

2026 DAIRY DAY & OPEN FARM DAY

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Visit Open Farm Day farms and celebrate Dairy Day at the fairgrounds on Saturday

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C H E N A N G O COUNTY — Join the fun this Saturday, during Dairy Day and Open Farm Day celebration, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., July 18.

Dairy Day activities will be held at the Chenango County Fairgrounds, located at 168 East Main St. in Norwich, and participating Open Farm Day farms, located throughout the county, will be ready to share farming techniques.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association Executive Director Craig Brown said this year's combined Open Farm Day and Dairy Day is all about connecting the community with the incredible agricultural roots of Chenango County.

"CCE staff will be stationed at farm stops county-wide to capture photos, stamp your passports, and help answer questions about local farming practices," said Brown.

"We're also excited to shine a light on Mid York Distributors, owned and operated by Edna Haas, based right here in Sherburne," he said. "They offer a fantastic range of livestock feeding and handling equipment for producers across the region."

"Over at the fairgrounds, at Dairy Day, the fun continues with CCE staff and volunteers giving away free milk, hosting youth activities, and handing out exclusive goodie bags to the first few hundred residents who visit two or more farms," he said.

Make sure and hit at least three farms and turn in your passport at Dairy Day to enter a chance to win one of three massive raffle baskets overflowing with local products from participating vendors, explained Brown.

Chenango County Dairy Day Leader Terry Ives said Dairy Day is a planned and educational fun-filled



Dairy Day activities will be held at the Chenango County Fairgrounds, located at 168 East Main St. in Norwich. Join the fun with a pedal tractor pull, cheese-making demonstration, petting zoo, hay bale maze, duck derby, FFA fresh-squeezed lemonade, farm Olympics, milk and ice cream giveaways, and a cow-milking contest.



family day with a variety of activities.

Join the fun with a pedal tractor pull, cheese-making demonstration, petting zoo, hay bale maze, duck derby, FFA fresh-squeezed lemonade, farm Olympics, milk and ice cream giveaways, and a cow-milking contest.

Dairy Day Organizer Marge Davis said the free event is run completely on donations and volunteers and brings awareness to the public about where food comes from and where milk comes from.

Eight Chenango County farms are thrilled to be part of Open Farm Day and look forward to meeting visitors throughout the event.

They will offer a variety of agricultural products such as maple sugar samples, you-pick or purchase lavender bundles, you-pick blueberries, organically raised meats and produce, along with locally made products, hand-made soaps, cleaning supplies, wagon rides and more.

Open Farm Day locations to visit:

Berry Brae Farm

Owners Ken and Sarah Jensen, located at 1191 County Road 10 in Pharsalia.

Ryan's Yak Farm

Owners Elizabeth and Craig Ryan, located

at 368 Kilroy Road in Oxford.

Hillcrest

Lavender Farm

Owners Eric and Kathy Turner, located at 239 Stone House Road in Sherburne.

Penwingle Farm

Owners Jennifer and Curtis Caci, located at 167 Joslyn Road in Guilford.

Fox Trail Farm

Owners Kirsten and Dustin Spear, located at 776 County Route 42 in South Otselic.

Cooks Maple Products

Owners Kim and Chris Cook, located at 247 County Road 20 in Sherburne.

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Did you know?

Small farms are the lifeblood of rural communities. According to the Farm Bureau, 97 percent of American farms are owned by families. Small family farms make up the majority of farms nationwide and operate a higher share of acres altogether than any other farm size. It's important to note that the distinction "family farm" does not necessarily always mean a small-scale operation. Ten percent of farms owned by families generate more than \$350,000 in annual revenue. Despite this, small-scale farms are mired in a long-term decline, according to recent U.S. Department of Agriculture reports. Driven by economic pressures, government policies generally are favoring large operations, consolidation and tighter competition.

