

OCTOBER 2023

THE NEW ENGLAND GRAZING NETWORK

GATHERING AND GROWING REGENERATIVE
GRAZERS ACROSS THE REGION

APPLY FOR THE DAIRY CLIMATE ADAPTATION FELLOWSHIP

The USDA Northeast Climate Hub, in collaboration with Cornell University is offering a cohort based learning and training opportunity for dairy producers, Extension educators, agriculture consultants, and other agricultural advisors who are interested in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Details in attached flyer.

Learn more and apply here by November 11th, 2023.



NEW ENGLAND FARMLAND ACCESS, SUCCESSION, AND TRANSFER SUPPORT GRANTS OPEN FROM AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

The New England Farmer Microgrants Program is a grant program that provides direct financial support to farmers across New England. The program seeks to address some of the key barriers faced by farmers in the region: access to farmland, farm succession/transfer planning, and the adoption of regenerative farming practices. The program's Farmland Access, Succession, and Transfer Support Grants provide direct financial assistance to farmers for projects that facilitate farmland access, succession, or transfer.

For the 2023-24 cycle, eligibility is limited to farmers located in Maine, Rhode Island, or the Eastern counties of Massachusetts. **Learn more and apply here by November 21st, 2023**

THE NEW ENGLAND GRAZING NETWORK IS A COLLABORATION OF **INDEPENDENT STATE GRAZING ORGANIZATIONS** LOCATED ACROSS THE NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM **THE CEDAR TREE FOUNDATION**



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2023 NAT GLC VERMONT BUS TOUR WRAP UP!

The National Grazing Lands Coalition's Grazing Through the Green Mountains Tour co-sponsored by NEGN-partner Vermont Grass Farmers Association, was a huge success. More than 125 farmers and ranchers traveled from all across the country to meet, mingle and tour New England farms to learn about good grazing management practices. NEGN and the Northeast Pasture Consortium were able to support 10 New England farmers to attend this event.

[Learn more about the event in NatGLC's video recap of the tour.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS ACROSS THE REGION:

[Click here for even more events & registration details!](#)

Beginner Farmer Mixer and Launch Party (GSG)

Friday, Nov 3rd 5-8 PM, Northwood Brewing Co., Northwood, NH

[Register here.](#)

Beef Quality Assurance Training and Winter Feeding Beef Cattle

Oct 20th 10 AM - 1 PM, UMaine Ext. Penobscot County Office, Bangor, Maine

[Register here.](#)

2023 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium

Oct 27th - 29th. Frank Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

[Register here.](#)

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NEW ENGLAND
GRAZING NETWORK





Dairy Climate Adaptation Fellowship

The USDA Northeast Climate Hub, in collaboration with Cornell University is offering a cohort based learning and training opportunity for dairy producers, Extension educators, agriculture consultants, and other agricultural advisors who are interested in climate change adaptation and mitigation.



This program is for **dairy producers** in New York, Vermont, or Maine who are interested in learning more about current and future climate impacts on their farm, and are motivated to develop a climate adaptation and/or mitigation plan for their operation.

This program is for **agricultural advisors** in those same states who work with dairy farmers and are interested in strengthening their abilities to provide climate-focused support.

Program Goals

- ▶ Provide relevant, regionally specific climate change information to dairy farmers and agricultural advisors
- ▶ Empower farmers and agricultural advisors to become climate leaders in their communities through peer-to-peer learning
- ▶ Create opportunities for farmers to generate farm-specific climate adaptation and mitigation plans with the support of an advisor and team of Cooperative Extension dairy specialists
- ▶ Enable agricultural advisors to strengthen their climate adaptation and mitigation planning knowledge and abilities through hands-on work with farmers

What Will Fellows Do?

