

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
Farmer/Grower Grant Final Report
Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation Inc.

1. Project Name and Contract Information:

FNE03-469: New England Comprehensive Beef and Livestock Production

2. Goals:

Wolfe's Neck Farm hoped to develop a beef production school for beef and livestock producers in New England. In this school we hoped to offer to beginning and intermediate livestock producers a better understanding of beef production by giving them both hands on and classroom training on all basic levels of beef production. We also had hoped this program would be replicated by other commodity groups with similar production cycles. The class would be taught by area experts, Wolfe's Neck Farm staff, as well as university educators.

3. Farm Profile:

Wolfe's Neck Farm is an 800 acre beef farm in Freeport Maine. The farm is owned and operated by a non-profit, Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation. The farm serves multiple purposes including education at several levels, a campground, several rental properties, and a working stocker operation of 400 to 500 head of calves each year. The farm not only houses the operations of the Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation but also serves as corporate offices for Wolfe's Neck Farm Natural Beef.

4. Participants:

Erick Jensen – Co-project leader and instructor

Dr. Richard Bryzowski – Co-project leader, technical advisor, extension educator, and instructor

David Ordway- Sales director Wolfe's Neck Farm, instructor

Mrs. Deanna Potter- Extension Educator, instructor

Dr. Kenneth Andres – Extension Educator, instructor

Mr. Richard Kersbergan – Extension Educator, instructor

Dr. Gary Anderson – Extension Educator, instructor

Dr. Pete Caridona – BoVet Veterinary Services, instructor

Ms. Dawn Downs – Administrative Director Wolfe's Neck Farm

Mr. Kevin Woltemath – Procurement Director Wolfe's Neck Farm, instructor

5. Project Activities:

Each month a new subject was taught in beef cattle management relevant to that season. Speakers were brought in utilizing extension and private organizations who were experts in their particular field. Course schedule deviated only in start date (September 2003 verses April 2003) due to speaker schedules and availability. *Include schedule w/ curriculum*

6. Results:

Ten farms (18 people) from Maine participated in the year long course. Additionally several producers interested in specific topics, such as calving, participated. We received very positive appraisals from all participants.

Include evaluation results from session & overall
See #5 in prop regarding Eval

7. Conditions:

None

8. Economics:

? No economic impact on participants?

No economic findings

9. Assessment:

The program identified a real need for education in certain areas of beef production, namely herd health and calving. There are a growing number of smaller producers popping up all over New England. With the loss of support and funding from extension these producers are feeling unrepresented. Programs such as this could help fill the void.

10. Adoption:

This program will be continued every other year. As explained earlier there is a real need to exposes current and new livestock producers to the latest trends within the livestock industry. New producers especially need to understand the basics of managing livestock before they make significant investments in cattle, equipment, or buildings. By holding the program every other year this will allow for new producers to become involved.

11. Outreach:

The program was marketed with the help of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. Additionally we held a field day in September 2003 and a beef conference in November of 2004. I have included the brochure of the beef conference.

Results of case studies?

12. Report Summary:

The New England Comprehensive Beef and Livestock Production course served a variety of audiences, was well attended, and well received. The program focused on basic skills needed to raise cattle in the northeast. This year long course covered topics from genetics to health to calving to tractor maintenance and safety to natural, conventional, and organics marketing. Producers involved in the program were able to attend either the yearlong course or specific modules pertaining to their operations. Wolfe's Neck Farm will be conducting this course on an every other year basis to maximize attendance and information.

January 15th, 2005

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Program Administrator
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