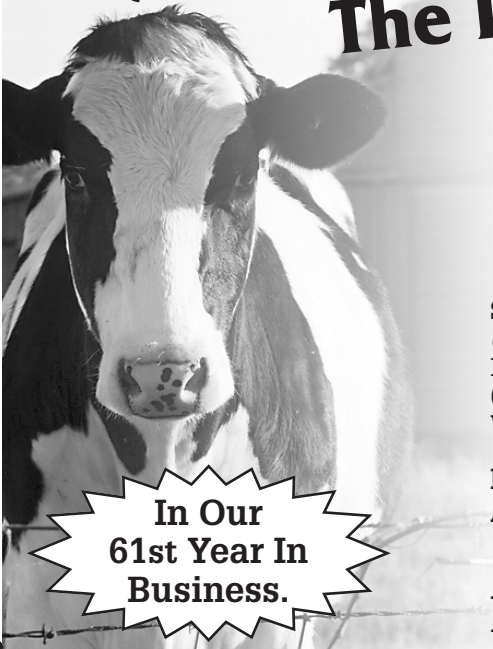
FARM AND AG WORD SEARCH

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L V B V E G A N I A R D H Y O C V R V L

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- AGRICULTURE
- AGRONOMY
- ANIMALS
- ANNUAL
- APIARY
- BIODIVERSITY
- BIODYNAMIC
- CAPACITY
- COVER
- CROPS
- CULTIVATION
- DEADHEADING
- DRAINAGE
- DRILLING
- ECOLOGY
- EROSION
- FARMING
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- HUSBANDRY
- IRRIGATION
- LIVESTOCK
- ROTATION
- SOIL
- TILLAGE



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Did you know?

Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the significance of farms in relation to the gross domestic product of the United States economy. In 2023, farms contributed \$222.3 billion, or roughly 0.8 percent of the nation's GDP. Though that's a significant contribution in its own right, it only tells a small part of the role farms and farmers play in establishing a healthy national economy. Additional sectors, such as the food and beverage industry and textiles, apparel and leather products, rely on the agricultural sector to contribute to their own success. Without a thriving agricultural sector, those industries would falter, thus creating a domino effect that could prove devastating to the nation's economy. That link is why the BEA estimates the agricultural sector is an even bigger contributor to the nation's GDP than it may seem. Indeed, the BEA indicates the agricultural sector, in conjunction with food and related industries, contributed around \$1.54 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2023, a contribution that accounts for roughly 5.5 percent of the nation's GDP.



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How much ice cream do Americans eat weekly?

Talker News

Over the span of a summer, Americans eat enough ice cream to fill 113 football stadiums, according to a recent survey.

In honor of National Ice Cream Month in July, a survey of 2,000 nationally representative Americans investigated all things ice cream and found that people really are crazy about this sweet treat.

Six in 10 (60%) survey respondents went so far as to label themselves “ice cream fanatics,” and another 60% said it’s their all-time favorite dessert.

In fact, the study found that nearly all survey respondents (95%) eat at least one scoop of ice cream during a typical week.

And on average, people polled enjoy 11 scoops of this frozen treat every week. Across the American population, that’s a lot of ice cream consumed during a summer — 113 football stadiums full, in fact.

Conducted by Talker Research on behalf of Tillamook (TCCA), the study also explored ice cream preferences as well as ice cream knowledge — since not all frozen treats in the grocery store ice cream section are actually ice cream.

When it comes to flavors, Gen Z (44%), millennials (35%) and Gen X (32%) all agreed that cookies and cream is best, while baby boomers stand apart and prefer chocolate (41%) the most.

Toppings-wise, hot fudge was favored by millennials (25%), Gen X (40%) and baby boomers (55%), while Gen Z said they like crushed Oreos (29%) on top of their ice cream best.

The study also settled the cone vs. cup debate and revealed that Americans much prefer to eat their ice cream in a bowl or cup (61%), rather than in a cone (33%).

Along with that, the survey also explored the ins and outs and nuances of ice cream, since it turns out, not all ice cream is created the same. When something doesn’t meet the legal standards for ice cream, it’s considered a frozen dairy dessert.

“It’s no surprise that 87% of Americans call ice cream one of their favorite desserts — I’ve been one of them since my first birthday cake,” said Hunter Clayton, senior research and development associate scientist at Tillamook. “For National Ice Cream Month, we wanted to bring attention to something most people don’t realize: there’s a legal difference between ice cream



In honor of National Ice Cream Month in July, a survey found that 6 in 10 (60%) survey respondents went so far as to label themselves “ice cream fanatics,” and another 60% said it’s their all-time favorite dessert. (File photo)

and frozen dairy desserts. And the results make it pretty clear that distinction hasn’t been on most people’s radar, until now.”

Before seeing the definition in the survey, the majority of people (60%) didn’t know that ice cream actually has a legal definition. Although younger people seem to be more informed about ice cream nuances, as more Gen Z (50%) and millennials (44%) knew that ice cream was legally defined compared to Gen X (30%) and baby boomers (22%).

