



More than 10 different pieces of machinery were demonstrated in the forage cutting demonstrations.

## Empire Farm Days Play In Seneca Falls Last Week

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half.

Mary Whittier, Whittier Farms, Sutton, MA, reported they were fed up with rising hauling costs, low milk prices and unfair demands of their handler. They became milk haulers, processors, and retailers of their own milk. Year-round demand for their bottled milk prompted the construction of their own farm store.

Warren Facey, Peter and Faith Williams, and Leyden and Shelburne worked together to form an innovative, low-cost way to market their milk.

On Wednesday, Dave Galton moderated the topic of how to use sand bedding in your dairy.

Velmar Green, Green Meadows Farm, Elsie, MI, has been using sand bedding for eight years. They have installed a new sand separator to remove manure.

Slade Cox, Spruce Haven Dairy, Union Springs, NY, operates a 1,000 cow dairy and research facility. They have compared sand bedding to conventional bedding and shown a big advantage for sand.

Eric Clifford, Starksboro, VT, has made cow comfort a priority. He has experimented with stall size, style, and bedding, and remodeled facilities to improve air quality.

Chuck Guard, Cornell University medical clinic, reminded dairy farmers to keep cows in the production string longer you must take care of their feet.

On Thursday, Corwin Holtz was the moderator. The discussion centered around the storage, shrink, loading, mixing, and monitoring true dry matter intakes of feed.

Dave Sumrall, general manager of the Aurora Dairy Group, Longmont, Colorado, has developed an elaborate management spreadsheet that allows him to track and monitor true feed intake and costs every day.

Dan Titus, Barbland Farms, Fabius, NY, knew feed was being wasted so he began to track feed by ingredient. This reduced on-farm feed losses.

Gerry Kuhl, extension feedlot specialist, Kansas State University, showed how the beef feedlot industry can provide some valuable tips to the dairy producer. These are based on feed bunk management and feed inputs.

Joanne Siciliano-Jones, Siciliano Dairy, Homer, NY, evaluated digestibility and rations in a practical on-farm setting.

Mark Gardner, Western NY Agway Ag Products, talked about cowside treatments related to nutrition.

As in the past, the full-tent of dairy farmers especially appreciated hearing from other dairy producers who talked about different technology and management practices they've implemented on their farms. Of course the discussion parts of the program were well-received.

On Tuesday, a special three-day tour of vegetable and fruit farms and processing plants that was in progress simultaneously with Empire Farm Days stopped in for a luncheon and press conference.

The Post Office again offered a special Empire Farm Days hand-cancelled stamp.

A special cattle handling demonstration was performed by Martha Wright, Cornell cooperative extension, Northwest team.

Wright said they wanted to introduce and enforce the idea that folks need to think about a handling system for livestock that need not be elaborate but uses the animals' natural instincts of movement.

"Safety of the handler and the

animal is important," Wright said. "We want the system to allow the animals to be quiet. Not so much what I will make them do, but I will let them do what I want. We want to work easier, not harder."

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