

[Log In](#)

Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension

SEARCH CORNELL: [Pages](#)[People](#)[more options](#)[Home](#)

## 2013 CCE Summer Internships

CATEGORY ARCHIVES: [FIELD CROPS NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT APPLIED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INTERNSHIP](#)

### Wrapping Up

Posted on **August 1, 2013** by [kea52@cornell.edu](mailto:kea52@cornell.edu)

The Dairy Tour was great – the farm with the soybean press made french fries with the oil from the press, and there were many food donations (yogurt, milk, ice cream, cheese) so needless to say, I ate well! I also got to go to a slaughterhouse that one of the farms own, so that was pretty interesting – I had never been to a slaughterhouse before!

This week I've been working on wrapping up my projects here.

The Calf Study is SO close to being done! I just need to add my references to the comprehensive report and have Meghan read through everything one more time and it will be done forever! This includes 34 individual farm reports with individualized graphs and charts (the mail merge did not work as well as I had hoped, so I ended up putting the individual information in by hand, but now the reports are done!), 4 updated and expanded Calf Health Fact Sheets, and 1 Comprehensive Report for all of the data collected via the Calf Study.

This week I also weighed and took moisture content of all of the seeds we harvested last week from the triticale plot. This involved weighing the seeds, taking 3 moisture tests per bag of seeds and averaging that out, then weighing the straw from each plot too. I put all of this data in Excel and made graphs and charts to accompany the data. I have a little more analysis to do, and then that one will be all done too!

This morning I got to go out and see a brand new calf coverall – it's so new the calves aren't even moved in to it yet! It is a really nice structure – it's amazing that the Watershed can provide that type of facility to farmers!

So here's to a good last week!

Posted in [Field Crops Nutrient Management Applied Research and Extension Internship](#)

## Summer is Fleeting

Posted on **July 26, 2013** by [kea52@cornell.edu](mailto:kea52@cornell.edu)

Well, this week I realized that in a month, I will be back at Cornell! But that also means that summer is on it's way out!

This week I worked on the calf fact sheets some more – I have updated/created 4 so far – “The Final Days of Gestation,” “Day 1:Newborn Calves,” “Young Calf Care,” and “Growth Facts.” Writing Fact Sheets is no easy task – I spend a lot of time referencing and reading other documents from a bunch of different sources and then whatever seems to be the consensus, I put in out fact sheets.

Meghan also got me the final recommendations for farms so I have been generating the final reports for farmers – I set up a mail merge with all of the information for the individual farms and their charts/graphs and then created a template that all of their information could be put into. My hope is that the fact sheets, the comprehensive report, and the individual reports will be done next week!

On Wednesday I got to go on the Farm Tour. The team in the Nutrient Management Office took all of their soil sampling interns out to show them that the Office does more than just soil sample! And I got to tag along. We visited two farms – one that has gotten 4 new buildings put up by the Watershed and the other which works with the Watershed and just does a lot of really cool stuff. They have a soybean press – so they make soybean oil and these soybean puff-like things that they feed to the cows! They are also working on a spring at the top of their mountain to generate hydro-electric power! So that was a nice day.

Yesterday we went out to the Deysenroth triticale plot and got to harvest it. Paul and Dale used frames to harvest the same amount of triticale from each plot. Then I had the pleasure of cutting off the heads and counting them. I would give the heads to Dan, who would then put them through the portable combine, and that would give him all the grain, which we put in bags for testing/weighing. The stalks were cut up and put in bags so they could be weighed. This way, we know the difference in the number of heads per treatment, difference is amount/weight of grain produced, and difference in the amount/weight of straw produced per treatment. There was a clear difference between plots, so it will be interesting to see the results in terms of weight.

Today is the 83rd annual Delaware County Dairy Tour. We are going to go to 3 farms, the one with the soybean press, an organic dairy, and another farm. So it will be again a great learning experience to see these different operations and a great opportunity to interact with the public and share some dairy knowledge!

Posted in **Field Crops Nutrient Management Applied Research and Extension Internship**

---

## Robots and Facts

Posted on **July 18, 2013** by [kea52@cornell.edu](mailto:kea52@cornell.edu)

The new calf facility I got to see on Friday was very nice – it had just been built and had only had calves in it for about 2 weeks! The IPM meeting was also interesting – the speaker knew a lot of information about flies and helped the group identify different flies and explained how they populate, and then suggested a few ways to control their numbers. It was good information for producers of all types of animals!

This past weekend I went to my good friend's house outside of Rochester. I drove through Cornell on my way there! I will be back there soon enough! I really enjoyed my time with my friend, and on Sunday we went to a farm just outside Chenango County that has robotic milkers! It was the first time I had ever seen robots in action on a farm and I was very impressed. They also used automatic alley scrapers, a pasteurizer for waste milk, an automatic feed pusher, and back-scratching wheels in the barnyard for the cows! Their entire operation was very neat to see. I also asked a whole bunch of questions, so I learned a lot too!

