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New York State Fair to Suspend Piglets and Sows Exhibits and Competition for 2014 Similar Policies in Place at Local Fairs.

Effort in Place to Prevent the Spread of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea at the 2014 Fair

Acting State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball and State Veterinarian Dr. David Smith today announced a concerted effort to protect the health and safety of piglets and their mothers at the 2014 Great New York State Fair. Due to a relatively new virus known as Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED), which has an extremely high mortality rate for piglets, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has decided to suspend the Sows and Piglets exhibit and competition and at the 2014 Great New York State Fair. Many local fairs are adopting similar policies this year, including the Ulster County Fair.

"The health and safety of all livestock at the 2014 Fair is of paramount importance," said Acting Commissioner Ball. "We understand that some fairgoers may be disappointed, but we want the Fair to continue to show off the best in New York agriculture and we need to do so in the best possible way to protect the well-being of the animals in our care."

"Fairs in general are a challenging environment in terms of animal disease control, and a lack of vaccine that's been proven effective against PED makes the risk for piglets too high this year," said Dr. Smith. "Animals come to the Fair from all over the state and with a disease like PED circulating, it's in the best interests of the animals that we take this action."

PED is relatively new to the US. It first appeared in the Midwest in May 2013 and has since spread to about half the US. Cases have now been identified in NY and 24 other states. The disease has taken a heavy toll on the nation's hog farmers, having caused the death of an estimated 5 million piglets in just under one year. When sows and litters become infected, PED kills nearly 100% of piglets less than 10 days old, while pigs older than 10 days tend to recover. The American Association of Swine Veterinarians, in conjunction with the National Pork Board, has made a wealth of information available at: http://www.asv.org/aasv%20website/Resources/Diseases/PorcineEpidemicDiarrhea.php

PED only infects swine. Other animal species are not affected. PED cannot be transmitted to humans and does not affect food safety. When a herd is first exposed to PED, the primary clinical sign is severe diarrhea in pigs of all ages. Strict biosecurity is the best control measure to keep it out of a farm, which is why hand

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Cornell University Cooperative Extension Livestock Education Progam Sullivan, Orange and Ulster Counties

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities

2 Of Local Interest

CCE Orange County Welcomes New Livestock Educator

We are pleased to announce that Rachel Moody has started as a Cornell Cooperative Extension Equine/Livestock Resource Educator. She will be based out of the Orange County Cooperative Extension office and will be filling the vacancy left by Audrey Reith.

Rachel is a native of Rensselaer County where she grew up on a family dairy farm. She was heavily involved in 4-H which included showing dairy cattle, dairy goats and poultry. Rachel is also a former Rensselaer County dairy princess and scholar athlete. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science-dairy at SUNY Cobleskill, then went on to receive a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Education and Extension from Virginia Tech.

Rachel spent the last ten years teaching agriculture. She taught agri-science to middle school students in Virginia for almost two years, which included animal and plant sciences, natural resources and ag mechanics. During the last 8 years, Rachel was at Essex Ag and Tech High School, a vocational school north of Boston teaching animal sciences, coaching dairy evaluation and **judging and running the school's cattle club. Rachel has been both an FFA** advisor and a 4-H volunteer. Rachel has taught subjects from Equine Health, Agribusiness and Anatomy to Companion Animal, including grooming. She is excited to get back into the production agriculture field, working with larger animals.

Rachel has recently moved to Orange County with her dog, and also owns a Percheron who is currently being used at her former place of employment.



Cornell Teams up with IDFA to Launch Leadership Development Program

By: Tristan Zuber, Dairy Foods Support Specialist, Harvest NY

As dairy food manufacturers continue to grow and evolve their operations, one of the most critical requirements is the replacement of senior level managers with members of the organization having comparable knowledge, skills, and leadership abilities. As a result, the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) has launched the NextGEN Dairy Network to begin engaging the next generation of leaders in the dairy foods industry. This network is meant to help professionals with less than 15 years of



Rachel Moody Equine/Livestock Educator Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County 18 Seward Ave. Middletown, NY 10940 Phone: 845-344-1234 <u>ram72@cornell.edu</u>



Making a Difference for Dairy

experience in the dairy industry connect with peers, enhance their careers and prepare for leadership opportunities within their companies and the industry. The network will provide opportunities for young dairy professionals to grow, collaborate, network and solve problems.