- ▶ Work in farmer/service provider pairs throughout the year long fellowship program
- ▶ Participate in online climate training and gain access to resources from subject matter experts
- ▶ Develop a farm-specific climate adaptation and/or mitigation plan
- ▶ Share their climate change farm plan with other farmers through outreach materials
- ▶ Engage with other producers and service providers farmer field days or farm tours, peer-to-peer network meetings, or other relevant workshops

Background

In 2019, a team of collaborators from the University of Vermont, Rutgers, Cornell and other land grant universities, farmers, and personnel from USDA's Northeast Climate Hub, Agricultural Research Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service, worked to develop the Climate Adaptation Fellowship Program in response to farmers' and agricultural advisors' need for information and technical assistance related to increased climate related challenges. The team developed a set of peer-reviewed climate-focused curricula for four different agricultural sectors, including dairy, small fruit and vegetables, tree fruit, and forestry. In 2020, the team piloted the program for small fruit and vegetable farmers in the Northeast, with a total of 34 fellows participating. The 2024 fellowship will pilot the program with dairy producers and advisors.

Program Logistics

Dairy Cohort

We will be working with 15 dairy farmers from New York, Vermont, or Maine. Farms can be managed conventionally or organically and can be any size. Each farmer participating in the program will be paired with a nearby agricultural advisor to work with them on the program. Fellows can apply in farmer/advisor pairs, or can be paired by the program team for a total of 30 fellows.

Planning & Outreach Products

The major product fellows will produce is their farm-specific adaptation and/or mitigation plan. Other outreach products to share with other farmers and agricultural advisors could include: case studies (1-2 pages) with photos to be shared via newsletters or websites; interviews for newspaper articles detailing program progress; short video clips; sharing knowledge at Farmer Field Day events; and participation in pre- and post-program surveys to determine program success and improvements.

Timeline

Fall 2023 Recruitment of Fellows (farmers and agricultural advisors)

January - February 2024 Participation in Online Workshop. Learning sessions will be a weekly two-hour night session with optional drop in "office hours" the next day. All sessions will be recorded.

Spring - Fall 2024 Developing farm climate adaptation and/or mitigation plan

Summer 2024 Field days, on-farm demonstrations

January 2025 Sharing Farm Plan; Developing Case Study; Program Evaluation

Funding

Farmers can expect to be compensated \$800 upon completion of the program for time spent creating and sharing outreach material related to their experience with the fellowship program. Agricultural advisors are not offered a stipend unless they are self-employed or completing the fellowship outside of their normal professional role. Decisions about advisor fellows' eligibility to receive a stipend will be made on a case-by-case basis.

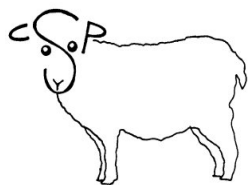
Want more information?

Email sara.kelemen@usda.gov

Visit adaptationfellows.net

Ready to apply?

adaptationfellows.net/apply



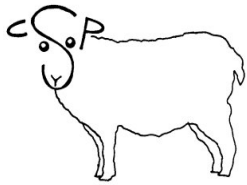
2023 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium

Friday October 27th – Sunday October 29th, 2023

*Sponsored by Cashmere Goat Assoc, Empire Sheep Producers Assoc.,
NYS Dairy Goat Breeders Assoc. & Cornell Small Ruminant Program*



