



CY Farms Mission

The mission of CY Farms is to provide superior agricultural products and service to our customers to meet their changing needs. We will operate an employee driven business where friendly hard working people gather every day. We will seek to provide our employees with a work place that will enhance their quality of life, reward responsibility and provide career and educational growth.

Summer Snapshots



Harvesting snap beans, July



Boxes of onions after harvest, Sept.



Pea Seedlings, May



At CY Farms, we are blessed to live in a region of the country that is ideal for growing crops and raising animals. The soils in New York are rich and fertile and we typically get an adequate amount of precipitation every year. But like farmers everywhere, we are at the mercy of Mother Nature. Some years we get just the right amount of sun and rain, while other years can be challenging. May was abnormally dry, meaning we got a lot of our corn crop planted early. But this was followed by a very wet June, which stressed some of the early corn. Our crops recovered over the summer from abnormal rainfall patterns and finished well. Most of our vegetables yielded above average. This was the first year since 2008 that we grew snap beans, and one of the highest yielding snap bean fields in New York and in CY's history. The weather was so great in September and October that we were able to squeeze in five cuttings of hay, which rarely happens. We usually finish our hay chopping right after Labor Day. This year, we finished all crop harvests the week before Thanksgiving, earlier than normal due to warm, dry weather. Fall was ideal for getting fall tillage completed and spreading manure. The 2015 season was also very successful for turf. With record sales, we sold sod as far south as Pittsburgh, PA and shipped through mid-December.

Just because crops are in, doesn't mean we can take a vacation. There's always plenty to do on the farm. The cows at CY Heifer Farm are fed and bedded daily, and there's plenty of fixing up to do that may have gotten neglected during the season. Equipment gets tended to, repaired and washed, and projects we haven't had time for get completed. Many of the crops we worked so hard to grow, like corn, soybeans, wheat and onions, are sold throughout the winter months.

Every year investments are made that make our farm more efficient. This year, we purchased a new mower for harvesting

alfalfa hay. The three mower decks are 30 feet wide and lay the hay flat. This mower made mowing much quicker, had fewer breakdowns and led to a higher quality feed. Additionally, we purchased new precision agriculture equipment to improve planting and harvesting our crops. This equipment from a company called AgLeader allows us to know exactly how many seeds are being placed at planting, and how much our yield is within each area of the field at harvest. Data collected will be used to help identify the highest and lowest yielding fields, best varieties to grow, and also gives us spatial information on each field. Within field data will help us make decisions on seeding rate and nutrient placement, which will help us become more efficient and sustainable.

This year we built a new building at the Batavia Sports Park to provide restrooms, running water and concessions for the numerous practices and tournaments there throughout the season. We had over 15,000 visitors to the Park this season. Look for more improvements to the Sports Park next spring!

We also want to take a moment to remember Robin Bellinder, who passed away in November. Robin was a professor in the Horticulture Department at Cornell University. Her program focused on weed management for vegetable crops. Throughout her time at Cornell, she was always looking for new tools to manage weeds, and was a constant communicator with vegetable farms throughout the state. Robin conducted many on-farm trials at CY Farms throughout her career and was always source of answers when problems arose throughout the growing season. Her knowledge and passion for the vegetable industry will be greatly missed.

Thank you for a successful 2015 growing season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at CY Farms.

this issue

Another season in the books **P.1**

Business Connection: Provitello **P.2**

Why do we do it?: Land improvement **P.2**

Growing sod at Batavia Turf **P.3**

Agronomy Corner: Tillage **P.3**

Why do we do it?

Land Improvement

At CY Farms, we implement practices that not only help to take good care of our soils, but also to keep our crops healthy and promote good yields. Sometimes, this means physically altering fields in several ways:

Tile Drainage

Tile drainage is the practice of installing slotted pipe beneath the soil surface to help remove excess water. In western NY, we have many poorly drained soils, so drainage practice is important. Tile helps us get onto fields earlier in the spring, prevents loss of soil and nutrients through erosion, and also keeps crops healthy when large rain events happen throughout the season. We own a tile plow, so each summer we spend several weeks tiling fields.



Land Leveling

While we don't use this practice often, land leveling is another way to improve water drainage. It is used to create a small slope on a very flat field, or to fill in and level pockets where water may collect throughout the season and cause crop loss. All leveling and shaping is done based on the topography of the field.



Opening Fields

As fields are worked annually, the brush alongside fields continues to grow. Every few years we need to cut and push the brush and trees back to regain area to farm. Additionally, as farm equipment has gotten larger, some fields are too small to work efficiently. This requires hedgerows between fields to be taken down. All clearing and hedgerow removal must first be approved by the Natural Resource Conservation Service.



