



Lawnel Farms

NATURE'S BEST FOR OVER 60 YEARS.

Fall 2014

Hi Neighbors!

Autumn seems to be upon us as the leaves have quickly changed, fallen and now the temperatures seem to be dropping. It was a challenging wet spring and a bit of an unusually cool summer, but we seemed to get done what we needed to. Warmer weather always finds us busy around the farm, and we have been just that - busy.

This year was a year for many improvements. We replaced mattresses for the cows to rest on and rubber flooring for the cows to stand on; installed sprinkler systems for the cows to stay cool in the heat and replaced small fans with larger, more efficient ones in all our freestall barns. We tackled many needed field tiling projects with the help of Dave Coffey - thank you.

We also would like to thank all you neighbors in being cooperative and considerate of our machinery and equipment during planting and harvest. We appreciate your willing to work with us, and many of you for helping us get done what we need to - thank you to all of you!

Unfortunately winter is approaching, and as we prepare for another cold one, we will touch base with you in the spring. Always remember to enjoy quality family time and have a safe and happy holiday season.

*Larry Smith
Andrew, Susan & Amos Smith
Tim, Kirsty Northrop & Family*

Growing Season Recap

While New York is an ideal place to farm with great soils and abundant markets, like all farmers throughout the country, we farm at the mercy of Mother Nature. Some years, we get just the right amount of sun and rain; other years, well...let's just say it challenges us a little more. This year we were kept on our toes with a mixed bag of tricks. Spring brought more than normal rainfall, which made it challenging to get the

corn in the ground. The summer months were a bit cooler than expected and could have provided us with a little more heat. Fortunately though, we were able to put in some good crops and got some record breaking yields. We grow 1200 acres of corn, 1100 acres of alfalfa and 350 acres of winter wheat that will help feed our cows throughout the year. Our homegrown feed

CONTACT US ANYTIME!

We want to hear from you! Please let us know if you have any questions about our farm, or if there is anything we can do to be better neighbors.

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Check out our new website:
WWW.LAWNELFARMS.COM



The next generation anxiously awaiting their turn.

accounts for 85% of the feed we need for our cows. The rest of the feed we purchase, which allows us to provide just the right balance of nutrients for our beautiful bovines.

Everyday Chores

Just because crops are in, doesn't mean we can take a vacation. There's always plenty to do on the farm. Cows, especially dairy cows, can be high maintenance. They require constant attention that we pride ourselves on providing. Here are some of the tasks we perform everyday – regardless of the season or holiday.

Feeding: Like ourselves, cows require good nutrition. We work with a nutritionist to formulate a balanced diet, to ensure they are getting the nutrients and calories they need - a daunting task at times for a 1,200-1,400 pound animal that has four stomachs. (And you thought your teenager ate a lot!) The cows are fed using a computer system that tracks all aspects of cow feeding, including how much, when and how accurately the feed is delivered.

Milking: We milk our 1,300 cows three times per day. Cows like to be milked, in fact they will line up at the gate and start mooing if we are a mere 15 minutes late.

Cleaning: We also clean the barn three times a day. We clean out their stalls and scrape the barn floors...which means we also have to find a home for all that manure. Manure is a valuable resource as it is used as fertilizer on our fields. We store it in earthen lagoons located on the farm. It is then spread and incorporated before the crops are planted to provide optimal nutrients to the soils.

Photo: Milking cows is a process. You first wipe the udder clean with cloth towels, then excrete some milk to check it. Next, you place the milking unit on the cow's udder. After 5 minutes or so, the machine comes off and we dip their teats with a protective liquid to keep them healthy.



LAWNEL FARMS
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Local
Postal Customer

Are All Cows the Same?



With over 1,500 cows on our farm, visitors often ask us, "How can you tell them apart?" The easiest way to tell our cows apart is by the numbered tag in their ear that is used much like a social security number. But even without the eartag, all cows are uniquely different. They have different markings, different personalities, and different conformations – just like us humans. Isn't this one cute?

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Fun
Farm
Fact

Dairy farms are family-owned businesses and generate more than \$2 billion for the local and state economy.