Friday October 27 th – 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Hands-on afternoon on the Cornell Campus Registration in the Lobby of Morrison Hall. Advance sigh-ups required. We will walk to the 3 pm work-shops from the Lobby. Please let us know in advance if you will require transport instead.			
3:00 pm	Processing goats and sheep for meat, <i>Jessica Waltemyer, Cornell Univ.</i> B38 Morrison Hall & Meat Plant (previous sign –up required) 1) euthanasia options 2) carcass evaluation, 3) cut up & processing	Hands-on skills for new farmers Livestock Pavilion 1) Demonstration station 2) Lambing/Kidding Station 3) Hoof care Station 4) Health care Station	How to do a field necropsy, <i>Dr. Mary Smith, DVM, Cornell Univ.</i> 174 Morrison Hall, (previous sign –up required) Work in teams of 4 or 5 under the guidance of Dr. Mary Smith DVM to learn to do field necropsies and collect important information/photos for your veterinarian and yourself
5:00 pm to 7 pm	Intro to Artificial Insemination, <i>Dr. Megan Bernard, DVM, Cornell Univ.</i> Advance sign-up required. B82 Morrison Hall and later Livestock Pavilion		
Saturday Oct 28 th – Morrison Hall, Cornell Campus			
8:00 am: Registration and continental breakfast (132 Morrison Hall) – Producer and other association displays on the first floor of Morrison Hall throughout the day			
8:30 am: Welcome (146 Morrison Hall), <i>Dr. Thomas Overton, Cornell Univ. Animal Science Dept. Chair</i>			
8:45 am: Vector ailments of increasing concern: Cache Valley Fever, deer worm & tickborne ailments, <i>Dr. Mary Smith, DVM, Cornell Univ.</i>		Introduction to laparoscopic AI and embryo transfer in small ruminants, <i>Dr. Rachel Gately, DVM, Tufts Univ. by Zoom</i>	
9:40 am: Preventing, ID’ing & Treating Mastitis, <i>Katherine Rose Gottwald, graduate student, Cornell QMPS Lab.</i>		Farmer panel: diversifying your on-farm enterprises (on-farm stores, goat yoga, farm public events, etc.)	9:40 am to 11:50 am: Hands-on skills for new farmers, Livestock Pavilion 1) Demonstration Station 2) Lambing/Kidding Station 3) Hoof care Station 4) Health care Station
10:35 am: Diagnosis, control & eradication of high impact diseases: CAE, OPP, CL and infectious abortions, <i>Dr. Kimberly Snedden, DVM, Cornell AHDC</i>		Farm Income Taxes 101, <i>Christen Adels, MBA, Munchin Hill Farm, ADGA District 2 Director</i>	
11:30 am Diagnosis, control & eradication of Johnes, <i>Dr. Jessica Scillieri-Smith, DVM, NYSDAM</i>		Updates from NYS Ag & Markets: Certification programs, funding opportunities, OC antibiotics, NYSSGHAP, <i>Dr. Eireann Collins, DVM; Kathryn Davis, Econ. Dev. Program Spec.</i>	
12:20 pm: Lunch in 348 Morrison Hall, Association displays on the first floor of Morrison Hall			



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1:20 pm Handling systems for sheep & goats , critiquing several examples, <i>Betsy Hodge, Dr. Niko Kochendoerfer, Rich Toebe, Jess Waltemyer</i> . Cornell Teaching Barns	1:20 pm to 3:15 pm Using ADGA Records to help make breeding decisions , <i>Jim VanDerlinde, ADGA Performance Programs Manager</i>	Fiber Fun , <i>Bruce Berggren-Thomas, Cornell Univ.</i>	Intro to Lotion making – <i>Michele Kline, Nellie's Knoll Creamery</i> will demonstrate how to make goat milk body lotions
2:20 pm Impact of nutrition, genetics and season on reproductive outcomes , <i>Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, Michigan State Univ.</i>		2:20 to 4:30 pm Intro to Fiber Evaluation: evaluating cashmere, mohair, and various wool fleeces, suitability for different products/market supply chains – <i>Marcia Weinert, Christine McBrearty-Hulse, etc.</i>	2:20 to ~5:00 pm Beginning Cheesemaking – instarella mozzarella and chevre, <i>Michele Kline, Nellie's Knoll Creamery</i> – advance sign-up required for this hands-on class.
3:15 Refreshment break			
3:30 pm Forage & grain finishing systems for lambs and meat kids , <i>Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, Michigan State Univ.</i>	Raising dairy kids to reach their full potential , <i>Don George, Majenli Dairy Goats</i>	Fiber evaluation cont.	Cheesemaking cont.
4:30 pm: Questions with answers by the speakers (146 Morrison Hall)			
5:15 pm: Done for the day! Safe travels to those of you returning home that evening!!!			
Sunday Oct 29th – Meet in Lobby			
9:00 am to 12:30 PM: Integrated parasite management and FAMACHA Certification workshop, <i>Janice Liotta, Dwight Bowman Parasitology Lab, Cornell Univ., and Dr. tatiana Stanton, Cornell Univ.</i> Previous sign-up required, 101 Morrison Hall. FAMACHA cards available for purchase at \$16 each. Bring bag lunch if you wish. We also encourage you to bring a refrigerated fecal sample from one animal in your herd. If you have a microscope at home and are having trouble adjusting it, you may also bring it.			
12:30 pm Adjourn! HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!			