Business Connection: Provitello



By: *Jurian Bartelse, Provitello General Manager*

Started as a joint venture between CY Farms and Grober Inc., a Canadian young animal feed manufacturer and major veal integrator, Provitello Farms is a veal operation that began out of opportunity and necessity.

When the Canadian/US border was abruptly closed in May of 2003 (mad cow/BSE), the implications for both the US and Canada were deep felt. Not spared in the effects was the small but important veal industry. Grober had created a North American veal integration with a 40-year history consisting of operations ranging from feed mills, to slaughterhouses, to farms. The damage to their business was significant. Before the border closed, Grober purchased dairy bull calves from NY, PA and WI and brought them to their specialized veal farms in Ontario and Quebec to raise for milk fed veal. The finished calves were then sent back across the border to their slaughterhouse in Utica NY. Suddenly in May 2003, this was no longer possible.

Furthermore, Grober was looking to increase its market share in the US as a milk replacer company

specializing in calf milk replacers. A visit to the CY Heifer Farm led to an arrangement where the heifer farm would begin using Grober milk replacer. During the early visits, Craig Yunker and Grober CEO, Jerry Bartelse, discussed constructing a state of the art veal operation on the heifer farm property. Grober would no longer need to cross the border to raise calves near its slaughter facility, and it would add additional diversification to CY Farms.

Construction of the barn started in mid-2004 and the first calves arrived in January 2005. The new company was named Provitello, LLC (vitello is Italian for veal). Jerry Bartelse's son, Jurian and his family moved to Rochester to manage the barn.

The barn included brand new automated calf feeders, and other innovations Grober had learned throughout their extensive calf rearing history. The heifer farm took notice of the innovative way Provitello fed its calves and soon realized the system could be adopted for their young calves as well.

The CY Heifer/Provitello Farm became popular for tours, and a model

Provitello Calves in starter barn for others in the dairy industry to implement automated calf feeding.

Since then, Provitello has continued to innovate. They purchased three of CY's calf barns to start their veal calves and also created the first outdoor veal pen in the U.S.A.

Provitello purchases calves from 20 different NY dairy farms. The CY truck and trailer goes out Monday to pick the calves up directly from farms. Upon arrival, the calves are trained on the automatic feeders. Twenty weeks later, the calves weigh 500 lbs. and will have consumed 650 lbs. of milk replacer. Currently, the barn holds 1,200 calves at a time, for a total farm production of 2,800 veal calves/year. Provitello is a preferred supplier to Whole Foods because of its animal welfare standards. Their veal is shipped throughout the Northeast to retailers and restaurants.

Although CY sold its share of Provitello to Grober in 2009, the two companies work very closely. It has been a great working relationship for both parties as they are both specialized in raising young calves and share many synergies.

Silage Harvest- 7,000 tons in the bunk silo



Before



After

Did you know?

Batavia Turf harvests around 100 acres of sod per year.



TILLAGE

Tillage is the preparation of land for growing crops. Tillage can be categorized as primary, which is the initial preparation of the soil, or secondary, which smooths the surface to prepare for planting. At CY Farms, we practice several different types of tillage and use different tools for each one based on the soil type, moisture content of the soil, and the crop we are preparing to plant. Much of the tillage done at CY Farms is considered "minimum" or "conservation" tillage, which leaves the crop residue (like corn stalks or wheat stubble) on the soil surface. This helps to reduce soil erosion and prevent runoff of nutrients.

Here some common types of tillage at CY Farms:

Chisel plow: Chisel plowing is a type of primary, minimum tillage that has long, heavy shanks that run through the soil to aerate it, while maintaining crop residue on the soil surface. In addition to reducing erosion, crop residue increases soil organic matter. This is one of the most common tools used at CY.

Moldboard plow: The plow is one of the oldest tillage implements. It turns over the upper layer of soil, burying crop residue. The plow mixes the whole top layer of soil together. Traditional plowing has many negative effects on soil health, and thus it is used selectively on our farm, mostly for vegetable crops like peas, onions and cabbage.

Field Cultivator: This secondary tillage implement is used after a chisel or plow. It is considered minimum tillage and helps finish the field for planting. The cultivator generally has a "crumbler" attached, which breaks up soil clumps one final time to finish and smooth the soil before planting.

Disk: The disk usually follows the chisel or moldboard plow and is thus secondary tillage. A disk is made up of metal disks used to chop up the remaining crop residue and soil clods. A disk is used when there is too much crop residue or the soil is too clumpy for a cultivator to be effective.

Strip Tillage: In strip tillage, seedbed preparation is completed in a narrow band several inches wide. The planter then follows soon after to plant into the prepared slot. Our strip tiller allows us to apply some of the fertilizer a corn plant needs directly where the seed will be placed. This is a type of minimum tillage, and is often considered no-till. It disturbs a very small amount of the soil in a field. We only use strip tillage for corn, but have tried it in cabbage.