(Continued on page 11)



Ulster County 4-H Livestock Auction Youth have had a busy spring. As part of the auction project, the participating youth have been learning about livestock marketing, economics and processing. A group travelled to **Eklund's processing plant in Delaware** County.

Come join us at the 2014 4-H Livestock Auction August 2, 2014 – 7:30pm





4-H Livestock Auction - August 2, 2014 at 7:30pm Ulster County Fairgrounds in New Paltz

Help your local community by buying fresh meats raised by hard-working 4-H'ers!

Bid on an animal and have it processed – You decide how you want your purchase cut, and pay the processing fees. The meat will be delivered to you by the 4-H'er. If you're not sure how you want it cut, an expert will be at the auction to assist you.

-OR-

Bid on an animal and donate the animal back to be re-sold later in the Auction – it's a tax-deductible donation for you or your business!

As a pre-registered bidder, you receive 2 FREE tickets to the Ulster County Fair the day of the auction and enjoy a complimentary dinner before the Auction! Please RSVP by July 24th.

For more information or to pre-register as a bidder contact Erin at 845-340-3990 x327 or email eac266@cornell.edu

CCE Sullivan County's 4-H program will also be holding a livestock auction at the Little World's Fair in Grahamsville. The fair is August 15-17.

For more information: contact Michelle Lipari, CCE Sullivan

4 Dairy and Beef

What Can Beef Quality Assurance Do for You?

By Erin Campbell-Craven For more information see <u>http://www.bqa.org</u>



Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a national program that provides training to beef cattle producers in food safety, proper cattle handling techniques, handling of animal health products, injection sites, and record keeping. The goal of this program is to maximize consumer confidence and acceptance of beef by focusing the producer's attention to daily production practices that influence the safety, wholesomeness, and quality of beef and beef producets. Many beef cattle buyers, feeders, packers, and retail outlets are requiring that the beef they purchase be produced by BQA certified cattle producers. Also, most "added value" sale opportunities for feeder and stocker cattle require BQA certification. The Beef Quality Assurance Program is supported by the National Beef Checkoff Program.

Beef Quality Assurance provides the following benefits to the beef industry:

- Demonstrates commitment to food safety and quality.
- Safeguards the public image of the dairy industry.
- Upholds consumer confidence in valuable beef products.
- Protects the beef industry from additional and burdensome government regulation.
- Improves sale value of marketed beef cattle.
- Enhances herd profitability through better management.

grasstra aganza.

Pasture Soil Health Creates Wealth July 17-19, 2014 at Morrisville State College Brought to you by NRCS and Morrisville State College, Morrisville, NY.

Outstanding National Experts

Ray Archuleta, the NRCS "Soil Guy" Jerry Brunetti, Managing director of Agri-Dynamics, expert in the soil-to-plant-to-animal-tohuman health message

Jim Gerrish, former University of Missouri researcher and active writer, cattle rancher and consultant



Upcoming BQA Training in October !!!!

CCE Livestock Educators in Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster counties are planning a BQA in a Day training to take place in October 2014. This training will be open to all beef producers, as well as any youth over 14.

By attending the BQA training, a beef producer will become level 1 certified.

By having a signed Veterinarian Client/ Patient Relationship (VCPR) form, a producer can become certified at level 2.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase a farm sign to promote their BQA certification.

For more information about BQA, and other trainings for beef producers, contact your county's livestock educator.

