BEEF Research and Extension Priorities

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Research Priorities** | **Extension Priorities** |
| 1. What are the most efficient ways to convert abandoned dairy facilities-- whether they be free stall, tie stall or bank barns--to beef production.  | 1. Provide assistance with developing feeder calf marketing programs suited to the small herds typical of NYS.  |
| 2. In other states, research has demonstrated an optimum lot size for marketing feeder cattle. In New York, we have access to specialty markets, e.g. natural, grass finished. What is the right lot size for our farms? Are there additional requirements from these markets that will increase price of feeder calves?  | 2. Train producers to understand and apply vaccination programs, not only for marketing but for herd management.  |
| 3. A significant challenge to New York cow/calf operations is managing the herd in variable weather conditions, e.g. mud, cold rain, wind. What systems minimize environmental impact at a cost that is commensurate with the economics of the operation?  | 3. Match landowners and beef producers to get more land into beef production  |
| 4. What pasture management strategies would address the different nutrient requirements in cow/calf, stocker and finishing enterprises?  | 4. Help producers move up the value chain - training them about adding value through backgrounding, stockers, retained ownership and finishing.  |
| 5. For farms not large enough to take advantage of Market Futures, what novel risk management tools could be developed to reduce impact of market in profitability? | 5. Train producers to understand and apply technological advances in genetics (AI, EPDs, DNA, Genomics, embryo transfer).  |
| Other: | Other: |

**Poultry Research and Extension Priorities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Research Priorities** | **Extension Priorities** |
| 1. New York State does not have many hatcheries, leaving producers vulnerable if the US Postal Service stops delivering chicks. What are needed incentives and barriers to hatcheries locating in New York?  | 1. Provide farmer resources around poultry biosecurity, including best practices training and creation of a network for sharing the outbreak information rapidly.  |
| 2. How do animal welfare regulations (i.e. cage-free housing, de-beaking, access to outdoors) affect profitability and marketing of poultry products?  | 2. Educate both Extension Educators and veterinarians in the area of poultry disease prevention and control.  |
| 3. How does ventilation compare in barns, cage-free operations, and various types of outdoor housing? How does this relate to flock health measurements?  | 3. Provide training for poultry farmers on the appropriate regulations for marketing both meat and eggs (Storage, grading, packing, shipping and food safety).  |
| 4. What are best strategies for managing poultry manure and mortality that protect the environment and could be profitable to the farm?  | 4. Provide general production training (on nutrition, ration balancing, housing, behavior, and flock health) for diversifying and new farmers  |
| 5. Select and improve genetic lines of broiler and heritage layer breeds to develop fast-growing, hardy, active foraging birds.  | 5. Provide cost-of-production training to improve decision-making and profitability of poultry enterprises.  |
| Other (please describe)  | 6. Develop decision-making tools and models on the economics of building on-farm (5-A) poultry slaughter facilities.  |
|  | Other (please describe) |

**Sheep and Goat Priorities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Research Priorities** | **Extension Priorities** |
| 1. Identify wholesale markets for fluid goat milk and evaluate what costs of production are necessary for such markets to be profitable for dairy goat producers.  | 1. Link goat and sheep farmers with direct consumers and with buyers of breeding stock.  |
| 2. Expand options for managing internal parasites with particular emphasis on alternatives adoptable by organic and/or grass fed enterprises  | 2. Assist farmers with networking - specifically locating shearers, mentors, and veterinarians with small ruminant expertise  |
| 3. Refine understanding of mineral and vitamin needs of goats and sheep  | 3. Provide new/prospective producer programs in getting started (i.e. selection of starter animals, suitable facilities, and effective management practices  |
| 4. Evaluate forage production choices to support decision-making (such as investing in on-farm hay/baleage production or investing in yearly renovation of a percentage of pastures)  | 4. Provide advanced producer programs on marketing, business management, and livestock management (i.e. requirements of ethnic markets, business planning, record keeping, pasture rotations, control and eradication of contagious diseases, parasite management).  |
| 5. Determine influence of various factors on the profitability of small ruminant DAIRIES (e.g. costs of appropriately scaled equipment, compliance to regulations or healthy breeding stock, or low production due to poor genetics or health management) | 5. Improve feed/pasture choices that meet the nutritional requirements of specific goat & sheep enterprises, such as grass-fed.  |
| 6. Expand knowledge on raising young stock with particular emphasis on alternatives adoptable by organic and/or grass-fed enterprises.  | 6. Assist producers in application of technologies such as AI, on-farm performance testing (i.e. DHI), CIDRs, artificial lighting and genetic selection for out of season breeding  |
| Other (please describe)  | 7. Develop on-line examples of how to convert dairy cattle facilities, shipping containers and Amish modular buildings for use in commercial small ruminant enterprises.  |
|  | Other (please describe)  |

**Swine Priorities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Research Priorities** | **Extension Priorities** |
| 1. Many swine operations are moving towards outdoor/pasture-based production. What genetics are most profitable (hardy and productive) in these systems?  | 1. Develop strategies for improved reproductive efficiency for smaller farms (natural and artificial insemination)  |
| 2. Outdoor production systems rely on pasture for a portion of the animals’ nutrition. What ration/diet is needed to supplement pasture for optimum growth for finishing? | 2. Assist swine farmers with decision-making around market channels (contracts, freezer trade, breeding stock, by the cut)  |
| 3. An added concern with outdoor production is internal parasites. What can be done for prevention, alternative control?  | 3. Develop biosecurity resources: training on vector transmission, networks for spreading the word when outbreaks occur.  |
| 4. With many local breweries and distilleries in the state, how can spent grains, distillers, mash, etc., be used in rations? How can these products be stored to maintain quality? | 4. Provide first aid and basic swine treatments for producers so they don’t have to call a veterinarian for minor issues.  |
| 5. Identify opportunities to enhance swine value chain with new enterprises: farrowing, finishing, and retained ownership and finishing. | 5. Provide education and technical assistance to NY operations that are fully integrated (farrow to finish), but with limited or no access to appropriately-sized grain and processing facilities.  |
|  | 6. Provide advanced training for indoor and outdoor production (e.g nutrition, herd health, handling systems, housing – for overwintering and outdoor farrowing) |
| Other (please describe) | Other (please describe) |