Getting Your Heifer Raising Program Right is Critical to Your Profitability

How a dairy heifer is raised has a substantial impact on the performance as an adult milking cow and on the farm’s overall financial performance. Impacts include:

- Time to breeding and 1st calving
- Heifer feed costs
- 1st lactation milk yield
- Total lifetime productivity
- Number of replacements required to maintain or grow herd size

This conference will help you understand what you can do on your farm to improve your heifer management, cow performance, and ultimately your profit.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling Kim Holden at (607) 865-7090 by 7 days prior to the event date to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.
Understanding the Importance of Heifer Growth

Program Agenda:

9:45 – Registration, coffee and donuts
10:00 – Opening Remarks & Welcome
10:10 – How are our Heifers Growing in Delaware County?
   Rich Toebe, CCE Delaware County Livestock Educator
   Rich will summarize his results of measuring over 2000 heifers in Delaware County. He will identify the most common challenges being faced by Delaware County farms. You will be able to follow along with your specific growth charts.

11:00 – The Big Picture of Calf Nutrition, Growth and Future Performance
   Mike Van Amburgh, Cornell Department of Animal Science
   The primary goal of your heifer program is to raise the highest quality heifer that can maximize profits once it enters the lactating herd. If raised properly, this heifer has no limitations to reaching her genetic potential in your system. Mike will cover the key components of a successful and cost efficient heifer raising program.

12:00 – Lunch

1:00 – Understanding the Basics of Repro Physiology for Successful Repro Management
   Julio Giordano, Cornell Asst. Professor, Dairy Cattle Biology and Management
   Julio will provide an refresher on heifer reproductive physiology and review tips to make sure you breed your heifers when they are physiologically ready to optimally join your milking herd.

2:00 – Management Strategies that Maximize Heifer Performance and Revenue
   Robert Lynch, DVM Dairy Herd Health and Management Specialist—Pro Dairy
   Rob will cover how having your heifer at optimum weights at breeding and freshening pays as well as how managing for a younger age to first calving (AFC) saves money and can result in increased heifer and milk sales.

Registration Form

Name(s): _________________________
_________________________________
Address: ________________________
City: _________________ Zip: _______
Phone #: ________________________
E-mail: __________________________

☐ Member of CCE Delaware ($10/person)
☐ WAP Precision Feed Farm ($10/person)

Please register by Tuesday, January 30. Call or send completed form and registration fee ($10 or 20.00/person) to:
Cornell Cooperative Extension
44 West Street, Suite 1
Attn: Kim Holden
Walton, NY 13856
(607) 865-7090
kmh19@cornell.edu

Rich Toebe is willing to come out to your farm and measure your heifers prior to this workshop. Call him by January 18 to guarantee this service. There is no cost or obligation to have this done.
(Delaware County Only)
rrt43@cornell.edu or 607 865-7090