

EXTENSION *EXPRESS*

The newsletter for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County

..... February - March • Volume 12 • Issue 1



INSIDE:

PG 3 - 1917 FARM BUREAU
NEWS

PG 4 - GROW COOK EAT UPDATE

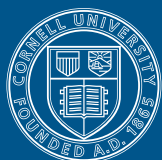
PG 8 - WARMING UP IN THE
WINTER

PG 9 - UPCOMING EVENTS

PGS 12-18 - 4-H
OPPORTUNITIES



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
One Great Idea



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Chenango County

99 North Broad Street, Norwich, NY 13815, (607) 334-5841
www.cce.cornell.edu/chenango

Daily Maintenance Checks for Your Tractor

By Rich Taber, Grazing and Ag Economic Development Specialist, CCE Chenango



This is the third installment in our series on locating, selecting, and maintaining tractors for the small farm. In the first installment, we discussed some of the features that you would be looking for on a good used tractor for your small farm; in the second installment we described places to find and purchase a tractor. In this article we will share some of the maintenance activities that are needed to keep your tractor running efficiently on a daily basis, and to avoid ending up with costly repairs.

One of the most important items that you need to first acquire for your tractor is the owner's, or operator's manual. Oftentimes when you purchase a used tractor you do not get an owner's manual with it; you can find them easily enough from either an equipment dealer or online. It is critical that you have one for your machine so that you know how to operate your particular tractor, when to schedule routine maintenance, and to find the different capacities for all of the fluids which must be maintained in the tractor.

In addition to the owner's manual, you will need a simple set of common mechanics tools to accomplish many of the needed maintenance and simple repairs that normally occur with a tractor, along with a good quality grease gun.

The following list will highlight some of the routine items which must be frequently checked and maintained (and according to the operator's manual) on a tractor to keep it running smoothly:

- Engine oil levels, and oil filters
- Transmission oil levels, hydraulic oil levels, and filters (on some tractors the transmissions and hydraulic systems are combined, on others, they may require different types of lubricants)
- Battery fluid levels and battery terminal condition
- Fuel filters (especially critical on diesel engines)
- Correct grade of fuel for the season
- Radiator coolant strengths and levels (should be protected to minus thirty degrees F)
- Tire conditions and correct tire pressures
- All grease fittings with the correct grade of lubricant
- Power steering fluid levels
- Front wheel bearing grease levels
- Air conditioning coolant levels if equipped with cab and A/C
- Air filter condition
- Electrical and fuel gauges
- Belt conditions for generators or alternators, tightened to the correct specifications
- Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblems
- Tractor brakes, and emergency and parking brakes working correctly
- Personal protective equipment (Roll Over Protective Structures) and seat belts
- Lights, flashers, and turn signals all operational
- Correct hardware for hitching implements such as draw pins and three point hitch hardware
- Correctly mounted tire chains if conditions warrant
- Any other items not mentioned here but specifically mentioned in your operator's manual

By checking all of these items at specified intervals will ensure that your tractor will operate safely, efficiently, and add measurably to its useful life.

Rich Taber can be reached at 607-334-5841 ext. 21, or email rbt44@cornell.edu

THE CHENANGO COUNTY *Farm Bureau News*

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE CHENANGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION

Vol. 3 no. 6

NORWICH, N.Y., May 1917

One Dollar Per Year
Including Membership in Farm Bureau

ELECTRICITY FOR THE FARM

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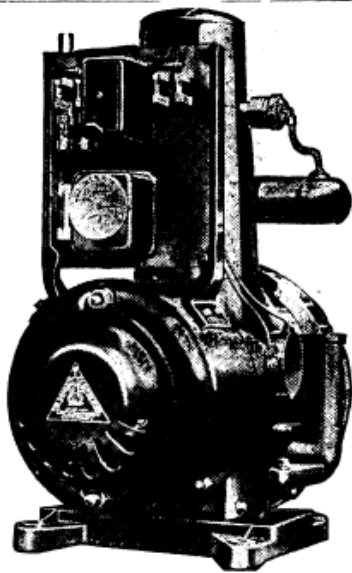
Mr. H. C. Place of Norwich, N.Y. who has the agency for the Delco Lighting system in Chenango County informs us that a number of farmers about the county are becoming interested in installing electric systems on their farms. Mr. Frank Hovey of Oxford, the well-known farmer and cattle dealer has installed one of these systems which lights his house and barns, and also pumps water from a drilled well which is 200 feet deep. Mr. Harry Dickerson of North Pitcher has installed one of these systems which lights the house, barn and shop with electricity, and also operates a Duro Electric water system. Mr. Addison R. Whitmore of Greene had his system installed early last fall and has since enjoyed the use of electric lights in both house and barn. Michael Cannon near Willards had a similar system installed about the same time. During the winter a three unit outfit has been installed at the County Farm. This system operates 210 electric lights, and is reported, that the cost is much lower than previously when kerosene was used. As time passes the installation of practically all city conveniences are becoming more and more common in the farm home.

ELECTRICITY ON THE FARM

Here is what an electrical engineer says four or five cents' worth of electricity will do on the farm, if electricity were available for the rural community: Milk ten cows, Churn twenty pounds of butter, Separate 1,400 pounds of milk in a cream separator, Do two large family washings, Heat an electric flatiron for half an hour, Run a sewing machine for 1 hours, Make griddle cakes on an electric griddle twice, Pump water enough to last the family two days, Sharpen an ax or scythe on the grind stone six times. Light a 32 candle-power lamp an hour a day for five days, Make five slices of toast every morning for four mornings.