Sheep and Goats 5

Developing an Enterprise Budget for Sheep Production

By Elizabeth Higgins

From Sheep 201: A Beginner's Guide to Raising Sheep Susan Schenian (University of Maryland Cooperative Extension) <u>http://www.sheep101.info/201/</u> index.html

Enterprise budgets are used to calculate the likely profitability of a production system—either based on the numbers that you have or on your best assumptions. An enterprise budget will allow you to change your assumptions—like feed costs, sales prices, number of animals that do not sell—to see how much the change would affect your profitability. This is **sometimes called a "sensitivity analysis" this helps you see how much** impact a change in an assumption will have on the total outcome.

One challenge for developing an enterprise budget for a new enterprise is that it can be hard to know what costs you are likely to have up-front. Below is an explanation of some of the factors that would be considered for an enterprise budget for sheep production.

Income

The income from a sheep enterprise includes the proceeds from the sale of market lambs, breeding stock, cull ewes and rams, and wool. It may also include government payments. We have also provided some tips on estimating income below.

Expenses

Feed costs are usually the largest expense associated with raising sheep and similar livestock. They include hay, grain, mineral supplements, lamb feed, and pasture maintenance. Other costs include medical expenses, housing and bedding, services, and fixed costs. Specific tips for estimating expenses for a sheep enterprise is provided.

The bottom line

In an enterprise budget, the difference between income and expenses represents the return to land, labor, and capital. Ideally, you want to earn a profit above total costs every year.

ESTIMATING INCOME FROM SHEEP PRODUCTION

- Lighter weight lambs usually bring more per pound than heavy weight lambs. Since marketing costs aren't included anywhere else in the budget, market price should subtract any selling fees, as well as the lamb check-off. Auction prices are available through USDA AMS <u>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?</u> template=TemplateP&leftNav=MarketNewsAndTransportationData&page=Sheep.
- Prices for cull ewes and cull rams will also vary. Extremely thin or fat sheep are usually discounted n the marketplace.
- Wool prices vary by year, marketing method, and type of wool. Fine wool that is skirted will bring the most money in the commodity market. Producers who direct market their wool to hand spinners and weavers may receive substantially more for their fleeces.

Terms Specific to Sheep Production Enterprise Budgets

Flock composition is the number of breeding ewes and rams in the flock.

Lambing percentage is the percentage (or number) of lambs that you will market for each ewe in the flock. This includes ewes that fail to raise a lamb. It also takes into account any death losses that occur before marketing. Lambing percentage is one of the most important assumptions in a sheep production budget. The figure you use will have a very large effect on profitability. You should experiment with different levels of productivity.

Ewe replacement rate is the percentage of ewes that are replaced in the flock each year. You need to keep enough ewe lambs to replace the ewes that die, as well as the ones that you cull. A replacement rate of 15 to 20 percent is common. You can make more rapid genetic improvement if you replace ewes at a more rapid rate. Seedstock producers tend to replace females at a faster rate than commercial breeders. In some operations, it is common to purchase replacement females. In this case, the ewe replacement rate would be zero and the cost of replacement ewes would be a fixed cost (depreciation) of doing business.

The ram replacement rate is an indication of how many years a ram is kept. A 33 percent replacement rate means that you keep a ram for three years before getting rid of him. In this budget, it is assumed that breeding rams are purchased.

(Continued on page 6)

6 Sheep and Goats (continued)

There are many on-line enterprise budget calculators for sheep. The Maryland Small Ruminant Website offers links to many of them <u>http://www.sheepandgoat.com/economic.html</u>. Some are more complex than others. If the link is broken (many agencies like to change their websites around) search for "sheep enterprise budget" and you should be able to find the correct webpage.