After learning the difference between ice cream and frozen dairy desserts, most people (70%) said that going forward, they’re very or somewhat likely to check the label now before looking to purchase a frozen treat.

This corresponds

with nearly a fifth of respondents (19%) admitting they feel they’ve been making uninformed purchases when buying ice cream, after learning that there’s such a thing as frozen dairy desserts, and 29% being surprised that there’s even a difference between the two things.

Looking at other factors that go into the ice cream buying decision, ice cream creaminess also came out as a highly important consideration.

Nearly all survey respondents (79%) said creaminess is important to them when eating ice cream. And when looking to purchase a pint of ice cream, flavor (64%), price (51%) and ingredient quality (30%) also ranked among the top considerations.

In fact, 59% of people said they’re more ingre-

dient-conscious than ever when purchasing ice cream. And most respondents (78%) emphasized that they want their desserts to have the highest quality ingredients possible, with 80% prioritizing recognizable ingredients and 74% preferring pronounceable ones.

“I’ve been reading ingredient labels since I was old enough to reach the grocery store shelf — my mom can confirm,” said Clayton. “So when we started asking questions about how much Americans really understand about what’s in their ice cream, the results genuinely caught my attention. Most people had no idea ice cream even has a legal definition, which means a lot of people have been reaching for what they think is ice cream and getting something dif-

ferent entirely. That felt like something worth shining a light on in our continued quest to overdeliver for our customers.”

Summer ice cream consumption by the numbers:95% of people consume ice cream each week, and on average, they have 11 four-ounce scoops of ice cream each weekOunces of ice cream consumed per summer, per person: 572 ouncesPounds of ice cream consumed per summer, per person: 35.75 poundsTo-

tal national pounds of ice cream consumed over the span of a summer (based on the 95% who eat ice cream each week): 11.4 billionTotal national gallons of ice cream consumed over the span of a summer (based on the 95% who eat ice cream each week): 2.53 billion53 billion gallons of ice cream fills roughly 113 football stadiums-Research methodology:Talker Research surveyed 2,000 nationally representative Americans who have

access to the internet; the survey was commissioned by Tillamook and administered and conducted online by Talker Research between June 4 and June 8, 2026. A link to the questionnaire can be found here.

To view the complete methodology as part of AAPOR’s Transparency Initiative, please visit the Talker Research Process and Methodology page.

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Watch for updates on our Facebook page Empire Livestock LLC and our website www.empirelivestock.com

Visit Open Farm Day farms and celebrate Dairy Day at the fairgrounds on Saturday -

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Gillette's Maple Products and Farm

Owners Guy and Wendy Gillette, located at 747 County Road 23 in Sherburne.

Mid York Distributors

Owner Edna Haas, located at 273 State Highway 12B in Sherburne.

The Chenango County Historical Society and Museum

The Chenango County Historical Society and Museum will be participating in Open Farm Day again this year and will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., located at 45 Rexford St. in Norwich.

They will offer self-guided tours of the Loomis Barn, home of the Bob Marshman Agriculture Education Center.

“An immersive visitor experience, the Loomis Barn features a variety of exhibits and artifacts that illustrate the progression of agriculture, the dairy industry, and local industrial heritage,” said Museum Executive Director Jessica Moquin.

The exterior campus of CCHS, including the Chenango Canal exhibit and Ross Schoolhouse, will also be open, yet Ward School No. 2 is not open during the event.

In celebration of Chenango Open Farm Day, CCHS will unveil its newest exhibit, “Pastures of the Past:



Shown are some of the many farms that are open to visitors on Saturday are (top left to bottom right): Cook's Maple, Ryan's Yak Farm, Fox Trail Farm, Hillcrest Lavender Farm, Berry Brae Farm, and Penwing-le Farm. (Submitted photos)



The Dairy Collection of Ed Alely,” at 1 p.m. “Being part of Open Farm Day means a great deal, as we welcome all opportunities to explore the culture of Chenango County through the preservation and presentation of our local heritage,” Moquin said.

“Agriculture is significant to our cultural identity, and we appreciate the opportunity to support this community celebration,” she added.

As always, museum admission to CCHS is a free-will donation left to each visitor's discretion.