Not long ago we read with considerable interest an advertisement of an electric light plant for the farm that so the advertisement said, could be

DELCO-LIGHT



Electricity for Your Farm

LET US GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE

H. R. PLACE

251 North Broad Street, Norwich N.Y.

installed for less than \$500.

Putting the assertions of the electrical engineer and the advertisement together, it's not difficult to arrive at a conclusion that farm life can be made much more desirable than it is at a cost far from prohibitive.-Median Star.

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THE LABOR SITUATION

...

There is a big shortage of farm labor in the County as well as in most parts of the State. It is one of the most serious problems to be met in increasing our food production in the present emergency. Government Agencies, the Home Defense Committee and the Farm Bureau are expecting every energy to secure as much experienced farm labor as possible for the farmers in this section.

The manufacturers of Norwich, at considerable sacrifice to their business, have volunteered to release their employees, who have had farm expe-

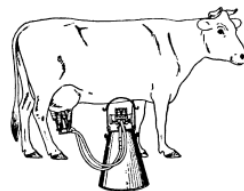
rience, to work on the farms for periods of one or two weeks at a time during the season where needed most for emergency work. A few of these men have already been placed through the Farm Bureau and it is expected that all of them will be placed on farms at various times during the season. Steps are now under way to get a list of all possible available labor in every village and town in the county to help out for a short or long period. In the present emergency it is imperative to make use of every kind of labor which can in anyway be of practical value. It is hoped that retired farmers who are capable of work will volunteer their services. There are many other men in the villages, who have had some farm experience and will volunteer for one or more weeks of farm work in their vicinity.

MAN LABOR IS SCARCE, MAKE IT COUNT

In plowing or harrowing on good sized fields of farms, the use of three horses instead of two will often permit one man to accomplish fifty to seventy percent more work. In some cases a four horse team can be worked to good advantage. Horse labor is usually much cheaper than man labor, especially when the horses would otherwise be standing in the barn.

Reprinted from April and May of 1917

Perfection Milking Machines



Probably the oldest milking machine on the market, certainly the best, ultimately the only that is the Perfection.

THE PERFECTION is the only machine on the market today drawing the milk by a combination of an alternating suction and a DOWNWARD squeeze and followed by a period of release.

THE PERFECTION is simple. It is hard to put out of order. Send for Perfection Booklet.

SACKETT HARDWARE CO.,
Genesee Street., Phone No. 39
NEW BERLIN, N. Y.

Grow Cook Eat Program Graduates

Third Class in 2014

For more information: Stacie Edick, Grow Cook Eat Coordinator 607.334.5841 x 20

The Grow Cook Eat program graduated its third class on December 16, 2014. 18 individuals completed the program and celebrated their accomplishments at the Bohemian Moon with staff and mentors. This Chenango United Way funded program was designed to give participants an integrated and holistic program so that the whole experience would be greater than the sum of its parts.

Each participant was provided with a community garden plot, container garden or support for gardening in their own yard. Each participant was paired with a Master Gardener Volunteer gardening mentor. Requirements for graduation included taking 5 or more gardening classes, 6 Eat Smart New York (ESNY) cooking and nutrition classes, 3 or more food preservation classes, 3 YMCA physical fitness classes or group activities, personal goal setting and evaluation assignments, and completing 10 hours of volunteer work in the community including the Chenango United Way Day of Caring event.

"We designed a program to facilitate cross-pollination between previously separate programs offered at CCE Chenango," said GCE Coordinator Stacie Edick. The Grow Cook Eat program draws upon the resources and expertise of the Community Gardens Project (funded by the NYS Department of Health), the Eat Smart New York program (funded by USDA), the Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver Volunteer programs and a partnership with the Norwich Family YMCA.

One of the 2014 participants, Bonnie Connolly said about the program; "I thought it was amazing how much we covered and the wide variety of topics in gardening, cooking, nutrition, canning and preserving and more. And for every topic we covered we received handouts and even books! By the time we finished the course we had a large notebook full of reference material and web sites that will serve us for many years to come. The other aspect that I really enjoyed was the camaraderie among our classmates as we executed some of the projects. We even went for walks together and did a service project together."

We expect to hear about 2015 funding in early February. Fortunately the Chenango United Way reached their campaign goal this year. If you are interested in applying to the Grow Cook Eat program – in hopes that it is funded - you can download the 2014 brochure with application from the web site: www.cce.cornell.edu/Chenango/Grow-CookEat or call 607-334-5841 ext 11 or ext 20 to request a brochure with application be mailed to you.



Photo Caption: Back Row L to R: Karen Sastri, CCE ED Ken Smith, MFP Rebecca Hargrave, CUW ED Elizabeth Monaco, ESNY Educator Neisa Pantalia, Barbara Vartanian, ESNY Coordinator Betty Clark, Donna Smith, Marilyn Wilhelm, Judy Smith, Elizabeth Barber-Breese, Sarah Cirigliano, Amy Miller, Garden Mentor Alice Merlino. Middle Row: Erica Livingston, Kasaundra Shore, DeJuan Chen, Emily Anderson. Front Row: MFP Della Ericksen, Norma Kinney, Bonnie Connolly, GCE Coordinator Stacie Edick, Jessica Knowles, MGV Gerald Gregory. Graduates not pictured: Michele Nebel, Jyoti Naik, and Deborah Trythall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VITA PROGRAM

With tax season quickly approaching, the CASH (Creating Assets Savings and Hope) Coalition of Chenango and Madison Counties is looking for volunteers to participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to become IRS-trained and certified tax preparers for families who earned less than \$53,000 this tax year. No prior experience is necessary and training and testing may be completed online.

