



Press Release

June 2008

Dairy Profit Seminars set for Aug.5-7 at Empire Farm Days

Northeast DairyBusiness will bring three Dairy Profit Seminars to Empire Farm Days, Tuesday through Thursday, Aug. 5-7, 2008. Seminars begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Dairy Seminar Center on the Empire Farm Days show grounds in Seneca Falls, N.Y.

Here's a preview of what's in store:

Tuesday, Aug. 5: Transition Cow Tune-Up

"Few dairy herd management topics have attracted as much attention in the last several years as transition cow biology and management," says Tom Overton, associate professor in dairy nutrition and management at Cornell University and associate director of PRO-DAIRY. The Transition Cow Tune-up Seminar, moderated by Overton, gives you the latest information on key areas of transition cow management, with a focus on diet, health and housing.

This panel includes Pennsylvania veterinarian Bob Stoltzfus, who formulates a high-fill, low energy straw diet for his clients. Other panel members are Tony Brubacker, MT. Joy, PA; Eric Clifford, Starksboro, VT; and John Knopf, Canandaigua, NY.

Wednesday, Aug. 6. Dairy Facilities – Create a healthy, productive environment for cows and people

David Galton, Cornell animal scientist and director of PRO-DAIRY, moderates today's panel discussion on Dairy Facilities: Create a healthy, productive environment.

This panel brings together in one place some of the Northeast's best minds on dairy facilities, including dairy producers on the front lines of making cows comfortable and long lasting. Panelists include dairy farmers Tom Barley of Star Rock Dairy, Conestoga, PA; Lynn Murray of Murray Farms, Copenhagen NY; and Jake Swyers with Adirondack Dairy, Peru, NY. Joining these dairy farmers are dairy facilities' gurus: Curt Gooch, a registered professional engineer and PRO-DAIRY's facilities specialist; Rick Grant, president of W.H. Miner Agricultural Institute, Chazy NY, who has done extensive research on cows' time budgets; and Corwin Holtz of Holtz-Nelson Dairy Consultants LLC. You will want to hear what he has to say about deep-straw beds for dairy cows.

Thursday, Aug. 7. The Business of Grazing

Jason Karszes, PRO-DAIRY's business management specialist, will moderate today's panel discussion on grazing. Though farmer panel members can surely talk about the nuts and bolts of grazing – fencing, paddock size and substance, supplemental TMR, crossbreeding and the like – today's program focuses on the business side of grazing – and in some cases organic milk production. Some of the key areas to be looked at will be labor efficiency, feed costs, total operating costs and asset turnover.

Panel members include dairy farmers Kathie Arnold, Truxton NY; Garvin Button, Jasper NY; Dave Forgey, Logansport, ID; and Jon and Bev Rutter, Bridport, VT. They will be joined by Rick Kersbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, who has done extensive research on forage systems and



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organic production. He will present data from a three-year study of the economics of diverse forage systems. He also has cost-of-production data on organic dairying.

In addition to Northeast DairyBusiness, seminar sponsors include Advanced Comfort Technology, Alltech Northeast, BASF, Dairy Farmers of America, Dairylea Cooperative, Great American Insurance Group, Interstate Commodities Inc., And Northeast Biofuels.

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