#### The New York Dairy Industry and Cornell



Thomas R. Overton, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Animal Science
Associate Director, PRO-DAIRY

#### Dairy Farming in New York State

- ~ 625,000 dairy cows (~ 9 million cows in U.S.)
- 12.4 billion lbs of milk produced (3<sup>rd</sup> largest state)
- \$2.3 billion in farmgate revenue (2008)
- ~ 5,600 dairy farms
- Largest dairy farms ~4,000 cows
- Tremendous diversity in herd size and management style, partly due to geographical differences across New York state

# Dairy farms and distribution of cows (2007 data)

	Number of milk cows in herd					
Item	1 – 29	30 – 49	50 – 99	100 – 199	200 – 499	500+
# farms	1,250	1,100	1,900	870	370	210
% of cows	2.0	7.0	20.0	19.0	18.0	34.0

#### Dairy Processing in New York (2008)

- 113 dairy plants
- 716 million lbs of cheese (fourth-ranking state)
- First in cottage cheese production
- About 50% fluid utilization

## Dairy industry strengths

- High fluid utilization (higher relative milk price)
  - Need for LOCAL food production
- Capacity to produce high quality forages
- Progressive mindset of many producers
- Excellent allied support professionals
- Solid support at CALS and state levels

### Dairy industry challenges

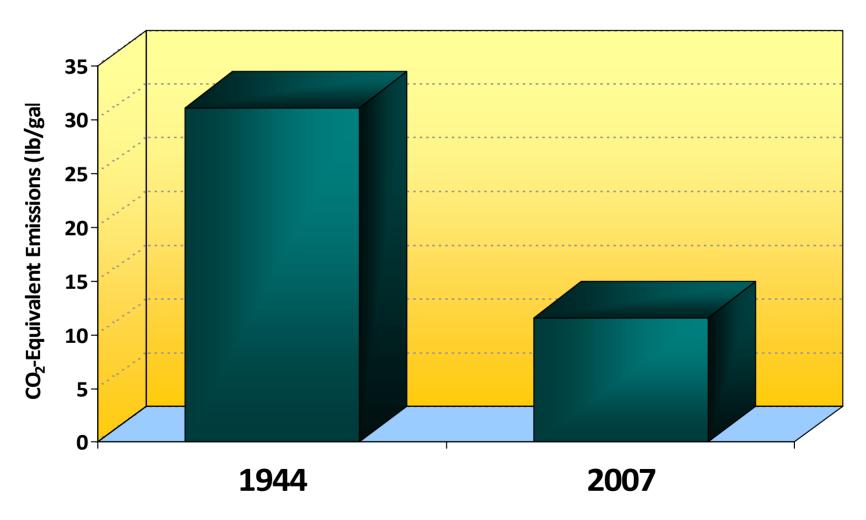
- High volatility in milk price to farmer
- Less able to take advantage of economies of scale compared to some other regions
- Aggressive approach to environmental regulation in NYS compared to other regions
- Ongoing high need for next generation of dairy producers

#### Dairy Industry Has Significantly Decreased Resource Demand per Billion Pounds of Milk Produced Since 1944

Resource	1944	2007	2007 as % of 1944
Milking cows	188,250	42,500	23.6%
All cows, heifers, & bulls	423,000	91,500	21.6%
Feed (t)	8.39 mil	1.86 mil	22.3%
Land (ac)	1.87 mil	0.18 mil	9.7%
Manure (t)	9.32 mil	2.48 mil	26.6%
Water* (gal)	1.28 bil	0.45 bil	35.2%
Methane (t)	60,000	26,750	44.5%

<sup>\*</sup> Note: Water estimate does not include sanitation use Source: Adapted from Capper et al. (2008) ADSA-ASAS Annual Meeting

## Carbon Footprint of a Gallon of Milk Has Been Reduced by 2/3 Since 1944



Source: Capper et al. (2008) ADSA-ASAS Annual Meeting

#### CALS/Cornell programs relating to dairy

- PRO-DAIRY
- FarmNet/FarmLink
- Northeast Dairy Foods Research Center
- Nutrient Management SPEAR program
- Dairy Farm Business
   Summary and Analysis

- Quality Milk Production Services (CVM)
- Milk Quality Improvement Program
- Cornell Program on Dairy Markets and Policy
- Other individual faculty programs

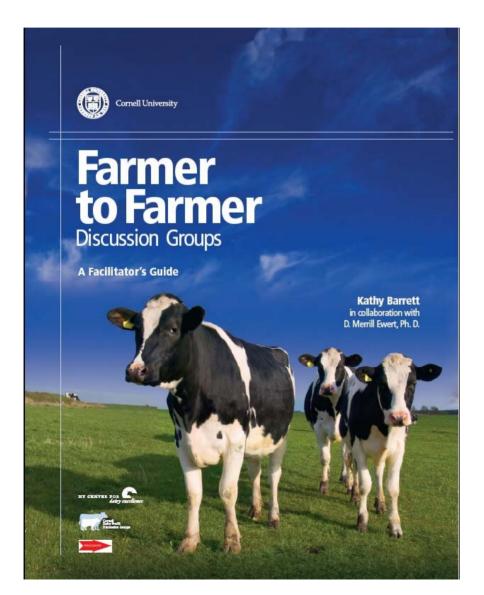
## PRO-DAIRY programs



- Dairy manure management
- Livestock environmental programs
- Field crops/nutrient management
- Housing/facilities engineering

- Farm business management
- Dairy discussion groups
- Junior Dairy Leader program
- "The Manager" section of Eastern DairyBusiness

## Dairy Profit Discussion Groups



Leader:

Kathy Barrett
Senior Extension Associate,
PRO-DAIRY

#### **PRO-DAIRY** impact

- Link research to extension in multiple Cornell departments and colleges
  - Animal Science
  - Applied Economics and Management
  - Biological and Environmental Engineering
  - Crops and soil science
  - Quality Milk Promotion Service (Veterinary Medicine)
- Provide leadership for many programs at state, regional, and national levels