



# Lawnel Farms

Nature's Best for Over 75 Years

Winter 2021

## HELLO NEIGHBORS!

It's been a while since we've touched base, so here is a little update about what's been happening over on Craig Road. I'm sure many of you have noticed old vacant buildings coming down and new buildings going up. The buildings we tore down were old obsolete barns we no longer could use due to growth and changing regulations in our business. The new building you can see from the road is where weaned calves now live. They live in small groups on a bedded pack for about two months and then graduate to the next step which means larger groups of about 40. The barn took a lot of precise research and planning before the final product could be developed. We moved our 1st group of animals into the barn in early October and they are thriving!

If you recall from our first newsletter, the farm began in 1945 with 1 Guernsey cow. Today, 75 years later, we milk 1900 cows, crop about 2800 acres, and raise all the young stock. Growth is extremely important in our industry to help spread ever-rising costs of production and capture efficiencies of scale. Growth in Lawnel hasn't happened just on the business side of things, Amos and Stephanie welcomed their son Grant to the family a year ago in October. We are certainly blessed to have family close by and enjoy their smiles around the farm regularly. We hope you enjoy this newsletter! Our goal is to reach out annually moving forward.

*Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season with Family and Friends!*

**ANDREW, SUSAN + AMOS SMITH,  
TIM, + KIRSTY NORTHROP + FAMILY**

## A Legacy Lives On

Lawnel Farms Inc. was formed in 1945 when Lawrence N. Smith had a want, to milk 100 cows and grow no vegetables. "Threshing grain and making hay with neighbors as a team was what real men did." He stated.

The original farmstead of 176 acres, was purchased by Nelson and Lawrence from the Donnan Family. That original farmstead is where we milk 1900 cows today. Grandpa was proud of the growth in the business over the years, his family's dedication to carry on the farming traditions, and the York community.

He was a teacher and analyzer and did both of those things well, although he would never admit it. He taught us to work hard and think before large investments were made. He was an advocate for small growth that was manageable and he instilled the "better than bigger" motto in all of us.

In addition to the business, he was a community conscious individual. He instilled in our family that our churches, the school, our town leaders, and our neighbors are all very important. We have always lived in this community and it is our pleasure and to our benefit to care for and contribute where and when we can. We are proud to be part of the York community. Our environment, just like our community, is something we work hard to respect and have no intentions of harming it. We are diligent in our efforts to preserve what we have and work hard to maintain best practices.

We all have the fondest memories of our time spent with Grandpa. He truly was a legacy and is remembered daily when we pull in the driveway of Lawnel Farms and while working the soils that surround it. We will always be community partners and carry on his passion for farming.



## 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.

Kirsty Northrop  
585-506-6184  
lawnelfarms@gmail.com



Find Us Online & on Facebook  
[www.lawnelfarms.com](http://www.lawnelfarms.com)



# Caring for our Cows During The Cold Season

Unlike us, cows don't need mittens and warm hats to maintain their body heat. The milking herd prefers colder temperatures, ranging from 30-60 degrees. On days where we see freezing and below freezing temperatures, we take some additional precautions to keep all the members of our herd healthy.

## Calves:

- **Maternal Instincts** – Calves are born year-round on dairy farms. Many cows do the best they can to quickly clean and dry their calves off by licking them after they are born. If a cow neglects her calf, farmers will step in to dry the calf as soon as possible.
- **Fresh, Dry Bedding** – In the cold season, it is very important that their bedding stay dry. Many farmers provide extra bedding, like straw, for calves to burrow into to stay warm.
- **Warming Huts or Warming Rooms** – Some dairy farms utilize warming huts or even entire rooms dedicated to keeping newborn calves out of the elements until they are dry. Warming huts are enclosed areas and act like hair dryers; warm air is blown onto the calves to quickly dry them off and warm them up.
- **Jackets** – As soon as calves are dry, farmers put a jacket on them for additional insulation.