Volunteers will receive training to provide free tax help for low-to-moderate income families who need assistance preparing their tax returns. The volunteer sites are located at several locations throughout both counties and the hours are flexible.

Many people will qualify for this free program for the first time this year due to economic changes in their income or changes in their marital or parental statuses according to the IRS. The agency estimates four out of five eligible workers currently claim their Earned Income Tax Credit. In 2013 hundreds of families/individuals took advantage of this program and had their income taxes prepared by the IRS-certified volunteers. In Chenango and Madison counties \$1.66 million were returned.



Daytime, evening and weekend appointments will be available Tuesdays through Saturdays, January through April at locations throughout Chenango and Madison counties.

For more information about volunteering for the VITA program, contact Casey Frazee at 315-420-3388 or email: cfrazee@colgate.edu, or visit: <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>.

FREE TAX PREPARATION!

You may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and FREE income tax preparation. Eligibility is determined by income. Both federal and NYS tax returns can be electronically filed FREE of charge.

**Appointments are now available January 29 - April 4, 2015
Thursdays 4:30-6:00pm or Saturdays 11am-2pm**

**For more information or to schedule an appointment,
please call Cindy at (607) 334-5841 x 11**

**For Chenango County Senior Citizens:
Chenango County Area Agency on Aging (607) 337-1770**

2015 Tree and Shrub Conservation Planting Program

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District, 99 North Broad Street, Norwich, NY 13815

Phone (607) 334-8634 ext 5. Please read the information sheet and species descriptions before ordering

Deadline April 1, 2015, PICKUP DATE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015, PICK UP TIME – 2:00PM TO 6:00PM AT FAIRGROUNDS

Located at – County Fair Grounds, East Main Street, Norwich, NY, Enter at Main Gate; follow signs, Exit at Grove Avenue Gate

The District has no control over actual size of seedlings. Sizes vary depending upon selection by our nursery sources. We cannot check where the seedlings will be planted or guard against improper handling, we will not be held responsible for replacement of your order, after notification and/or pick up date.

Trees must be ordered in quantities listed or in multiples of those listed
Please see our website for species descriptions: www.chenangoswcd.org

CONIFER SEEDLINGS

| QUANTITY | SIZE | 25's | 100's | 250's | COST |
|---------------------|------|---------|----------|----------|-------|
| _____ Concolor Fir | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ Frasier Fir | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ Douglas Fir | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ Am. Larch | 2-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ Norway Spruce | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ White Spruce | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ C B Spruce | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ Red Pine | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ White Pine | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |
| _____ Scotch Pine | 3-0 | \$30.00 | \$100.00 | \$220.00 | _____ |

CONIFER TRANSPLANTS

| QUANTITY | SIZE | 10's | 50's | 100's | COST |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-------|
| _____ Balsam Fir | 3-1 | \$40.00 | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | _____ |
| _____ Frasier Fir | 3-2 | \$40.00 | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | _____ |
| _____ Norway Spruce | 2-1 | \$40.00 | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | _____ |
| _____ White Spruce | 2-2 | \$40.00 | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | _____ |
| _____ Blk Hills Spruce | 2-2 | \$40.00 | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | _____ |
| _____ C B Spruce | 2-1 | \$40.00 | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | _____ |
| _____ White Cedar | 3-1 | \$40.00 | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | _____ |
| _____ Can Hemlock | 2-0/3-0 | \$40.00 | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | _____ |

DECIDUOUS TREES and SHRUBS

| QUANTITY | SIZE | 10's | 50's | 100's | COST |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| _____ Red Maple | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Sugar Maple | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Rose of Sharon | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Juneberry | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Blk Chokeberry | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Native Birch | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Butterfly Bush | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Silky Dogwood | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Wh Fl Dogwood | 12-18" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Red Osier Dogwood | 12-18" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Am Filbert | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Honey Locust | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Black Walnut | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Tulip Tree | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Hybrid Poplar | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Black Cherry | 12-18" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ White Oak | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Pin Oak | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Red Oak | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Staghorn Sumac | 24-36" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Stream-Co Willow | 18-24" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Elderberry | 10-18" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |
| _____ Lilac | 12-18" | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$85.00 | _____ |

FERNS, FLOWERS, VINES & GRASSES

| QUANTITY | 10's | COST |
|--|---------|-------|
| _____ Daylily (Apricot Beauty, Heavy One Fan Division) | \$17.00 | _____ |
| _____ Fountain Grass | \$17.00 | _____ |
| _____ Hosta (Hyacinthina) | \$17.00 | _____ |
| _____ Trumpet Vine | \$17.00 | _____ |
| _____ Liatris Spicata | \$17.00 | _____ |