(Sheep Production Budget, continued from page 5)

ESTIMATING EXPENSES FOR SHEEP PRODUCTION

- Feed It usually takes from 1/4 to 1/3 of a ton of hay (4 to 5 lbs. of hay for 120 to 150 days) to feed a ewe over the winter. There can be a lot of waste associated with feeding hay, especially round bales, so these losses should be factored into the budget. The figure for hay will be lower if the winter feeder period is shortened due to a longer growing season or an extended grazing season. The figure will be higher when the winter feeding period is longer due to a shortage of pasture or a shorter growing season. The price of hay will vary significantly by geographic location, year, type of hay, and size of bales. The amount of grain fed depends upon the production system. Some budgets assume that 15 lbs. of grain is fed to a ewe during the last month of gestation (an average of 0.5 lbs. per day). And that grain is fed for the first 60 days of lactation at a rate of one pound per offspring. The cost of grain fed to ewes can vary significantly. A complete sheep feed bought at a feed store can be very expensive. It is difficult to estimate salt and mineral consumption by sheep. Estimates are given on the label, but sometimes sheep will eat more or less. Pasture maintenance costs would include establishment, renovation, and maintenance of pasture.
- **Health** It is assumed that each ewe is once per year and that each lamb is dewormed an average of two times. Lambs are vaccinated twice for CD-T. Ewes and rams are boostered annually. The figure for additional vet costs would include medicines.
- Other Costs If traditional wooled sheep are being raised, there may be an annual cost of shearing. This budget item will be zero if hair sheep are raised or the shepherd does his or her own shearing. It will be necessary to replace rams every few years. If a ram is saved from the flock, there will be no additional cost. The rule of thumb is that a "good" ram is worth the value of five market lambs. If replacement ewes are purchased instead of raised, their cost will need to be added to the budget. The cost of a replacement ewe varies by age, breed, and registration. Unless the sheep are always kept outside, most operations will incur a cost for bedding. It is difficult to estimate this cost, as bedding costs vary and different types of bedding can be used: straw, hay, shavings, newspaper, etc. There is usually a cost associated with hauling animals to market. This cost should be included in the enterprise budget. If lambs are picked up at the farm, there will be no cost for this item. If the farm employs guardian dogs (or other live-stock guardians), the cost of maintaining these animals should be included in the budget. This figure would include the cost of food and health care (shots, heartworm medicine, etc.) The sheep enterprise may occur various other expenses that should be included in the budget. Paying someone to clean your barn would be an example of another operating cost.

The last item in some budgets is interest on operating money. It is the cost of using money or opportunity cost. If you didn't raise sheep and invested the money instead, what could you earn? Sheep raising should be competitive with alternative uses of the money. One way to calculate this, is the money you put into the business charged for six months at a current interest rate.

• **Fixed costs** Fixed costs include depreciation, taxes, interest on investment, land charges, and insurance. Sometimes a management fee is included as a fixed cost. These costs are considered to be "fixed" because they generally remain the same within a production period and do not vary with the level of output. Indirect, noncash, and overhead costs are other terms used to describe fixed costs. When there are more than one enterprise on the farm, it is more difficult to assign fixed costs to specific enterprises.

Crop and Feed 7

Clipboard Checklist for Mid-June

By Keith Waldron, NYS IPM

General

- Walk fields to check general field condition, weed issues, areas of soil erosion
- Watch for early season weeds: winter annuals, chickweed, henbit, field penny cress, shepherd's purse, giant and common ragweed, purple deadnettle, lambsquarters, redroot pigweed, velvet leaf, Pennsylvania smartweed, common sunflower, quackgrass, foxtail

Pastures:

- Check and mend fences as needed.
- Check crop growth
- Invasive species, plants harmful to livestock
- Review/Plan rotation system
- Check pasture for forage quality / quantity, rotate as appropriate

Equipment:

- Remove / clean soil and crop debris from equipment
- Arrange for custom weed control or check your own application or cultivator equipment for repairs
- Carry appropriate / necessary NYS DEC and EPA required documents: (pesticide applicators license, pesticide labels, MSDS sheets, etc.) with application equipment
- Calibrate planting equipment, manure spreaders and pesticide application equipment

Storage:

- Check stored grain bins for temperature, moisture and signs of mold and insects. Aerate, core, transfer grain or treat as necessary
- Check forage allocation and anticipate feed program adjustments as forages from previous year are used up
- Plan where forages should be stored for optimum allocation next feeding season
- Mow around storage bins and facility to minimize pest hiding places