Kutik's Everything Bees

Kutik's Everything Bees is also participating in the event and will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., located

at 3442 Route 12 in Oxford.

They have scheduled activities throughout the day, including the Beekeeper Olympics, guest speakers and a catered lunch.

Guest speakers will be Bob Mueller, Michelle Whitbeck and Mary Ann Welsh.

The Beekeeper Olympics will include smoker lighting, queen catching, mite wash, equipment assembly, floral and honey identification, pallet strapping, queen-rearing equipment and nectar relay.

KUTIK'S EVENTS: 8 to 9 a.m.: Sign-in and registration

9 to 9:15 a.m.: Welcome

9:15 to 10:15 a.m.: Bob Mueller will present how the confluence of New York's land,



water and people created the world's largest beekeepers.

10:15 to 11 a.m.: ESHPA business meeting

11 a.m. to noon: Michelle Whitbeck will present how to propagate sustainable native plants for the pollinators.

Noon to 1 p.m.: Catered lunch

Noon to 3 p.m.: Michelle Whitbeck will offer group tours of Kutik's gardens and be available to answer any questions.

1 to 1:45 p.m.: Mary Ann Welsh will present the adventures and experiences of cutouts and structural honeybee removal.

1:45 p.m.: Beekeeping Olympics begin. For Olympic rules, visit their website at www.eshpa.org.

There will also be vendors, apiary tours and pollinator garden tours.

Friends of Rogers

Friends of Rogers will share their maple



parking lot at Rogers Center,” said Mitchell.

“It is meaningful for visitors to have the opportunity to explore behind-the-scenes and follow their curiosity to learn more about local production,” she said.

The Sugarshack, with its traditional wood-fired evaporator, will be open for the public to explore. Maple syrup samples and a demonstration of the Indigenous method of maple sugaring will be offered.

“We will also be selling maple syrup and fish food from the Sugarshack,” Mitchell added.

Operation of the Bruce Selleck Sugarshack at Rogers Center would not be possible without the

generosity and collaboration of many partners, including the Chenango County Historical Society, ClearPath for Veterans, DCMO BOCES, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Open Farm Day is a signature event of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Chenango association is proud to offer farms and the public the opportunity to participate this year on July 18, 2026.

Months of planning and coordination go into making Open Farm Day a success, so that visitors have an engaging and educational experience while supporting local agriculture.

Free Family Fun!!!

Dairy Day Celebration

Join us 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Chenango County Fairgrounds

SAT., JULY 18th

ALL DAY ACTIVITIES:

Held in livestock area, past the grandstand

- Tractor & Machinery Display (No parade this year)
- Farm Animals ~ Farm Olympics
- Kiddie Tractor Pull at noon
- Face Painting ~ Hay Bale Maze
- Free Dairy Products
- Milking Contest at 1 pm
- Cheese Making Demonstration at 11 am
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Make sure you also checkout OPEN FARM DAY!

DAIRY DAY

A Celebration of Agriculture in Chenango County

Milk

Generally speaking, toddlers and children should consume between one and 2.5 cups of milk per day. Adults can benefit from about three cups per day.

Drinking milk is a popular way to consume the amount of dairy recommended for a healthy diet. Milk is a rich source of 13 essential nutrients that can boost the immune system and fuel the body. Milk notably contains vitamin D and calcium, which helps maintain strong bones and can reduce the risk for a bone-thinning disease known as osteoporosis. Milk also contains vitamins A and B as well as potassium and protein. Milk helps keep teeth strong and healthy as well. The United States Department of Agriculture says that each person's recommended intake of dairy depends on his or her age, gender, height, and other factors. Generally speaking, toddlers and children should consume between one and 2.5 cups of milk per day. Adults can benefit from about three cups per day. A cup is equal to 8 ounces. Health experts advise choosing nonfat or low-fat versions of milk and additional dairy products, as they are much more heart-healthy than full-fat versions. Too much saturated fat in one's diet can lead to high cholesterol and a greater risk for heart disease. If the idea of downing three glasses of milk is a turn-off, milk can be incorporated into recipes, such as smoothies, where its taste and texture is less prominent. Cheese and yogurt also count. Eight ounces of yogurt or 1½ ounces of hard cheese is equivalent to one cup of milk in terms of nutrition, says a2 Milk®, a company that produces milk that may be easier on digestion. Individuals who have a lactose intolerance can choose milk products that do not contain lactose.