Then I came back to Delaware County and I have been making excellent progress on the Calf Fact Sheets! I reformatted them and have been updating and expanding on the information in them. This week Paul also showed me how they prepare a precision feed management plan and I got to go to a farm to listen to a discussion about updates/expansions they want to do on the farm. Dale also had me use crop-software to look up fields that met certain requirements (potassium/crop/manure) so we could find fields to use in a study!

Yesterday was also the Supervisors Picnic – so we had been preparing for that this week too! The Extension Office performed a skit, which I was part of, that showed the involvement of Extension in Delaware County over the past 100 years. There was a large audience – about 80 people! I got to talk with some people, which was really nice.

Today, I'm planning on working on the Calf Fact Sheets some more and hopefully finishing them up soon. Tomorrow, I will continue the Fact Sheets and then attend the Field Day at the Deysenroth triticale plot which I began my adventures at!

Posted in **Field Crops Nutrient Management Applied Research and Extension Internship**

---

## The Calf Study

Posted on **July 12, 2013** by [kea52@cornell.edu](mailto:kea52@cornell.edu)

My big project while I have been here has been working on compiling reports from data they collected last year on the calves in the Watershed. So this week, that's what I have been doing – I created mail merges with the graphs for all of the farms, after making all of the graphs. We are in what I hope are the final stages with the calf study as

Meghan and Tim are making recommendations for each farm – once I have those we should be able to finish it up!

In the mean time I will be working on updating the calf health fact sheets, which if I can get done in time, will go to the farmers with their calf reports and the comprehensive report for the Watershed.

This past week I also attended a lot of meetings – a staff meeting and an ag issues meeting. I found the ag issues meeting to be quite interesting! I also went on the Sheep and Goat Producers trip to a farm in Gilbertsville. They had sheep, goats, horses, chickens, pheasants, quail, mini-horses, alpaca, ducks, rabbits, turkeys, swans, beef cows, and a tortoise. I thought the quail were interesting – I had never seen them before! The farm does all their own meat, and they also have greenhouses where they do hydroponics and aquaculture. It was a busy place, but some of their ideas and projects were really interesting.

Today I will be visiting a farm that just got a new calf facility with Meghan and then there is an Integrated Pest Management meeting about flies this afternoon, so I will be attending that as well! It will be nice to take a break from the Calf Study for a day!

Posted in [Field Crops Nutrient Management Applied Research and Extension Internship](#)

---

## In the Field vs. In the Office

Posted on **July 2, 2013** by [kea52@cornell.edu](mailto:kea52@cornell.edu)

Last week was great – I got to go out of the office 3 of the 4 days I was here! We visited farms and measured calf hip heights, wither heights, and weights on Tuesday and Wednesday. I also got to see a new calf kennel that the Watershed built – it was very nice. I really enjoy going to all of these farms because I come from working on one dairy farm that does management one way. And while visiting these farms, I get to see how other people manage cows and calves and run their operations.

Then, Thursday was the Grazing Tour. We drove all over Chenango County and got to see 3 farms that use grazing. The first was a Hereford farm and they took us in a truck to see all of their fields and facilities. The second was a summer-grazing steer farm where he had a new barn and handling facility and 11 fields that he rotates the steer in. And lastly we went to a farm where she runs the farm on her own and has beef cows, bulls, dairy heifers, dairy cows, sheep, chickens, and pigs. She keeps the cows on a big field and keeps them in one part with a single electrified string on fiberglass sticks! She moves them everyday to a different part of the field. And the sheep and chickens are free range! She has two awesome Border Collie's that herd the sheep and keep them in the field.

Friday I started typing out the report that we will be handing out to farmers to wrap up the Calf Study, and I have continued that work yesterday and today. I hope to make headway on the Calf Fact Sheets so that we could possibly include them in the packets we return to the farmers! I'm taking a half day tomorrow so that I can leave for

West Virginia for 4th of July, so this is a short week as well!

But I think that these past two weeks really show the diversity of the work that goes on in this office – one week I was outside in the sunshine working with cows everyday and the next I'm in the office typing up a report! It's also pretty weather dependent – last week was sunny and nice out and this week it's raining buckets! I don't really want to go outside this week anyway!

Posted in **Field Crops Nutrient Management Applied Research and Extension Internship**

---

## Like Watching Grass Grow...

Posted on **June 25, 2013** by [kea52@cornell.edu](mailto:kea52@cornell.edu)

So last Saturday Dale and I went to a farm 10 minutes outside of Delhi and sat in a red clover field all day with Tom. We were seeing how different cuts affected the drying rate! We were supposed to go on Friday, but of course, it was raining, so we went Saturday. We took samples every hour and chopped some and put it in a vacuum bag to mimic a silo. It was a pretty peaceful day and overall enjoyable. It was like watching grass grow, but instead it was watching clover dry!