Barn Fly Management:

- Monitor animals and barn area for house fly, stable fly and other pest management needs including presence of rodents and birds
- Check facilities for favorable fly breeding conditions: (organic matter + moisture): leaks in watering systems, roof gutters for leaks and potential overspill, drainage
- Sanitation, sanitation, sanitation clean animal resting areas, feed troughs, minimize source of moist organic matter i.e. fly breeding areas in barn and in adjacent animal loafing yard
- Continue fly monitoring: install "3X5" index card fly speck monitoring cards throughout barn
- Use, replenish, replace fly management materials: sticky fly tapes/ribbons, insecticide baits, natural enemies (parasitoids), fly population monitoring (3 x 5) spot cards
- Consider purchase and release of Muscidifurax raptor and/or M. raptorellus natural enemies of house and stable fly pupae.

Animals on Pasture:

- Monitor animals for presence of face flies, horn flies and stable flies. Action guidelines: face flies (average 10 per animal face), horn flies (average 50 / dairy per animal side, 200 / beef cattle per animal side), stable flies average 10 per animal (all four legs)
- Check feed bunk / water source locations for signs of stable fly breeding (moist undisturbed organic matter spilled feed, round bales, etc.), minimize source of moist organic matter i.e. fly breeding areas in barn and in adjacent animal exercise yard.
- Consider use of pasture fly traps to help reduce deer, horse and stable fly populations



Photo by Jack Kelly Clark

of Minnesota (Stable Fly)

Photo Credits: Cornell (house fly) University

lambsquarters, Chenopodium album



8 Pigs and Poultry

The Artificial Insemination Process

By Michelle Lipari

Adapted From: Swine Artificial Insemination for Beginners: The Insemination Process Dennis Worwood, USU Extension Educator, Emery County. AG/Swine/2007-04pr (2007) http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_Swine_04pr.pdf

Perhaps the greatest advantage of artificial insemination (AI) for the small hog farmer is that it permits you to make greater use of new, superior genetics at a potentially lower cost. Purchasing semen allows genetic diversity, which can be used to optimize crossbreeding systems on smaller farms, and increased genetic progress. This can be achieved without the expense of purchasing and maintaining a single, superior boar. Additionally, AI allows a farm with a good boar to be used more extensively than is possible for natural service, because AI increases the number of inseminations per ejaculate.

However it is important to remember that AI is a tool that will work for your operation only if you are willing to manage and use it properly. One of the disadvantages of AI is that it may require a higher level of management than some natural-service mating systems. For example, there is a greater chance of human error associated with AI than with natural service. When a boar naturally mates a sow, the semen is not subjected to severe changes in environment and is generally deposited into the female more than once during a period that spans the optimal time for fertilization. In contrast, many environmental changes are possible when semen is collected, diluted, transported and then deposited artificially. The inseminations must be done correctly and at the optimal times. To obtain a high conception rate and litter size, estrous detection (heat checking) must be done carefully and without fail.

Sanitation of the equipment as an important consideration in all AI procedures. Today it is possible to handle semen using all disposable materials, which alleviates the need for rigorous sanitation of equipment.

When a conscientious effort is made to consider and incorporate these practices, AI can work on any operation as the equipment is needed to artificially inseminate a sow or gilt is relatively minor:

- 1. Semen. Keep the semen in the storage container until you are ready to use it.
- 2. Knife or scissors to cut off the tip of the semen bottle.
- 3. Damp paper towel or rag to clean the vulva.
- 4. An insemination rod. Disposable rods are available from semen suppliers.
- 5. A mature boar in an adjacent pen, or Sex Odor Aerosol (Boar Scent or SOA).
- 6. KY Jelly or similar lubricant

7. Optional: Oxytocin, a syringe, and needle. Oxytocin is a prescription drug available from veterinarians. In some situations an injection of Oxytocin is helpful to stimulate uterine contractions.