Growing Sod at Batavia Turf

Harvesting small rolls of sod

Batavia Turf produces turf grass sod using the latest in technology and sound agronomic practices to benefit the productivity of the land and the environment. We are proud that our sod is used to beautify lawns, develop golf courses, and provide strength to athletic fields. Our sod is also used in a variety of ways for commercial use such as reducing erosion/water runoff and providing an instant lawn for newly constructed buildings.

The production cycle for turf grass starts with soil preparation in late summer (August). The quality of the sod we grow is directly tied to the quality of the soil on our farm, so by rotating the crops we plant, we help change the soil's biology - keeping pests, diseases, and weeds to a minimum. The synergy with CY Farms allows for rotating crops, which increases organic matter of the soil through materials such as corn stalks and roots, as well as organic manure from CY Heifer Farm. We often get asked why the soil does not get depleted after sod is grown and harvested. It is this crop rotation and addition of manure that allow us to maintain good soil health on our

fields. Additionally, when the sod is harvested, very little soil actually leaves the field. Sod, in rotation with other vegetables and row crops, helps to prevent soil erosion by wind and water, and also helps improve water infiltration into the soil profile.

At planting, soil is worked thoroughly and is leveled with tillage to ensure the seedbed is ready. Seeding is done in mid-August to mid-September. This allows new seedling grass to establish before winter, and also provides a natural control of annual weeds that do not survive the first frost, thus reducing herbicide applications.

Throughout the establishment of our Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue, Jose Castenada (Turf Production Manager) and his team carefully feed nutrients and irrigate as needed to ensure a healthy turf grass crop. Irrigation not only helps the crop grow, but wets the soil to assist with harvesting. Regular mowing begins in May when the crop has greened up after winter, and is carried out multiple times weekly throughout the season until the sod is harvested. It typically takes 15-18 months for the plants to

reach maturity and develop a closely knit root base, which is the signature of a strong sod product. Much of the maintenance on an establishing crop is to promote quick, robust root growth. Once turf grass reaches maturity, it is kept in optimum condition until it is harvested and installed, ensuring that the product delivered is at its best and ready to take root in its new home.

Our sod is harvested fresh the day of delivery in either small rolls (2' x 5') installed manually or large rolls (42" x 77.5') installed mechanically. Pricing is by the square foot and can be picked up at the farm or delivered. Various retail garden centers in both Buffalo and Rochester allow for convenient customer pick up of small quantities.

Batavia Turf is your first choice next spring for landscaping, yard improvements or major projects. Call us for a quote!

www.bataviaturf.com

BATAVIA TURF
INSTANT LAWN

Recipe Corner: Unstuffed Cabbage

This fall we thought we'd provide you with a recipe that uses ingredients that CY Farms grows. Remember to buy local!

Ingredients:

1 lb. ground veal (or beef)
1 medium onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, chopped
4 cups of packed, shredded cabbage
1 jar (24 oz.) of tomato sauce
2 cups rice, cooked
Grated parmesan cheese



Cook ground beef, onions and garlic in a large skillet until meat is browned. Meanwhile, cook rice in a separate pan. Add cabbage and sauce and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, on medium-low heat for 25 minutes. Add cooked rice and heat through. Put into 2 8x8 baking pans and top with grated cheese. Bake 20-30 min. at 350°F*.

*Extra baking is optional, can also serve as a skillet dish topped with cheese.



Prefer email?

Let us know if you'd like to be included in a list to receive this newsletter in .pdf for by email instead.

Send your email address to:
Emma@cyfarms.com

Contact Information:

Managing partners:

Craig Yunker (craig@cyfarms.com)
Christian Yunker (christian@cyfarms.com)

Partners:

Carl Yunker
PJ Riner

CY Farms: (585) 548-2552

Mike Riner (farmermr@cyfarms.com)
Jenny Sanderson (jenny@cyfarms.com)

CY Heifer Farm:

Jeanne Wormuth (jeanne@cyfarms.com)

Batavia Turf: (800) 333-1472

Katie Houseknecht- Salesperson

1. Finger Lakes, Rochester, Syracuse areas

Chuck Hoover- Salesperson

2. Western NY, Western Southern Tier,
Western PA areas

Jose Castaneda- Turf Production Manager

Newsletter Editor: Emmaline Long (emma@cyfarms.com)

Contact her with articles you'd like to see or to receive the newsletter electronically.

Feel free to call anytime, or stop by the office with comments/questions.

CY Farms · CY Heifer Farm · Batavia Turf
585-548-2552

CY Farms News Issue 03 Fall Edition 2015



6465 Transit Rd.
Elba, NY 14058
585.548.2552 ph
585.548.2259 fax
www.cyfarms.com