a Changing Climate
10 am – 10:30 am at the SUNY Ulster Xeriscape Garden, 491 Cottекkill Road, Stone Ridge. Learn about how you can add annuals to complement your perennial plantings. Free.

**JULY 21**

Using Annuals in the Perennial Garden

**JULY 26**

Pressure Canning Kitchen Class
6 pm to 9 pm at CCE Ulster County, Kingston. Learn how to safely use a pressure canner and preserve the season’s bounty for quick meals all year long. Take home a jar of what we can in this hands-on class. $35 pp per class, discount $30 for 2 or more people or classes.

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**LEARNING IN THE GARDEN**

Free gardening lectures at the Award-winning Xeriscape Garden. Third Saturday of each month from June through October at 10 am.
DONATE TODAY!

All of us at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County feel good about the work we do, and we are encouraged and pleased when members of the community tell us we’ve made a difference in their lives. Like when a mother of three on a limited budget tells our nutrition educator after a lesson on meal planning “I saved money on this month’s groceries thanks to you, and my family likes all the foods!”

We share our educational resources and extend our support to as many individuals, families, and growers in Ulster County as we can reach. To reach as many people as we can, CCEUC leans on your donations, generosity and support, as we work to acquire increased funding from grants and contracts. We are grateful and appreciative for each and every donation we receive. Absolutely no contribution is too small!

THE ULSTER CURRENT IS FREE AND PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

To subscribe contact Carrie at (845) 340-3990 ext. 311 or email cad266@cornell.edu. Both print and digital versions available.

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3-DAY MASTER FOOD PRESERVER TRAINING

DON’T MISS OUT! REGISTER NOW.

Learn the science behind food preservation through hands-on education. This workshop is for newbies and experienced preservers alike. Go home knowing your food is always safe and tasty and use your certificate to teach your skills to others! Offered only once a year.

For all details and registration, please go to our events web page at ulster.cce.cornell.edu/events.

ANNUAL PLANT SWAP

FUNDRAISER FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP!

The Annual Plant Swap is a fun event that happens on June 2, 2018 at the Forsythe Park on Lucas Avenue in Kinston. Participants are asked to dig and pot up any extra plants from their garden to “swap” for vouchers. Then, come back later in the day to pick out new plants using the vouchers. Folks can also buy plants not taken in the swap. Local nurseries donate plants for sale. Master Gardeners run this event as a fundraiser to award a scholarship to an Ulster County resident pursuing a college degree in horticulture, agriculture or environmental biology.