A publication from Utah State University Extension <u>http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/</u>

publication/AG_Swine_04pr.pdf can help to take some of the mystery out of artificial insemination of swine. Some of the key steps include making sure the sow or gilt is in standing heat: You cannot breed a sow or gilt that is not in standing heat. Make sure that the vulva is clean so no dirt or manure is pushed into the reproductive tract when the insemination rod is inserted. Make sure you insert the rod in an upwards angle to avoid the bladder. The semen is not actually injected into a sow or gilt. Rather, it is pulled into the animal by uterine contractions. The Utah State publication provides several tips for stimulating uterine



Reproductive Organs of Swine. from www.pork.org

Name that Predator!

By Rachel Moody

Has your back yard or coop looked like a CSI crime scene? Or maybe you have birds missing and no sign of a struggle? There are a variety of predators that enjoy chicken as much as we do. To keep your chickens or other birds safe there are a few things that you need to be aware of: what are you dealing with, what is attracting them to your chickens and how to protect your flock. Also be aware that chickens don't necessarily stay out of harm's way and there is only so much you can do without building a fortress.

To start with, what are the likely suspects that go after these birds? Dogs and weasels who tend to hunt for fun, domestic and feral cats, raccoons, skunks, opossums, rats, birds of prey (hawks, eagles, owls), wolves and coyotes, foxes, bobcats, fisher cats, snakes and yes even bears. There are different signs to determine who raided the coop. Each predator has a different tactic, like the hawk that swoops down and you are left with feathers, the skunk that leaves shells of eggs behind and a whole bird with no entrails or a bear that leaves the obvious, destruction to all in its path. Two good sites to check out for a good description are www.grit.com/animals/predators-of-chickens.aspx and www.raising-chickens.org/chicken-predators.html.

Why are these animals coming to visit you anyway? Well the obvious answer is that they are hungry for chicken or eggs. That goes for a good portion of these such as the coyotes/ wolves, foxes, snakes, cats, opossums and birds of prey. The dog, the domestic cat at times, and the weasel (including its kin) are more there for fun. The weasel and cat will eat some of the bird and may be hungry but not always. The other pests such as rats, skunks, raccoons and bears are there because of other sources of food and then spot the chickens as easy victims.

So how do we stop all of this from happening? Well, it will be difficult to proof the place from every single predator but if you know what is the biggest culprit you can start there. Remember, chicken wire is to keep chickens in, NOT keep animals out. For the pests, clean up and put away feed and birdseed, preferably in metal bins since rats and mice can chew through plastics. You could try installing hanging feeders to deter rodent-



Mysterious Chicken Casualty— photo from <u>www.backyardchickens.com</u>

Sources:

Grit website article by Karen Keb: <u>http://</u> <u>www.grit.com/animals/predators-of-</u> <u>chickens.aspx</u>

Raising Chickens website article: <u>http://</u> www.raising-chickens.org/chicken-predators.html

Backyard Chickens website post by Gail Damerow: <u>http://www.backyardchickens.com/</u> <u>t/18670/poultry-predator-identification</u>

Community Chickens website article by Shea Mormino: <u>http://</u> www.communitychickens.com/2013/03/10-tipsfor-predator-proofing-chickens.html

Smith DVM, Cynthia. "Oh Rats!!" *Backyard Poultry*. June/July 2014, Volume 9, Number 3. Pages 22-26.

snacking as well. Also pick up fallen fruit from trees and move bird feeders away from chicken areas. Dog and cat food should not be left out at night as well, this is highly attractive for skunks, raccoons, opossums and even rats. Try to avoid poisons for fear of killing/poisoning the animals you want. If you go this route, work with someone like a vet or cooperative extension. You could try trapping, but most of these animals are territorial and have families nestled in your area, so they are bound to return. Farm dogs are another option, but there needs to be consistent training and a lot of it. Also keep in mind that it is a working dog and has a job to do so if it isn't doing the job, it shouldn't stick around or the possibility that the strong prey drive might take a chicken or two as well. Make sure to do some research and careful selecting if you decide to get a farm dog. Roosters are actually good to have around for protection. It does create some issues if you don't want more chicks, but as far as protection, that is one of

Wild Parsnip & Wild Hemlock – Two nasty weeds

By Maire Ullrich

These two weeds look somewhat similar and are toxic, from skin reactions to death, for humans and animals.