CONSERVATION PACS**QUANTITY****COST**

| | | |
|---|---------|-------|
| _____ Butterfly Pac – 2 each: Black Cherry, Butterfly Bush, Liatris Spicata, Lilac, Apricot Beauty Daylily | \$19.00 | _____ |
| _____ Fast Growing Shade Pac – 2 each: Sycamore, Honey Locust, Tulip Tree, Hybrid Poplar, Silver Maple | \$19.00 | _____ |
| _____ Native Flowering Pac – 2 each: White Flowering Dogwood, Spicebush, American Cranberry, Juneberry, Black Chokeberry | \$19.00 | _____ |
| _____ Nut Tree Pac – 2 each: Chinquapin Oak, Black Walnut, Butternut, Red Oak, Pin Oak | \$19.00 | _____ |
| _____ Ornamental Flowering Pac – 2 each: Forsythia, Lilac, Witch-Hazel, Rose of Sharon, Sgt. Crabapple | \$19.00 | _____ |
| _____ Song Bird Pac – 2 each: Sgt. Crabapple, Staghorn Sumac, Elderberry, Chokeberry, Arrowwood | \$19.00 | _____ |

FRUIT TREES and SHRUBS**QUANTITY****SIZE****5's****COST**

| | | | |
|---|-----|---------|-------|
| _____ Blackberry | 2-0 | \$18.00 | _____ |
| _____ Raspberry | 1-0 | \$18.00 | _____ |
| _____ Blueberry Blue Crop | 1-0 | \$22.00 | _____ |
| _____ Blueberry Jersey | 1-0 | \$22.00 | _____ |
| _____ Concord Blue Grapes | 1-0 | \$22.00 | _____ |
| _____ Niagara White Grapes | 1-0 | \$22.00 | _____ |
| _____ Apple Tree Pack – 1 each (3/8"): Honeycrisp, Jonamac, Northern Spy | | \$54 | _____ |
| _____ Pear Tree Pack – 1 each (3/8"): Bartlett, Golden Russet Bosc | | \$45 | _____ |
| _____ Cherry Tree Pack – 1 each (5/8-3/4"): Stardust Sweet, Kristin Sweet | | \$49 | _____ |

WILDFLOWER SEED MIXES

Contents of mixes available upon request

Wildflower seed mixes are also available in bulk 1, 5, 10, and 20 pound quantities. Call for pricing.

QUANTITY**COST**

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| _____ Bee Feed Flower Mix | ¼ pound bag(1000 sq ft) | \$17.25 | _____ |
| _____ Big Buck Clover Mix | 1 pound bag(20lb/acre) | \$16.00 | _____ |
| _____ Bird & Butterfly Attracting | 4oz bag(1350 sq ft) | \$16.00 | _____ |
| _____ Annual Seed Mix | 4oz bag(1000 sq ft) | \$16.00 | _____ |

AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND AT OUR OFFICE

These items must be charged NYS Sales Tax. The 8% sales tax has been added to the price already.

QUANTITY**COST**

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------|
| _____ Marking Flags, individual | \$.35 (each) | _____ |
| _____ Marking Flags, 10 pack | \$3.00 (for 10) | _____ |
| _____ Slow Release Fertilizer Tabs, individual | \$.30 (each) | _____ |
| _____ Slove Release Fertilizer Tabs, 10 pack | \$2.50 (for 10) | _____ |
| _____ Tree Pro Tree Wraps, Individual (48" w/net) | \$4.50 (each) | _____ |
| _____ Tree Pro Tree Wraps, 10 pack | \$40.00 (for 10) | _____ |
| _____ Conservation Seed Mix, 30lbs | \$146.71 | _____ |

ORDER TOTAL: _____

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

Make Checks Payable to: Chenango County SWCD

Mail Order & Payment to:

Chenango County SWCD

99 North Broad Street

Norwich, NY 13815-1388

Or Drop Off In Person

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Daytime & Evening _____

Email (for pick up reminder) _____

BECOME A SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION SPONSOR!

Are you interested in helping the Soil and Water Conservation District sustain and expand the many services that are offered to the public free of charge? Here are some examples of what we do:

- We provide drainage solutions on agricultural and residential property.
- We'll assist you in filling out stream disturbance permits that are issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).
- For our agricultural producers, we act as a liaison between the DEC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- We provide technical assistance to the farming community on how to navigate non-point source pollution regulations.

DONATION AMOUNT

Thank you for your consideration. Your tax deductible donation is much appreciated!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Warming up in the winter



In the blustery cold it does not matter what fuel source you use to heat your house. A therm of heat energy created heats the same amount of space with the same amount of heat.

However, the cost of your fuel source does make a large difference in the heating season and the amount of drafts in your living space make an even bigger difference on how much fuel you will burn through in a heating season.

The best thing you can do to lower your energy cost is to root out the energy waste in your house. However, sometimes finding the energy waste is difficult. Most homeowners can feel for drafts around the windows, doors and openings to the attic or other unheated spaces. All of these drafts indicate that the

house is not properly air sealed. Ideally, each house is a contained and sealed envelope where the house is the sealed package.

How do you guarantee your house is air tight?

The first step is to see if you are income eligible and apply for a free Home Performance with ENERGYSTAR home assessment and audit. Most homes in Chenango County qualify for this assessment. The assessment will use accredited BPI (Building Performance Institute) assessors to look at many different elements.

These elements include:

Visual inspections- the contractor will tour the inside and outside of the home looking for immediate signs of energy inefficiency

Health and Safety Tests- major combustion appliances like the stove, furnace, boiler, and hot water tank will be analyzed to make sure they are working properly.

