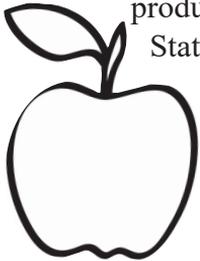


## Intro to Agriculture



Agriculture, growing plants and raising animals, is important to New York State. About 23% of the state's land area is used by the 33,400 farms. The majority of these farms (96%) are family-owned.

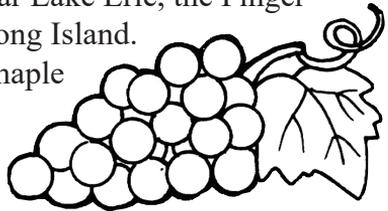


Milk is New York's leading agricultural product, ranking the state third in the United States for milk production.

New York ranks second in the nation for our production of apples. Our leading varieties are McIntosh, Empire, Red Delicious and Golden Delicious.

Grapes, for juice and wine, place New York third in US production behind California and Washington. The four major grape producing areas are near Lake Erie, the Finger Lakes, the Hudson Valley and eastern Long Island.

New York also ranks second in maple syrup production behind Vermont.



Farmers in New York grow many other crops and raise birds and animals too! For more about NYS agriculture look for the following features:



- **Two Farmer Profiles,**
- **One Ice Cream Maker Profile,**
- **An Agriculture Crossword Puzzle and Word Search**
- **And a Kid-Friendly Recipe to Try at School or Home!**

**Newspaper Activity:** Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or advertisements that show examples of New York State agriculture. How many examples did your class find?

# Agriculture Literacy

## Meet Seth McEachron

As a fifth generation farmer, Seth grew up on a dairy farm in Salem, NY. He studied business and economics at Skidmore College, worked in banking for a few years before returning to the dairy business in 2007.

In 2008, Battenkill Valley Creamery started their own bottling plant. That part of the business grew very fast and the family expanded to a second farm in 2015.

Seth's farm currently has about 680 cows, which are mostly Holsteins, but they have some Jersey and cross-bred cows to increase their milk's percentage of milk fat. Some of the cows are milked in a parlor 3 times a day. And others get milked by robotic milkers. Those cows walk in and get milked as they feel the need to. Some cows get milked robotically as much as 6 times in a day.

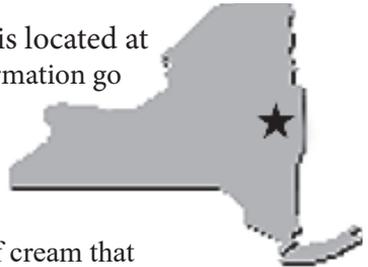
Battenkill started its ice cream business in 2009 to get people to come out to visit the farm. The ice cream parlor is open year-round and offers 12 to 14 flavors of premium hard ice cream. Vanilla is their most popular flavor but people also enjoy chocolate, coffee and black raspberry.

In addition to ice cream, the parlor sells Battenkill's whole milk, reduced fat (2%), fat free, and flavored milks, including: mocha, latte, eggnog (during the holiday season) and, the most popular, chocolate!

**Battenkill Valley Creamery** - is located at 691 County Rte 30, Salem, NY 12865. For more information go online to <https://www.battenkillcreamery.com>

**Fun Facts:** Each batch of Battenkill Valley Creamery's ice cream starts with a 5 gallon mix made from 2 1/2 gallons of milk and 2 1/2 gallons of cream that ends up with about 16% butter fat.

All of the milk & ice cream products sold at their parlor come directly from their farm!



**Newspaper Activity:** Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads about agriculture. Did you find any examples of people growing plants or raising animals or working with nature?

# Agriculture Literacy

## Meet Holly Niefergold

Meet Holly Niefergold, New York State's First Alternate Dairy Princess 2021-22. There are three Dairy Princesses across NYS and they share the responsibilities of promoting milk's 9 essential nutrients, cow comfort, and environmental stewardship.

The Niefergold cows are kept comfortable with rubber mattresses topped with chopped hay bedding but some farmers use waterbeds!