## Cows:

- **Access to fresh water** – Even with cooler temperatures, cows drink a lot of water in the winter, 30-50 gallons a day. With freezing temperatures, farmers ensure water availability is plentiful and accessible. Water warmers are installed to help eliminate frozen water troughs and ice formations.
- **Continuous feed supply** – Due to a cow's increased metabolism and the need for more energy in the feed during the colder months, farmers will alter their rations to allow cows to generate natural warmth.
- **Moisturizing udder balm** – Similar to the chapped lips that people get in the winter, udders may also get chapped. Farmers apply a moisturizing udder balm that moisturizes, soothes, and protects the udder.

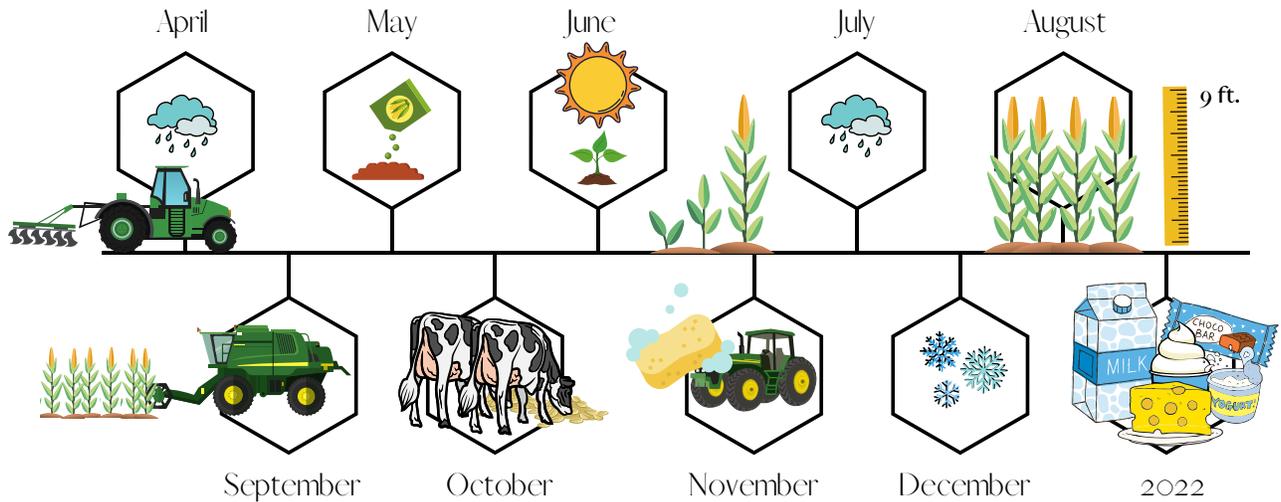


We had a slow start to the Spring work due to wet cold conditions. It takes warm, dry temperatures to restart hay growth after winter dormancy and to get the soil ready to be planted.

Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate, but we are always grateful when she does! We were able to get 2,000 acres of corn planted before the end of May between the rains.

Once corn started to pop out of the ground, we were faced with drought conditions. If my memory serves me correctly, we had almost three weeks with no rain.

We received rain late in the late summer, the corn grew, and we harvested some record-breaking yields.



It's always incredible to watch a small seed grow into a 9' tall crop, harvest it, and eventually, with the help of our dairy herd, turn into a product we can all enjoy, MILK!

We are still working to harvest the remaining dry shell corn, but we'll get that finished up, hopefully before the snow flies.

Speaking of snow, we are busy here at the farm getting ready for winter. We are washing all our equipment and storing it out of the weather. We are also starting to take the necessary steps toward preparing our animal housing facilities for the chilly months ahead.

There is never a lack of work to be done around the dairy no matter what time of year it is! We keep producing safe and nutritious dairy products

*Lawnel Farms*

2413 Craig Road

Piffard, New York 14533

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local Postal Customer



40% of the global population today works in Agriculture, making it the single largest employer in the world.



**Did you know...**

We produce Kosher Milk! It is shipped downstate and just outside NYC and NJ.