Energy Efficiency Tests- will include a blower door test to check for infiltration of air throughout the home, inspection of insulation levels and thermal cameras to identify large air leaks, all electrical appliances and devices will be recorded.

Reports and Findings- specialized software is used to look at all of the collected data and analyze it. A report along with recommendations and cost analysis are compiled along with possible solutions and ways to improve the home's energy efficiency.

How you can get started:

For residents in Chenango County and the Southern Tier, you can call Green Jobs-Green NY (607-723-0110) of the Southern Tier to obtain a list of contractors in the area and an application to apply for the program. When your application is approved you will receive confirmation by mail and you will schedule a 2 hour home energy assessment.

After the Assessment:

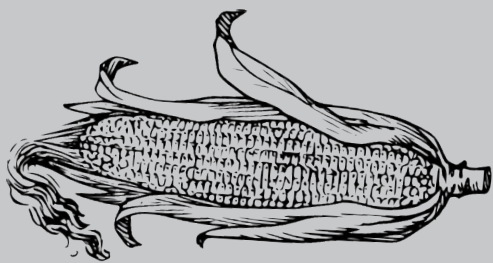
The BPI contractor will go over the results and let you know how you should get started on making your home more energy efficient. You may qualify for other program incentives, grants, and low interest financing to have upgrades made to your home.

For more information please visit NYSEDA directly at nyserda.ny.gov/residential. Small businesses, renters and non-profits also have many energy assessment options open to them.

Please visit: nyserda.ny.gov/all-programs.

For more local and general information contact Emily Jane Anderson,
EmPower NY Educator at CCE, 607-334-5841 ext. 17.

Upcoming Events at Cornell Cooperative Extension



2015 Corn Day

**February 13, 2015, 10am-2:30pm
at Magros Banquet Hall, Sherburne, NY**

Registration is \$30 per person and includes lunch.

Topics include:

The fall of \$8 corn and \$16 soybeans

The biggest factor in profitable no-till crop
production

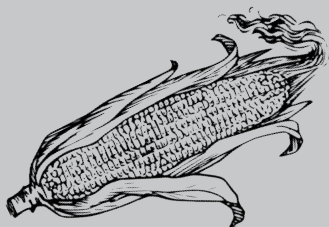
Make your glyphosate herbicide program effective
this year

The rub with neonicotinoid insecticides

Please call CCE Herkimer County to register
315-866-7920

You can also register on line at:
<http://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/>

Registration must be received by February 6.



An Introduction to High Tunnels

February 9, from 1-4 PM at Good Life Farm in Interlaken. Topics to be covered include – types of tunnels & construction, bed preparation, crops to grow, managing crops in high tunnels, and pest management. Tour Good Life Farm Tunnels.

Instructors include: Judson Reid – CCE Vegetable Crop Specialist (and high tunnel expert); farmers Melissa Madden and Garrett Miller with Good Life Farm and Evangeline Sarat with Sweetland Farm. Information on NRCS High Tunnel Grants will be presented by a NRCS representative.

Register for this workshop via Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Call 607-272-2292 or email mr55@cornell.edu. Pre-registration is required to ensure we have enough space. There is a \$5 fee for this class, pay at the door.

Online Mushroom Production Course

Course starts February 24. Forest mushroom cultivation is an emerging niche crop with potential to improve farmer stewardship of forests while offering a unique and highly desired product. Learn the background, techniques and economics of small outdoor (forest grown) commercial mushroom production in an 'BF 150: Woodland Mushroom Cultivation' is a 6-week online course that consists of weekly real-time webinars followed by homework, readings, and discussions on your own time in an online setting. Please visit Cornell Small Farms for more information at:

<http://nebeginningfarmers.org/online-courses/>

Got Trees? Get More from Your Woodlot

Free programs at the NY FARM SHOW February 26-28, 2015 State Fairgrounds - Syracuse, New York. Free Programs to help landowners realize more benefits from their woodlots will be presented each day during the 2015 Farm Show in Syracuse by the New York Forest Owners Association. New for this year: "Ask a Forester" is made possible by the State Department of Environmental Conservation with a forester in the booth area on each day of the Farm Show. The booth is on the main corridor of the Arts and Home Center, and the Seminars are held in the Somerset Room just steps away on the lower level of the Center. These programs are presented by the New York Forest Owners Association with the cooperation and backing of the NY Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.













New York Farm Show

February 26, 27 & 28, 2015
New York State Fairgrounds
Syracuse, NY

| February 2015 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 <div> <div></div> <div>Horse Bowl, 6p Dairy Bowl, 7pm</div> </div> | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 <div> <div></div> <div>Livestock Scholarships Due Horse Bowl, 6p Dairy Bowl, 7pm</div> </div> | 14 |
| 15 | 16 President's Day CCE Closed | 17 <div> <div></div> <div>Animal Science Committee Meeting, 7pm CCE CCE Board Meeting, 7pm</div> </div> | 18 | 19 | 20 <div> <div></div> <div>Horse Bowl, 6p Dairy Bowl, 7pm</div> </div> | 21 <div> <div></div> <div>County Public Presentations</div> </div> |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 <div> <div></div> <div>Horse Bowl, 6p Dairy Bowl, 7pm</div> </div> | 28 |