Monday and Tuesday I made great progress on the charts for the Calf Study – Meghan and Tim had collected a whole bunch of data last Spring and Summer so I had all of that to go through and graph/analyze. I am also making headway on a template we can use to make reports for all of the farms to show them the data we collected in a comprehensive and simple way!

Wednesday was the CCE of Delaware County's retreat at Camp Shankitunk (the 4-H Camp in Delaware County). So I got to meet a lot of the people from the Hamden Office. In the morning we had CPR and First Aid training so I got certified for that. I left at lunch time so that I could get home for my brother's high school graduation. But they did a fitness training in the afternoon and from what I heard it sounds like it was a good time!

So I had a short week last week – I left Wednesday afternoon and I got back Monday night – I'd like to think it was vacation (I got to go to the beach for 2 days), but as soon as I got home they put me to work weeding the garden, splitting wood, and stacking hay! But it was really nice to be home – I had not been home since the early May!

So today, we went out in the field and went to 3 dairy farms and measured their calf's hip heights, wither heights, and weights as a follow up on the calf study data! I had a great time working with the calves and seeing the different farms and housing types used. Hopefully tomorrow we'll get to do the same thing and Thursday is the grazing tour I made postcards for my first day here! Should be fun!

Posted in **Field Crops Nutrient Management Applied Research and Extension Internship**

## Mountains and Rain

Posted on **June 13, 2013** by [kea52@cornell.edu](mailto:kea52@cornell.edu)

So this last semester I took HADM2740: Business Computing, and I am so glad I did! I have been doing a lot of Excel work – graphing data from the Calf Study. It is a great real world application of what I learned in that class! (I would recommend that class to anyone and everyone – it was incredibly helpful!) For the Calf Study, I have also been doing a lot of reading up on dairy calves – what different sources recommend for the first few months of life and what they recommend for heifer management. I've been doing this so I have some background on the data collected for the Calf Study and so I can update Calf Fact Sheets with consistent and current data.

I went to a Small Grains Field Day in Aurora, NY last week – there was interesting conversation about Malting Barely and lots of updates and reports on the Wheat crop in Upstate New York. I also went on a scouting trip with Dale to visit fields within the Watershed to see how they are doing. We got to visit an organic dairy – it was my first time on an organic facility! I also got to see fields that use No-Till Practices for planting – also my first time seeing that! It was a fun afternoon of driving to these fields – the location and views from these fields are amazing! I also sat in on a WAC Meeting where they discuss farm plans and talk about them and decide to pass them or not.

Now, to explain the title of this post – it has been raining A LOT! In the past week there has been 2 sunny days! So office work has been most appropriate. As for the mountains part, I hiked to the top of Tremper Mountain in Phoenicia, NY and the view was awesome. Also, the view from some of the fields we scouted made me feel like I was on a mountain!

Posted in **Field Crops Nutrient Management Applied Research and Extension Internship**

---

## Beginning of Walton Adventure

Posted on **June 5, 2013** by [kea52@cornell.edu](mailto:kea52@cornell.edu)

Hello! My name is Kelly Albanir and I am a rising sophomore at Cornell University. I am studying Applied Economics and Management and Agricultural Sciences. At Cornell I am a member of the Varsity Women's Crew Team, a brother of Phi Sigma Pi – the National Honor Fraternity, a member of the Cornell Tradition and Cornell Ambassadors, and a proud member of CUDS (Cornell University Dairy Science). This summer I am interning at the Delaware County Watershed in Walton, NY doing Farmer Education, Nutrient Management, and all sorts of other projects!

The first thing I noticed on my drive from Ithaca to Walton was how extremely beautiful upstate New York is! All of the hills and farms are wonderful! So I arrived on Monday evening after a long trek from the NCAA Rowing

Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana, to a layover in Atlanta, Georgia, to Ithaca, and then finally to Walton! My journey began with my first ever successful trip to the gas station by myself (I'm from New Jersey so I've never had to pump gas before!). I am residing at a local college for this internship – it should be interesting because the dining halls are closed so I will have to feed myself!

Tuesday was my first day – I am located at the Watershed building in Walton which is very unique because this building houses people who work for CCE, the Watershed, and other organizations as well! I got introduced to everyone and the building and was assigned my first job – creating a new postcard for Walton's Grazing Tour in Chenango County. Then, I had lunch with a fellow Cornellian – Meghan, who I will be doing a Calf Study with! In the afternoon I went to a dairy farm with Dale, who is my boss, and we measured triticale plots that had been treated with different treatments to look for a comparison. Today, I worked on the postcard some more, plotted the data from the triticale measurements, and got more information on the Calf Study!

Just from the first two days I can tell that this is going to be a great experience and that I am going to learn a lot!

Posted in **Field Crops Nutrient Management Applied Research and Extension Internship**