



# Lawnel Farms

NATURE'S BEST FOR OVER 60 YEARS.

*Spring 2014*

## *Hi Neighbors!*

Spring seems to be approaching. Though it has been a slow progression it finally seems to be here. Wow, was it ever a long hard winter? Maybe similar to what the older generations may have been used to experiencing, but not in recent years.

Winter is tough on people and cows the same, and when the wind blows it makes it even tougher to tolerate. Driveways, cow traffic ways and pathways must continually be plowed for milk trucks, milk producers (the cows) and milk drinkers (the baby calves). Milk has to be picked up for the farm at all hours when the tanks are full, cows must travel to the parlor three times a day and calves must get fed twice a day. This is no small feat and we all seemed to work together through the cold and snow to get it accomplished. Thank you to all our loyal employees and cows for tolerating and making it though this past winter.

We are depending heavily on the sun and wind to dry out the over saturated fields in the next few weeks. Time is ticking to get the fields tilled, the corn planted and to begin our harvest season. We will be working diligently over the next month or so to get manure on the fields, and fields prepared for planting and harvest. If we do make a mess in the road, please excuse us and we will work hard to keep it clean.

We also have a new website, so please feel free to check us out at [lawnelfarms.com](http://lawnelfarms.com). Thanks again for being our neighbors and supporting our family farm. We hope you all have a happy spring and an enjoyable summer!

*Larry Smith*

*Andrew, Susan & Amos Smith*

*Tim, Kirsty Northrop & Family*

## What Our Cows Eat

Our cows are fed and monitored like athletes. That's because dairy cows must eat a nutritionally balanced diet in order to produce quality milk. Each cow on our farm consumes about 100 pounds of feed every day, and over 70% of it is locally grown, right here on the farm.

They also drink around 25 gallons (roughly a bathtub full) of water every day. We work with a dairy cattle nutritionist to create a feed ration (or recipe) that reflects our cow's dietary needs based on her age, milk cycle and pregnancy status. Our cows are fed a diet of corn, alfalfa



## 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](http://WWW.LAWNELFARMS.COM)

and soybeans. Because a dairy cow has four compartments, cows can consume and digest plants and proteins that are otherwise too difficult for our simple digestive systems. In fact, roughly 75% of what a cow eats is not consumable by humans.

# We are a CAFO - and that's OK!

Many of you may have heard the term – CAFO – which stands for “Confined Animal Feeding Operation.” Sounds intimidating, right? CAFO is a federal program that requires farms with a certain number of animals to abide by a strict set of rules and regulations. For dairy farmers like us, the number is 300; and since we have 1,500 cows and 1,200 youngstock, that makes us a CAFO. CAFOs can be any type of animal operation – organic farms, hog farms, horse farms, poultry farms, even fairs and race tracks.

Why does this program exist? We know that what goes in, must come out, and in the case of our cows, that means they eat – and they poop! Well, the government wants to regulate the latter and have a plan for the nutrients in manure in order to better protect the environment. Note: manure is a very valuable commodity on a farm as it is used as fertilizer to help crops grow.

In New York, the Department of Environmental Conservation oversees CAFOs, and in doing so they require farmers to track and document where, how much and how often they spread manure. We must contain and account for all manure that is produced on our farm, or else we will be fined. This is why our cows are not able to go out on pasture – the fields would be too muddy with too much manure, per CAFO regulations. We are inspected annually to ensure compliance with CAFO regulations and to make sure we are not polluting the land or water.

Every load of manure that leaves Lawnel Farms is recorded with how much and where it is spread. We have a group of advisors who measure our soil levels and tell us how much and when we can spread on particular fields. Our fields are then monitored and tested on a regular basis. We have a plan that is put together so we know what we can and cannot do based upon the regulations. We are currently in compliance of all of those regulations and work hard every day to abide by those rules. This at times is difficult to achieve with our friend, Mother Nature.



**LAWNEL FARMS**  
2413 Craig Road  
Piffard, New York 14533

Local  
Postal Customer



## June is Dairy Month!

*Join us in celebrating our industry, our heritage and our passion by enjoying your favorite dairy products. Whether it's a container of Greek-style yogurt, a slice of extra sharp Cheddar cheese, a double-dipped ice cream cone or a tall glass of milk – every purchase helps support our business.*

*You can be sure you are supporting New York dairy farms like ours by looking for the printed code that typically appears near the top or on the lid of your dairy product container. New York is number 36! The code will represent the state and plant in which the product was made. The first two numbers are the state; the following numbers signify the processing plant in which the product was made. New York is number 36! Check it out! If you're having trouble figuring it out, visit:*

[www.WhereIsMyMilkFrom.com](http://www.WhereIsMyMilkFrom.com)

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

*Fun  
Farm  
Fact*

65% of the milk processed in New York is used for fluid consumption.  
35% of the milk is used to make dairy products.