March 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|------------------|----------|---|---|
| 1  | 2 4-H Capital Days Trip, Albany, NY  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6  Horse Bowl, 6p Dairy Bowl, 7pm | 7  Regional Hippology Contest, Owego |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13  Horse Bowl, 6p Dairy Bowl, 7pm | 14  Regional Horse & Dairy Bowl |
| 15 | 16 | 17 CCE Board Meeting, 7pm | 18 | 19 | 20  Horse Bowl, 6p Dairy Bowl, 7pm | 21 |
| Ag Literacy Week | | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27  Horse Bowl, 6p Dairy Bowl, 7pm | 28  Dairy Discovery, Cornell University |
| 29 | 30 | 31  | 4-H Science Camp | | | |

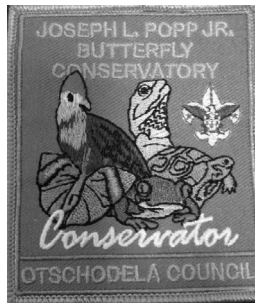
4-H Science Camp – March 30-April 3, 2015

“The A, B, C’s of Science”

Learn more about the A, B, C’s of science through 4-H Science Camp. Youth must be 4-H members or willing to join 4-H in order to participate in 4-H Science Camp. Members may choose specific days and/or the whole week. We have room for 15 in the vans and can accommodate more if we have a few parent volunteers. The schedule for the week is as follows:



Monday, March 30 – Astronomy – for our 12 and under members!! We will visit the Ho Tung Visualization Lab at Colgate University where we will learn about astronomy, tour Colgate’s Gardens and more! Cost: FREE



Tuesday, March 31 – Butterflies – We will visit the J.L. Popp Jr. Butterfly Conservatory in Oneonta to learn more about butterflies and their life cycles as well as other insects. Wear red and see what happens! Cost: \$7 per person.

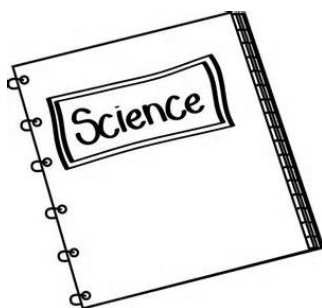
Wednesday, April 1 – Clothing Science – for members 13-19 years. Join us as we tour Cornell University’s Fiber Science and Apparel Design Laboratory. We will learn hands-on about how patterns are designed, new fibers that blend science and fashion, as well as making wearable accessories! Cost: FREE



Thursday, April 2 – Digital Discovery – for members 13-19 years. Learn how a TV Station runs and operates! We will tour WSKG TV in Johnson City as well as try out their newly built digital technology lab. Will you be Chenango County’s newest TV Star? Cost: FREE



Friday, April 3 – Earth Science – Learn more about your world at the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) in Syracuse as we tour the museum, watch an IMAX movie, and learn about the stars in the planetarium. Cost: \$15 per person



To register, contact Janet Pfromm, 607-334-5841 x12 or jlp27@cornell.edu. Please dress for the weather, bring your lunch and prepare for adventure while exploring our world!

Registration due March 10th



4-H Sewing Camp

Feb. 16-20

8am-12pm at CCE

Wanted:

4-H members who want to learn how to sew. You could sew a garment, accessory or costume for yourself or someone else. Or, you could even sew something for your room or pet. You must contact Emily to sign up before Tuesday, February 10th.

Agenda for Camp:

Monday, Feb 16: Take a trip with 4-H and their Master Sewing Volunteers on February 16th to select supplies. The van leaves CCE Chenango at 7:45am.

Tuesday: Getting to know your sewing machine and practicing different stitches. Students will learn to measure for patterns and lay out a pattern.

Wednesday: Students will create an apron or pillowcase. (Aprons will need 1-1.5 yards of fabric and 1.5 yards coordinating double fold bias tape for younger sewers). Pillowcases will need 30" of a main fabric and 12" of a coordinating band. Make sure the fabric is at least 43" wide.

Thursday: We will take a look at evaluation forms and what makes a fair worthy project. Youth will finish their project and move on to individual projects.

Thursday afternoon opportunity: Learn how to naturally dye fabrics. Chenango County Historical Museum will be here to teach the methods used to naturally dye fabrics.

Friday: Finishing touches on sewing projects (some students may not need this day to work).

Need monetary assistance for your project?

Scholarship Opportunity:

Members can apply for up to a \$25 scholarship to obtain materials for their project. You must submit your scholarship form (found on the website) by February 10th. The office keeps a look out for sales and coupons to help keep the cost of materials down.

Need an idea for a project?

The 4-H office has patterns and other supplies for your use.

Are you a beginner or a Cloverbud?

You will learn a lot about fabric choice and how to operate a sewing machine. Possible project ideas for you could include a pillowcase, apron, pajama pants, stuffed animal, vest, fleece jacket. More advanced members should select projects to their skill level.

Interested and want to know more?

Contact Emily Jane Anderson at Chenango County 4-H at eja74@cornell.edu or call 607-334-5841

Dairy Discovery 2015



When/Where:

Dairy Discovery is a hands-on workshop held annually here at Cornell in late March. It is a statewide program for youth ages 14-19 years old. Each year the youth will spend the 1½ days (Friday afternoon until Saturday late afternoon) here on campus learning about dairy careers and rotating through a series of hands-on stations which focus on a specific aspect of the dairy field each year. The focusing for the Dairy Discovery workshops changes each year but includes the following areas: Dairy Herd Health and Management, Calf and Heifer Production Management, Quality Milk and Milk Production, Whole Farm Management Planning, and Maximizing the Feed Management Program.