Similarities:

- Both are in the carrot/parsnip family.
- Both are non-natives that originated in Europe, brought here as ornamental plants.
- Both cause health problems.
- Both are biennials, although can be perenni-• als in favorable conditions, flowering their 2nd year.
- Both have flowers arranged in an umble.
- Both have hollow stems.

Biggest caution!!!

Wild Hemlock can look a LOT like wild carrot. which is not poisonous. Wild carrot (Queen Anne's Lace) stems & leaves are hairy while wild Hemlock's are not. It can also be mistaken for parsley or anise (seeds). Children have died from using whistles made from hollow, dried stems of the plant.

How to control both weeds.

Since they are both biennials, repeated mowing, before flowering & seed-set, can be an effective control method to reduce populations and eventually kill the original plants. If both plants are present, mowing will have to occur over weeks to encompass the almost 4 months of flowering between the two species. Chemical control options, such as applying Glyphosate (Round-Up) individually to the rosettes in early spring is an option if mechanical methods are not feasible.

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) Wild Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) Looks kind of like a celery plant with Leaves are much more fern-like. Stems are angular, hollow stems and a rosette smooth and hollow between nodes, with of leaves at the base. purple blotches. Flowers are yellow (rarely white) Flowers are white Flowers May through July Flowers May through August Grows 4-10 ft. tall Causes skin reactions. Chemical in Can cause death. All parts of the plant (including seeds) are toxic to humans and plant exudate can cause rashes, blisters and burning, often in streaks. Skin animals, whether consumed green or discoloration from burns can last for dried. Livestock poisoning usually occurs from the presence of poison hemlock in hay or when overgrazed pastures. Crushed leaves do not emit odor. Crushed leaves emit unpleasant odor. No notes on birth defects or abortions Poison hemlock can also cause birth defects

in ruminants and swine, with cattle and swine more susceptible than sheep and goats. The most often reported birth defects are cleft palate and spinal abnormalities. The gestational ages that have been associated with birth defects are: for goats, days 30 through 60; for cattle, days 40 through 70; for pigs, days 30 through 60. Palate and skeletal deformities in calves are indistinguishable from the lupine-induced crooked calf disease. (1,2)

Fun fact: The Genus name comes from the Greek word konas which means to whirl. Named such because ingestion causes vertigo.



Fun Fact: The skin reaction caused is

really sunburn as the plant's chemical

prevents your skin from being protect-



Chemical control within fields of desirable plants can be difficult. Best chemical options are when this weed occurs in a primarily grassy field.

ed from UV rays.

Grows 2-5 ft. tall

months.

in animals.

Resources:

Iowa State Integrated Crop Management Weed Watch website: http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/7-9/poison.html

New York State DEC Conservationist Magazine http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/44632.html

USDA Agricultural Research Service Poisonous Plant Research Website http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=9975

University of Pennsylvania, Poisonous Plants Website http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/projects/poison/so.htm

(Dairy Leadership Training, continued from page 2)

"The NextGEN Dairy Network enables industry professionals at all levels to grow, collaborate, network, solve problems and develop the skills necessary to hold leadership positions in their companies, as well as in IDFA and its constituent organizations," said Clay Hough, IDFA senior group vice president and general counsel.

Cornell University has teamed up with IDFA to create the first opportunity for leadership development. Cornell University Dairy Extension has been on the cutting edge of workforce development initiatives in the dairy foods industry. Teaming up with an organization such as IDFA will help to bridge the gap in workforce development for the next generation of leaders in our industry. The first ever NextGEN Symposium will be held October 6-8th at Cornell University. The program will feature exposure to the dairy industry from production to processing to supply chain distribution. The program is also designed to enhance personal and professional networking, increase self-awareness, and improve leadership skills in a way that can drive change within an organization.