At sixteen, Holly grew up on the dairy farm started by her grandfather in 1964. They have a total of 330 Holsteins and are currently milking 125 of them using robotic milkers. Holly says robotic milking increases their cows' milk production by 8-10%. On average each cow produces 98 pounds (or 11.4 gallons) of milk per day. If you do the math, that adds up to 12,250 pounds of milk everyday. That's roughly 1,424 gallons.

Cows aren't the only agricultural business for the Niefergold family. They also produce about 225 gallons of maple syrup each year from the trees on the farm. They also grow corn, soybeans and hay to use for their own cows and for other farmers to feed their animals.



**Niefergold Dairy LLC** is located on Taylor Road in Lawtons, Erie County, New York, and is a member of the Upstate Niagara Cooperative.



**Fun Facts:** The spots on each Holstein cow are unique; meaning no two cows have the same markings, similar to the uniqueness of human fingerprints. Milk's 9 essential nutrients are calcium, niacin, pantothenic acid, phosphorus, protein, riboflavin, and vitamins A, B-12 and D.

**Newspaper Activity:** Look through the newspaper (print or online) for stories, pictures or ads about industry, or types of businesses, in your community. How many have ties to agriculture? Did you find any involving milk or ice cream? **Lesson Extension:** Research and compare and contrast the agricultural technologies for a farm of 1964 to those of today.

# Agriculture Literacy

## Meet Jeff Kostick

While spending some time vacationing on Cayuga Lake after being laid off from his job, Jeff Kostick decided to start an ice cream business for the summer.



That was 17 years ago and now the Brooklyn native lives and works on Cayuga Lake full time.

The Cayuga Lake Creamery has created over 200 different flavors of hard ice cream, and sorbet and also serves soft ice cream. The shop offers about 30 to 35 flavors at any one time in a rotation of seasonal and specialty flavors.

The creamery's most popular flavor is Seneca Salt Caramel. That flavor is made using locally sourced Seneca Lake culinary flake salt. Keeping it local, the creamery gets the milk and cream for its ice cream from Upstate Niagara Cooperative, which is made up of over 300 family-owned and operated farms across upstate New York.

The shop has other food and drink options on its menu and also makes specialty ice cream items including cakes, sandwiches and cupcakes to eat in or take home.

**Cayuga Lake Creamery** - Located on Route 89 between Ithaca and Seneca Falls in Interlaken, NY.

For more info visit their website at

<http://cayugalakecreamery.com/>



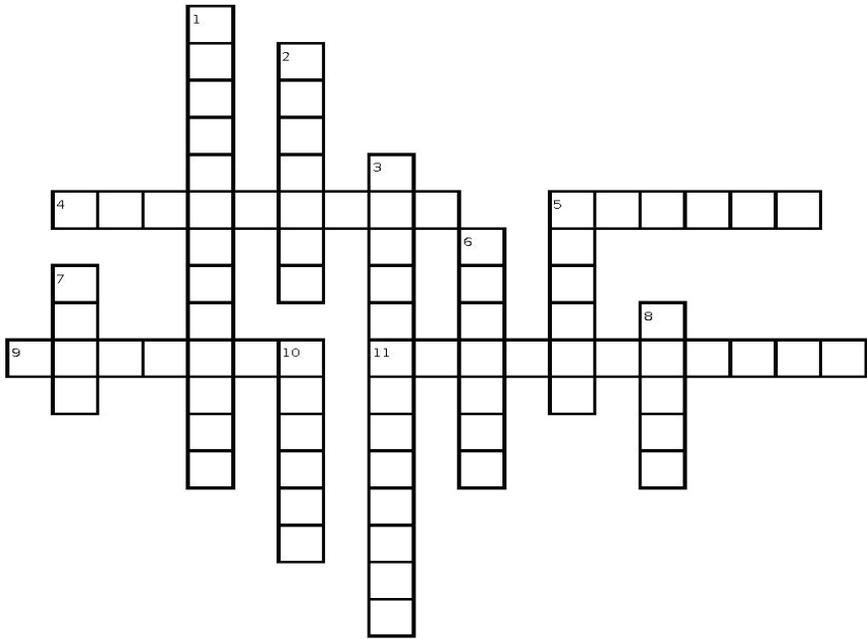
### Fun Fact:

On the creamery's property there is a wooden train for customers to climb on and enjoy. Jeff says, surprisingly, some people even climb aboard during the winter!