Who:

Due to the hands on approach of the sessions, participation is limited to the first 60 individuals to enroll by deadline. Youth who are 14-19 years of age as of January 1, of the current year and have an interest in dairy cattle and production management are eligible and strongly encouraged to attend (with their parents or chaperones). 4-H project members and FFA youth with a dairy interest or desire to learn about dairy are strongly encouraged to attend.

Why?:

Participants will get to meet Cornell faculty and students, learn about different aspects of dairy production management and dairy industry related careers. They will also be able to interact and exchange information with professional producers, industry experts, and more! Hands-on workshops are planned for each focus area.

This year's topic:

Calf and Heifer Production Management- Replacement heifers are an investment in the future of a dairy. The heifer enterprise represents the second largest cost on a dairy farm second only to dairy feed. The average age at first calving for Holsteins in New York is 26 months with a body weight post calving of 1170 lbs. This extended age and low body weight increases the herd cost of production. For every month that the "Age at First Calving" is delayed beyond the 22-month target, the cost to producers is about \$100 per animal, primarily because of lost milk production opportunity and a loss in the number of days in an animal's productive life.

A quality dairy replacement system is a management system that consistently generates quality heifers. Calving practices and newborn calf care play a critical role in the management of a heifer-raising program. Technical and analytical skill development in the areas of: Calf delivery, newborn calf care, colostrum management, and monitoring growth are necessary for assessing and optimizing the heifer raising programs potential.





4-H SENIOR DAIRY SCHOLARSHIP

Members who are actively involved with the 4-H Dairy Program and will be graduating from high school are invited to apply for the 2015 4-H Senior Dairy Scholarship. The award for this scholarship is \$500 and will be received by the recipient following their first successful semester at a 2-year, 4-year, or accredited trade school. Applications can be found on the 4-H website and requires the one page application, essay, and two letters of reference. Applications are due May 15th.

4-H LIVESTOCK SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for those members, and non-members willing to join 4-H, looking to get into a livestock project area are being accepted for the annual 4-H Livestock Scholarship Program. This program annually awards youth members beef, dairy, meat/dairy goats, sheep, and swine project animals that may be sold through the annual 4-H Livestock Auction or may serve as foundation animals for a members herd or flock. Applications can be found on the 4-H website and must be returned by February 13, 2015.

CHENANGO COUNTY 4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

All 4-H members are invited to participate in public presentations. Public presentations can be a recitation, horse related, illustrated talk, show and tell, speech, or a dramatic interpretation. 4-H members are encouraged to try something new. If you would like to sign up or have any questions please talk to Richard at rlt229@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 ext. 15

Saturday, February 21st, 8:30 registration, CCE

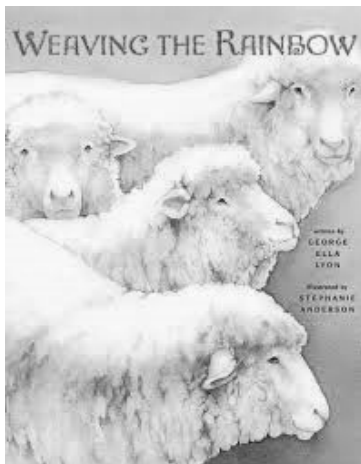
4-H INCUBATION & EMBRYOLOGY PROGRAM

The 4-H Incubation and Embryology Program is a great way for schools and families to help young people observe the mystery of life and learn some of the principles of reproduction. The project provides an opportunity for youth to work with living, growing chick embryos. A secondary but equally important objective is to provide leaders and teachers with an interesting and unique educational tool. Not only is the embryology project fun, but it also opens many opportunities for learning.

Delivery for eggs is **Monday, April 20**. Orders must be received by February 20. For more information and to receive an order packet, please contact Janet Pfromm, 607-334-5841 x12 or jl27@cornell.edu.



2015 AGRICULTURE LITERACY WEEK, MARCH 16-20



Now in its 10th Year, Agricultural Literacy Week has helped to bring agriculturally themed books and resources into thousands of classrooms and libraries throughout New York State. Reading volunteers are needed for the 2015 Ag Literacy Week Program. Volunteers will be asked to sponsor and read this year's book to K-2 students throughout the county in participating schools. Books are \$10 (to cover the cost of the book and mailings) each and include a bookplate to list each sponsor and classroom lesson plan.

Following the reading, books are then donated to the school library for future use.

This year's book is *Weaving The Rainbow* by George Ella Lyon and Stephanie Anderson. The book describes the transformation of wool into yarn into a beautiful tapestry.

How do you make a rainbow?

If you are a weaver you can make a rainbow with wool. If you are a sheep you can BE a rainbow.

Here's how.

An artist raises sheep, shears them, cards and spins the wool, dyes it, and then weaves a colorful picture of the Kentucky pasture where her lambs were born.

If you are interested in sponsoring an Ag Literacy book for a local school or are interested in volunteering to read, please contact Janet to find out how to become involved, jl27@cornell.edu or 607-334-5841 x12.

2015 4-H DAIRY BOWL



Janet shows the organs of a cow

If you are interested in learning more about dairy cattle and the dairy industry with kids from across the county, join us at Dairy Bowl Practices, Friday evenings at the 4-H Office. Lots of hands-on learning leads up to the Regional Dairy Bowl contest where youth compete in a "Jeopardy"-like contest, with buzzers!! All practices begin at 7pm. Prepare to get dirty and learn more about cows!

February 6, 13, 20; March 6, 13;
March 14 – Regional Dairy Bowl Contest

2015 4-H HORSE BOWL

If you are interested in learning more about horses and the equine industry with kids from across the county, join us for Horse Bowl Practices, Friday evenings at the 4-H Office. Lots of hands-on learning leads up to the Regional Hippology and Horse Bowl contests where youth compete in a "Jeopardy"-like contest, with buzzers!! All practices begin at 6pm. Prepare to get dirty and learn more about horses!

February 6, 13, 20; March 6, 13;
March 7 – Regional Hippology Contest,
March 14 – Regional Horse Bowl Contest



2014 Hippology and Horse Bowl

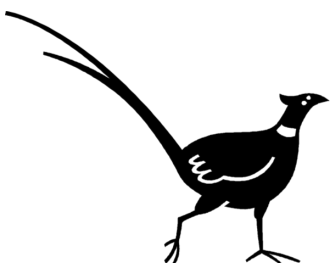


2015 Pheasant Project

Since 2006, Chenango County has reared and released over 5,200 pheasants into the wild for all to enjoy. Thank you for your past involvement in this project!

We are currently taking orders for the 2015 Project and hope to have 2,500 pheasant chicks reared this project year!

All orders, no matter the size, will be taken in lots of 25 birds.



A free-will donation of \$5 per order will be accepted to cover the mailing costs of this great program. Orders due March 10, 2015.

Please contact Janet Pfromm to place your order or to request more information, 607-334-5841 x12 or jl27@cornell.edu

SUNY Cobleskill's American Animal Producers Club



Save the Date!

SUNY Cobleskill's American Animal Producers Club Presents

The 4th Annual Livestock Judging Clinic

Saturday, April 25th, 2015 ~ 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Cobleskill Fairgrounds

Registration materials and event schedule will be sent out in February.

For additional information, contact Jason Evans at evansjr@cobleskill.edu See attachments for registration price information or contact Dr. Jason Evans EvansJR@cobleskill.edu for more details. <http://www.cobleskill.edu/campus-life/student-life/aap-club/spring-clinic.asp>



Thank you to everyone who donated to area food pantries and soup kitchens in memory of Jacqui Rayne. We raised over \$685 in cash and several people donated fresh produce or non-perishable food items.

This is a great way to honor her memory!

*A Special Thank You to Our
December 2014 - January 2015 Contributors:*

Ray and Judy Crumb
 John A. Hohl in memory of Walter McIntosh
 William R. Aitken
 Mina Takahashi
 Elizabeth Schaefer
 Water's Edge Bed and Breakfast, Candace Harrington
 Robert and Linda Marshman
 Christine Brunner and James Butterfield
 Kathleen S. Haddad
 Dan and Diane Bradshaw
 David B. Emerson
 Rev. Monsignor James F. Cox
 Rockdale Rod and Gun Club
 Carl Cummings In Memory Of Arlene Cummings
 Donald and Carol Franklin
 Nick and Wendy Caldiero
 Tom and Monica Jensen
 Tim and Shauna Hyle
 Preferred Mutual Insurance Company
 John Carpenter
 Pearl Gilmour
 Tom and Grace Holmes
 Douglas Dutcher
 Penny Wightman
 Fred Gaylord
 Lillian M. Hawkins In Memory Of Bonnie Goodwin Yager
 Richard and Martha Hohl-Place In Memory Of John
 and Rosa Hohl and Robert and Katherine Place
 Marcy Miller-Golley, Have Broom Will Travel
 David E. Farquhar
 Philip and Jane Clement
 Debra and Alan Davis
 Janice O'Shea
 Marilyn Carley
 Bert and Sally Finch
 Chenango Piecemakers Quilt Guild
 Marvin & Donna Rice in Memory of E. Donald & Barbara Hodge
 Dewey & Margo Bonner and Family
 in memory of E. Donald & Barbara
 Walton Middle School Staff in memory of E. Donald & Barbara Hodge
 Joanne & Gary Elliott in memory of E. Donald & Barbara Hodge
 C. Garth Grey
 Warren E. Eaton Trust
 David and Irma Petley
 Charles Vigus, Jr.
 Donald and Ellen Bosworth
 Marion L. Ireland
 William S. Hallenbeck III
 Harold and Audrey Johnson
 Beverly Gridley

**DAIRY DAY
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS**



Karl Graham is the son of Jay and Patsy Graham of South Otselic. He graduated Valedictorian from Otselic Valley High School in 2011 and is a pre-veterinary major and licensed veterinary technician at Cornell University. Karl is currently employed at the vet school and has shown every animal except sheep. He is looking to be a large animal veterinarian. Karl and his family are very active members of Chenango County 4-H and Karl continues to serve as a volunteer. Karl is the 2014 Dairy Day Scholarship recipient.



Noah Ives is the son of Terry and Julie Ives of Guilford graduated from Bainbridge-Guilford High School in 2011 and graduated from SUNY Cobleskill in December 2014 as an honors student. He is currently working for a small insurance company focusing on farm insurance. Noah and his family are very active members of Chenango County 4-H and Noah continues to serve as a volunteer. Noah is the 2013 Dairy Day recipient.



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Cooperative Extension
Chenango County



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