Look to join the NextGEN Dairy Network on the IDFA website (<u>www.idfa.org</u>) and stay tuned for more information on the first ever NextGEN Symposium!

(AI for swine, continued from page 8)

contractions. There will be times when the animal accepts the semen, and times when semen flow slows or stops. Be patient. Do not try to force semen into the animal. It may take five minutes or more to empty the bottle.

With practice AI can be added to your toolbox and can help you achieve your production and genetic goals for your swine breeding operation. If you have questions about using AI techniques, contact the CCE Livestock educator in your county.

(Which Predator?, continued from page 9)

their jobs as a mate. A rooster will confront or fight and possibly lose to a predator so he can save his hens. Roosters also alert the flock of danger and keep them together so they don't wander off. Of course you can get a rooster with a mean streak and end up hurting some hens or young roosters, but making chicken soup and investing in another rooster may be the solution.

Lastly, you have the housing issue. You want to make sure the coop is not under trees, near heavy brush or close to wooded areas. It is best that it is raised up off the ground and that you seal any unintended openings with 1/4 to 1/2 inch galvanized mesh hardware cloth. This will keep pests out but allow ventilation. There are a lot of critters that dig and can burrow under a coop on the ground. If you leave it on the ground, you can bury the same mesh cloth under the floor. As for protecting from above, you can cover parts or the entire run with netting, just be careful not to make it easily climbable by rodents or raccoons. You can have decoy animals, streamers, hanging CDs and if the area is large, hang crisscrossed wires overhead. Make sure they are high enough for people to avoid. If you have large barns for large operations, again, make sure you have proper ventilation but covered holes for predator/pest entrance. If you have a mobile chicken coop, move it diligently, every few days or so, to confuse the predators. There are a few websites that have good information on constructing coops and other options for protection listed under Sources.

So in order to keep your flock from disappearing or getting eaten, make sure you identify the culprit(s) and deter them in some way from coming to feast on your birds and their young.

(Piglets at the Fair, continued from page 1)

sanitizers will again be used at barns located throughout the 12-day Fair.

Adult male and female pigs without piglets will still be on display in the goat, llama and **swine barn at this year's Fair. The Depart**ment of Agriculture and Markets has put out an advisory to county fairs on its recommendations, which can be viewed here: <u>http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/Al/PED Advisory for NY Fairs Exhibitions.pdf</u>.

Contact Information

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County Jerry Skoda Education Center 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Liberty, NY 12754 (845) 292-6180 Michelle Lipari, Livestock Educator mml249@cornell.edu Melinda Meddaugh, Agriculture Program Leader mm2592@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County 18 Seward Ave. Middletown, NY 10940 (845) 344-1234 Rachel Moody, Equine and Livestock Educator ram72@cornell.edu Jennifer Simpson, Dairy and Field Crop Educator jks236@cornell.edu Maire Ullrich, Agriculture Program Leader mru2@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County 232 Plaza Rd. Kingston, NY 12401 (845) 340-3990 Erin Campbell-Craven, Livestock Educator eac266@cornell.edu Elizabeth Higgins, Agriculture Program Leader emh56@cornell.edu

Blast from the Past

USDA'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO FARMERS

1926

The Angora Goat

Unfortunately there is a widely prevailing popular belief that the goat is a robust, elm-peeling, can-eating, neglectable animal that may be turned out to thrive where carelessness and lack of attention prevail. This conception is erroneous. Throughout this country the successful goat rancher gives to the details of his business a supervision not to be exceeded in other lines of livestock endeavor. Success with goats can be obtained no other way. Happy-go-lucky methods may be found here and there in all goat sections, but they usually result in disastrous losses and have no place in permanent Angora-goat production.

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