**Newspaper Activity:** Although Jeff Kostick always loved ice cream, he had to learn about the best ingredients, how to safely make it, and serve it to customers. Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads about jobs or careers you might like to have some day. What type of experiences or education would you need to become the best you can be? Did anyone in your class pick a career in agriculture?

# Agriculture Literacy

## Agriculture Crossword



Use the clues below to fill in the agricultural words.

### Across

1. Doctors who treat animals
2. Pieces of cow manure/dung
3. People who study food that helps things to grow
5. Usual or regular jobs on a farm/house
6. People who grow crops and raise animals
7. White liquid that people drink
8. Business selling milk, cheese and butter; farm where cows or goats are raised
10. Seeds or grasses that are cereals (wheat, oats, etc)

### Down

4. Very good and tasty; yummy
5. Soft and smooth. having a yellowish-white color
9. Moving like a stream; passing by smoothly
11. Degree of hotness or coldness (air, water, body)

### WORD BANK:

CHORES  
COW PIES  
CREAMY

DAIRY  
DELICIOUS  
FARMEWRS  
FLOWING  
GRAINS

MILK  
NUTRITIONISTS  
TEMPERTURE  
VETERINARIANS

For more vocabulary lists and puzzles go to [www.myvocabulary.com](http://www.myvocabulary.com)

## Agriculture Word Search

N	S	A	W	A	T	C	S	E	I	P	W	O	C
I	R	F	L	O	W	I	N	G	P	C	E	M	L
S	R	M	I	I	C	H	O	R	E	S	P	N	C
R	R	O	T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	U	R	E
E	S	T	S	I	N	O	I	T	I	R	T	U	N
M	M	T	M	E	D	F	E	C	G	E	I	C	I
R	G	D	M	I	S	E	E	S	I	K	I	T	A
A	I	R	E	I	T	S	L	R	C	E	T	F	R
F	M	C	A	M	I	L	K	I	E	S	D	I	M
U	L	R	C	I	I	S	R	N	C	W	A	I	S
S	T	E	O	F	N	R	U	E	R	I	I	T	S
E	I	A	N	D	I	S	I	L	E	O	O	W	S
I	C	M	S	N	E	F	I	S	A	I	I	U	E
I	O	Y	N	Y	R	I	A	D	M	S	R	R	S

Find and circle the agricultural words listed below:

CHORES  
COWPIES  
CREAMY  
DAIRY

DELICIOUS  
FARMERS  
FLOWING  
GRAINS

ICE CREAM  
MILK  
NUTRITIONISTS  
TEMPERATURE

**Newspaper Activity:** Select a story from the newspaper (print or electronic) that is interesting to your class. Use the important words from the story to make a new word search or crossword puzzle. Give yourselves extra credit if the story has any connection to New York state agriculture.

To learn more about NYS agriculture go to [www.agclassroom.org/ny/](http://www.agclassroom.org/ny/)  
For more vocabulary lists and puzzles go to [www.myvocabulary.com](http://www.myvocabulary.com)

# Recipe: Ice Cream in a Bag

Modified from a recipe from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Warren County

Here's a kid-friendly idea to make homemade ice cream without a machine



### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup cream
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- Gallon-size ziplock bag
- Ice
- Rock salt

### Instructions:

1. Stir the milk, cream, sugar and vanilla extract together in a bowl, then pour the mixture into a quart-size freezer ziplock bag.
2. Stick this bag inside a gallon-size ziplock, half-filled with ice and rock salt - about 2 cups of ice and 1/2 cup of salt.
3. Keep shaking the bag until the content of the inner bag turns solid (and if it doesn't, it's delicious to eat anyway!).

To learn more about milk and dairy nutrition, go to the American Dairy Association North East's website at <https://www.americandairy.com/dairy-health/nutrition-education/>

To learn more about  
New York State's Agriculture in the Classroom Program  
go to [www.agclassroom.org/ny/](http://www.agclassroom.org/ny/)

**Newspaper Activity:** Look through the local newspaper (print or online) and other sources for recipes that use fruits, vegetables, animal or dairy products from New York State as ingredients.

**Healthy Tip:** Including several daily servings of fruits & vegetables as part of an overall healthy diet may lower the risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer.

Source: [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov)