9:30-10:15 – Regulatory Updates Related to the Federal Worker Protection Standard
Christopher Wainwright, DEC Pesticide Control Specialist

10:15-11:00 – Dealing with the Double Whammy of Sudden Death Syndrome and Soybean Cyst Nematode Expansion in NY Jamie Cummings, NYS Integrated Pest Management Field Crops and Livestock Coordinator

11:00-11:45 – The Biology and Ecology of Palmer amaranth and Waterhemp: what you need to know, now, to avoid problems later Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie, Weed Biologist, Cornell School of Integrative Plant Science
Funding Helps Protect Agriculture, Natural Resources
USDA will provide $1.6 million to New York to support several projects

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is allocating $1.6 million to New York as part of its effort to strengthen the nation’s infrastructure for pest detection and surveillance, identification, and threat mitigation, and to safeguard the nursery production system. Overall, USDA is providing almost $70 million in funding this year to support 386 projects in 48 States, The District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. USDA provides this funding under the authority of the Plant Protection Act Section 7721.

“New York is a critical partner in protecting U.S. agriculture,” said USDA Under Secretary Greg Ibach. “Through these projects, New York will be able to better protect its own resources, and, contribute to USDA’s mission of keeping our nation’s agriculture economy healthy and strong.”

These funds will support projects covering a range of plant health and pest mitigation activities, including the following:

- $275,000 to conduct a stone fruit commodity survey;
- $253,147 to respond to the emerald ash borer plant health emergency on the St. Regis Mohawk territory;
- $192,310 to develop management tactics to limit the spread of European cherry fruit fly;
- $175,000 to reinstate apple tree certification in the State;
- $143,963 to conduct National Plant Diagnostic Network and State Diagnostician Preparedness Training;
- $141,725 for deregulation and enhanced regulatory activities needed to manage golden nematode (Globodera rostochiensis);
- $128,728 to support National Clean Plant Network foundation plant stocks for grapes;
- $100,000 for grape commodity pest survey activity;

Since 2009, USDA has supported more than 4,000 projects and provided nearly $600 million in funding through the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program. Collectively, these projects allow USDA and its partners to quickly detect and rapidly respond to invasive pests and diseases. They also help our country maintain the infrastructure necessary to make sure that disease-free, certified planting materials are available to U.S. specialty crop producers.

As the United States and the world celebrate the International Year of Plant Health in 2020, this funding highlights USDA’s continued commitment to safeguarding our agricultural resources for current and future generations.


—USDA APHIS

Springwater Agricultural Products
8663 Strutt Street, Springwater NY
585-315-1094 or 607-759-0405

Crop Production Materials, Foliar Nutrition & Adjuvant Sales
SeedWay, NK&WL, Seed Sales:
Corn, Soybeans, Small Grains, Forage & Pasture Grasses
Sun up until Sun down! Dave & Penny
Farm tested with farm-friendly prices.

Agricultural Program Committee:

Joe Castrechino
Linwood Ford
Drew Heisey
Allison Lavine
Gary Mahany
Greg Muller
Bob Nichols

Prattsburgh
Savona
Hornell
Savona
Arkport
Bath
Addison

Legislative Representatives:
Hilda Lando
Fred Potter

Corning
Troupsburg

Agricultural Program Staff:
Ariel Kirk, Agriculture Educator
Hans Walter Peterson, Grapes
Brett Chedzoy, Forestry

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County
Website: www.putknowledgetowork.org

Yearly Membership-$15.00

“Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County provides equal program and employment opportunities”
Legislation Passes State Senate
Nine bills to support New York farms went to the floor for a vote in the State Senate

ALBANY — Under the leadership of State Senator Jen Metzger (SD-42), who chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee, a package of nine bills to support New York farms went to the floor for a vote in the State Senate today, all passing unanimously, including five bills introduced by Senator Metzger.

“Hard-working New York farmers deserve our full support, and today the Senate is passing a package of legislation that will help reduce their costs, expand markets for their products, make access to technical support easier, and help nurture the next generation of farmers,” said Senator Metzger. “As Chair of the Agriculture Committee and representative of a district with two thousand small and mid-sized family farms, I recognize the vital importance of agriculture to our economy, our rural communities, and our long-term food security, and this package of legislation will help address the very real challenges facing New York’s farms.”

A key bill in this package championed by Senator Metzger (S6773) would increase the existing Farm Workforce Retention Credit from $600 to $1,200 to farmers for employees who work 500 or more hours each year. Under the current tax law, New York farmers received $500 per eligible employee in 2019, and would receive $400 in 2020 and $600 in 2021, at which point the existing law would sunset. Metzger’s legislation would extend the tax credit indefinitely, increasing the credit to $800 in 2021 and then to $1,200 per year thereafter. Metzger’s bill is one of the Farm Bureau’s top legislative priorities.

With farm labor costs in New York that are nearly twice the national average, the tax credit can help keep New York farms out of the red, and make sure that they can hire the workers they need.

“I want to thank Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and my Senate colleagues for their support of this legislative package today, including the bill to increase the Farm Workforce Retention Credit, which will provide needed relief to New York farms struggling to compete with higher costs,” said Senator Metzger.

“This legislation is significant and demonstrates that Senator Metzger understands what farmers need,” said Chris Kelder of Kelder’s Farm and District 10 Director of the New York Farm Bureau. “Those of us who work the land know that the margins are thin, and having this kind of support will go a long way to sustain our operations. Furthermore, it offers us additional incentives to hire and keep the farmworkers we need.”

“The bill introduced by Senator Metzger to increase and extend the Farm Workforce Retention Credit is a positive measure to address the problem faced by all NYS farmers of how to remain profitable in an increasingly competitive employment environment,” said Peter Ferrante of Wallkill View Farm in New Paltz. “Senator Metzger’s action in support of NY agriculture is very much appreciated. Having had the opportunity to spend time visiting with the Senator on our farm last year, I was able to witness firsthand her enthusiastic appreciation of NY agriculture and her strong desire to work in the Senate to keep New York State a great place to farm. The passage of this bill further exemplifies Senator Metzger’s commitment to that goal.”

“The agricultural industry is crucial to the state economy and we must provide farmers with the support they need,” Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said. “The bills advanced by the Senate Majority will help struggling farms, encourage more New Yorkers to pursue agricultural jobs, and help increase access to locally grown food. I commend Senator Jen Metzger, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, and the bill sponsors for their close attention to addressing the challenges faced by New York farmers and the state’s agriculture industry.”

The five bills introduced by Metzger include:
- Farm Workforce Retention Credit Increase: This bill S6773 Sponsored by Senator Jen Metzger will allow the Farm Workforce
Retention Credit to be increased from $600 to $1200.

- Farm Product Holiday Promotions: This bill S2069 sponsored by Senator Jen Metzger authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets to promote and provide vendor information on New York State farm products for holiday celebrations.

- Increased Farmers Markets in Parks: This bill S5822A sponsored by Senator Jen Metzger will permit more farmers markets in state and local parks. Increasing the number of available locations for farmers' markets and improving New Yorkers’ access to locally grown foods.

- Farming Hotline: This bill S4655 sponsored by senator Jen Metzger will create a “one stop” hotline to connect farmers with information resources to grow their businesses, such as tax credit programs, beginning farmer loans, and sustainable practices.

- Agricultural Custom Operator Protections: This bill S5437 sponsored by Senator Jen Metzger defines agricultural custom operator and provides them with district protections.

Other bills passed by the Senate today with Senator Metzger's co-sponsorship include:

- Regional Farmers Market Expansion: This bill S251 sponsored by Senator Tim Kennedy will allow the Department of Agriculture and Markets to establish or expand existing regional farmers’ markets. Particularly in areas of the state that have poor consumer access to high quality and reasonably priced fresh food and farm products.

- Young Farmer Apprentice Program: This bill S3873 sponsored by Senator Rachel May will establish an agriculture program for students. This program will be developed through BOCES to encourage and educate young farmers.

- New York Farm School and School Garden Fund: This bill S3804A sponsored by senator Rachel May will create a fund which will provide schools the resources to build school gardens, purchase gardening equipment and educational materials. The funding of these programs will give students hands on experience in agriculture and promote their use of local products.

- New York Craft Beverage Permit: This bill S6653 sponsored by senator James Skoufis will establish a temporary craft beverage permit. Which will allow licensed New York state farm distilleries and producers of special spirits to apply for temporary 24-hour permits.

Jen Metzger represents the 42nd Senate District, which includes all of Sullivan County and parts of Delaware, Orange, and Ulster Counties. Senator Metzger serves as Chair of the Agriculture Committee and sits on the Environmental Conservation, Education, Health, Energy and Telecommunications, Local Government, Women’s Issues, Domestic Animal Welfare, and Legislative Committees.

—The Office of New York State Senator Jen Metzger
The National Young Farmers Coalition is Partnering with Chipotle to Offer $5,000 Grants to 50 Young Farmers and Ranchers to Support Them in Building Careers in Agriculture

The National Young Farmers Coalition (Young Farmers) is launching a new grant program to help young and beginning farmers and ranchers start up and grow their businesses. In 2020 Young Farmers will provide 50 farmers and ranchers $5,000 grants. Grant recipients will also receive a one-year membership to the National Young Farmers Coalition.

This fund can be used for anything that will further your goals as a farmer, even if that means just getting started. The goal of this fund is to provide financial assistance for any cost that currently limits your ability to start, run, or grow your operation in the way you’d like.

Grant funding may support completing a project, purchasing a new piece of equipment, covering operating costs such as seeds and compost, building new infrastructure, attending a farmer training program or conference, hiring additional farm labor, or covering personal finances that stand in the way of farm success, including but not limited to childcare, housing, or student loan payments. Funds, once awarded, may be used to match other grant opportunities.

Applications are due March 29th at 11:59pm ET. Winners will be announced May 8th. Please visit the website for qualifying details and to apply here: https://www.youngfarmers.org/youngfarmergrants/

New Funding Opportunities for Growers through NYS Ag & Markets

Emily Cook, New York Department of Agriculture & Markets

For the following two new grant opportunities, growers should contact their local Soil & Water Conservation District office for details. Soil & Water is to fill out the application on behalf of the grower. The deadline for submission is April 6, 2020. A link to the Request for Proposals (RFP) is: https://agriculture.ny.gov/funding-opportunities. Below is an overview from the RFP’s.

RFP 0214 - Implementation of High-efficiency Agricultural Irrigation Water Management Systems

Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Funds to reduce the agricultural consumption of surface and groundwater while increasing nutrient efficiency and crop yields.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee are pleased to announce the availability of funds to support the Implementation of High-Efficiency Agricultural Irrigation Water Management Systems. This Request for Proposals is intended to provide financial assistance to implement improvements to existing agricultural irrigation systems that result in the conservation of water resources, improvements to nutrient management strategies and crop production yields, while safeguarding natural resources. High-efficiency systems, particularly micro irrigation systems (e.g. trickle, drip and low flow emitters) work to strategically place irrigated water within the root zone of the target crop. If properly designed, these systems conserve water resources and can be used to transport nutrients and pesticides; reducing the potential of runoff and groundwater contamination. Eliminating direct contact of irrigated water with the consumable portion of the plant can also reduce potential health risks associated with agricultural waters. Proper irrigation enhances the quantity and quality of most crops while reducing associated risks to human health and the environment. Funding for this Request for Proposals comes by...
from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), as part of the Ocean and Great Lakes Initiative. Funding in the amount of approximately $700,000 is available for the Implementation of High-Efficiency Agricultural Irrigation Water Management Systems. The maximum award level is $50,000 per farm. Districts are not limited to the number of applications that may be submitted, however, only one application per farm is allowed.

**RFP 0218 Implementation of AEM Plans on Grown & Certified Farms.**

Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) funds to promote the advancement of environmentally and sustainably produced agricultural products.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee are pleased to announce the availability of funds to support implementation of Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plans on New York State Grown and Certified (NYS G&C) farms. Funding for this Request for Proposals comes from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), as part of the Ocean and Great Lakes Initiative. The goal of the implementation of AEM Plans on NYS G&C farms is to assist growers in producing products using the highest environmental standards in order to protect and improve New York’s natural resources, including the water quality of its ocean and Great Lakes. Environmental stewardship and safe handling of foods are the goals of the NYS G&C Program. Funding provided under this RFP will support environmental stewardship by providing financial assistance to implement Conservation Practice Systems on NYS G&C farms. Funding in the amount of $600,000 is available for the Implementation of Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plans on farms enrolled in the NYS G&C program or farms that provide commodities to NYS G&C processors. The maximum award level is $50,000 per farm. Districts are not limited to the number of applications that may be submitted, however, only one application per farm is allowed.

**Farm Food Safety Worker Training**

**and Wash/Pack Operational Management Assistance**

**Robert Hadad, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program; from VegEdge, 3/2/20**

**Wash/Pack**

Training on integrating farm food safety practices for wash/pack facilities. From harvest produce handling through wash/pack, storage, and transportation, this program will assist growers and produce workers on the food safety practices needed to help you reduce microbial contamination risks. Special emphasis will be focused on facility and equipment cleaning. Contact Robert Hadad, rgh26@cornell.edu 585-739-4065. This can be an on-farm 2.5hr program for your farm and crew or for a group of growers together.

**Assistance available for Wash/Pack facility food safety design and operation**

Are you thinking about upgrading your wash/pack facility? Looking to build new facility? Have questions about how to integrate food safety into the design? Have questions about how to clean produce wash equipment to minimize microbial contamination risk? We have the information. Contact Robert Hadad, CVP, rgh26@cornell.edu or call 585-739-4065 for more information.

**Farm Food Safety Worker Training**

The Cornell Vegetable Program will be offering farm food safety training for workers and supervisors. GAPs and HGAPs focus attention on the role workers play with farm food safety. The FSMA regulations have hugely emphasized the training of workers as the first line of defense for food safety practices. The CVP will be offering morning or afternoon training classes for groups of produce farm workers in areas that request it. The program would run approximately 2.5 hours. We would like to do this for small groups of 10-24 workers, farm crew managers, and farm owners. Nearby farms could combine staff together for the trainings. Contact Robert Hadad, CVP, rgh26@cornell.edu or call 585-739-4065 for more information.
WASH & PACK SCHOOL
Cleaning, Sanitizing and Hygienic Design

March 17, 2020 | 8:30am - 3:30pm | Albion, New York
April 22, 2020 | 8:30am - 3:30pm | Portland, New York

The Institute for Food Safety at Cornell University, the University of Vermont, CCE, Cornell Vegetable Program, and CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program are hosting workshops on Cleaning, Sanitizing and Hygienic Design. The one-day workshops will include:

- A brief review of produce safety
- Presentations focused on cleaning, sanitizing and drying best practices
- An introduction to hygienic design principles
- Several hands-on exercises to reinforce cleaning, sanitizing and hygienic design concepts

Locations & Registration
The workshops will be offered at 2 locations:

Orleans County Fairgrounds, 12690 State Route 31, Albion, NY 14411
Register for Albion workshop online or call Craig Kahlke, 585.735.5448

- or -

Cornell Lake Erie Research Center, 6592 West Main Road, Portland, NY 14769
Register for Portland workshop online or call Robert Hadad, 585.739.4065

Registration deadline is one week prior to each event. Registration is limited to 30 participants, but requires a minimum of 15 registrants to hold the event.

Cost
The course is subsidized by several state and federal grants* and is being offered at a reduced cost of $25 per participant. We will provide lunch as well as several resources related to the topics reviewed during the workshop.

*Projects supporting this workshop include the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Specialty Crop Block Grant agreement no. COM086CG; USDA-NIFA Food Safety and Outreach Program award no. 2016-70030-25782; USDA-NIFA Specialty Crop Research Initiative award no. 2016-51181-25405; FDA NSEAF Special Project Grants Program award no. R01FD006568.
Steuben County, New York
NYS Agricultural Districts Program

Request to Add Land to a NYS Certified Agricultural District

NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303b allows land to be added to districts through an annual process. Land may be removed from Districts only during the eight-year review of a District.

Requests to add land must be received by March 17. Requests received after March 17 will be included in the following year’s additions.

PLEASE NOTE: For property tax purposes, landowners must still apply annually to their local assessor to receive an agricultural exemption.

Date: ____________________

Name: ____________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________ Email: ____________________

Please list parcels you would like added to the Agricultural District:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Tax Map Number</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agricultural Use: ____________________

I hereby certify that I own these lands or lease them for agricultural use:

Signature

Please return to:
Steuben County Planning Department
3 E. Pulteney Square
Bath NY 14810
FAX: 607-664-2282
Email: planning@steubencountyny.gov
Phone: 607-664-2268
**Pre-Exam Training and Test to Become a Certified Pesticide Applicator**

**CORE PESTICIDE TRAININGS**

- **PRE-REGISTER 3 DAYS PRIOR TO DESIRED EVENT** -

**Register by calling:** Kelly Bourne at 585-268-7644 ext. 10 or email at klb288@cornell.edu or sign up online at: https://swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php

**For event information contact:** Josh Putman, Field Crops Specialist, at 716-490-5572 or jap473@cornell.edu.

- **Workshop cost:** $20/person
- **Checks payable to:** SWNYDLFC
- Pay by card through online registration.

Please plan to bring your own lunch as it will NOT be provided.

Training classes will be held on:

**Thursday, March 26, 2020 from 8:30AM - 12PM**
CCE-Chautauqua @ JCC-Carnahan Center
241 James Avenue
Jamestown, NY 14702

**Thursday, April 2, 2020 from 8:30AM - 12PM**
CCE-Steuben
20 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810

**THE CERTIFICATION EXAM**

Will be administered following each training from 1PM-4PM by DEC to qualified applicants.

**Fee for the exam is $100.**

Checks or money orders payable to NYSDEC the day of the exam.

To register for the exam, or for exam related questions, please contact:

Rob Freese (Jamestown event) at 716-851-7275 or Chris Wainwright (Bath event) at 607-622-8264.

You MUST pre-register for the exam!

All participants will need to have the most recent CORE manual and applicable category manuals.

**CORE and category training manuals are available through the Cornell Store by calling (800) 624-4080 or visiting:** http://store.cornell.edu/c-876-manuals.aspx

**3.0 Pesticide recertification credits in the CORE category have been applied for.**

Participants looking to receive their applicators license must have experience working on their own farm, or through employment on another farm. **Participants must register directly with DEC to take the exam!**

If you have any questions on exam eligibility they will be answered by DEC representatives.

This training DOES NOT qualify for the 30 hour pre-test commercial training.

*The SWNY Dairy, Livestock & Fields Crops Program offers educational programming and research based information to agricultural producers, growers, and agribusinesses. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and education recognized for valuing AA/EO, Protected Veterans, and Individual with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. For accommodations, please contact Josh Putman 716-490-5572 or jap473@cornell.edu at least one week prior to the event.*
A educational newsletter to keep producers informed of changing market factors affecting the dairy industry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk Component Prices</th>
<th>Milk Class Prices</th>
<th>Statistical Uniform Price &amp; PPD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Month</strong></td>
<td><strong>Butterfat</strong></td>
<td><strong>Protein</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>$1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>$2.53</td>
<td>$1.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 19</td>
<td>$2.55</td>
<td>$1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 19</td>
<td>$2.54</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>$2.57</td>
<td>$2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>$2.66</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>$2.68</td>
<td>$2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>$2.65</td>
<td>$2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 19</td>
<td>$2.49</td>
<td>$2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>$2.40</td>
<td>$3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>$2.32</td>
<td>$3.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>$2.19</td>
<td>$3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>$2.11</td>
<td>$2.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

January Utilization (Northeast): Class 1 = 31.1%; Class II = 23.2%; Class III = 26.3%; Class IV = 19.4%.

**Cheese:** Cheese markets are still uncertain, as prices continue their convergence from the $.40+ block to barrel price gap. Cheese inventory levels are steady to growing, with plentiful milk supplies in every region. Some cheesemakers are not taking on extra milk, thus production is steady. Others, though, are clearing the extra milk at the marked discounts. Some Midwestern cheesemakers are not adding to production days, in light of the current market situation. Speaking of, buying has slowed but not halted and spot sales were reportedly slower.

**Dry Products:** Coronavirus concerns are pervading some dry dairy product markets this week. Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) shifted lower in all regions on somewhat bearish markets. A number of contacts say plentiful milk supplies and widely available condensed skim, for drying, are adding to nonfat dry milk stocks. Interestingly, dry buttermilk prices were steady to higher. Dry whole milk prices are up, as bakery demand is expected to improve. WPC 34% and lactose prices are mostly steady, but lactose’s top end of the range pushed a little higher. Markets of WPC 34% and lactose are currently in a somewhat comfortable place, but bearish hints are clouding the markets namely due to coronavirus fears. Acid and rennet casein price ranges expanded, but coronavirus fears have casein marketers concerned, as well.

**Fluid Milk:** Even with some actual winter weather rearing its head in parts of the country, namely Midwestern dairy country, milk output reports continue to suggest steady to growing supplies. Bottling demand is steady to lower. Even with ice cream producers a little more active, cream supplies are abundant nationally. Condensed skim markets are showing continued weakness, with plentiful supplies. Contacts suggest both fluid milk and cream are in, for lack of a better term, an early flush-like state.

**Butter:** Throughout the nation, print/bulk butter production remains very active as copious cream volumes, at relatively low-priced, continues to balance into churning. In general, bulk butter inventories are steadily building into cold storage for later use, especially during the summer season when butter fat is usually scarce. Butter demands from retailers, wholesalers, and food service vary in every region from fair to good.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday CME Cash Prices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Butter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cheese (40# Blocks)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.
The all-milk price forecast for 2020 has been lowered to $18.85 per hundredweight, $0.40 lower than last month’s forecast. Based on recent price weakness and lower expectations for cheese and butter demand, 2020 price forecasts for butter and cheese have been reduced. The dry whey price forecast has been raised slightly, and the nonfat dry milk price forecast is unchanged. The 2020 export forecast on a skim-solids milk-equivalent basis has been raised due to higher expected exports of nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder.

On January 15, 2020, the United States and China signed an agreement called the Phase One trade deal. For dairy products, the agreement addresses several nontariff issues. These include changes related to U.S. facility and product registration; changes to regulations concerning imports of certain U.S. dairy products (including extended shelf-life milk, fortified milk, infant formula, ultra-filtered milk, and permeate powder); and transparency and due process provisions with respect to geographical indications and common food names.

On January 29, President Trump signed legislation to implement the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which would replace the North American Free Trade Agreement. Under the agreement, Mexico’s zero tariffs for U.S. dairy products would be preserved. Canada would agree to allow greater access to U.S. dairy imports, and the United States would agree to allow greater access to dairy imports from Canada. Canada would also agree to make changes to its classified pricing system with respect to milk used to produce certain dairy ingredients.

The 2019/20 price forecasts for corn and soybean meal are both unchanged from the January forecast, at $3.85 per bushel and $305 per short ton, respectively. The alfalfa hay price in December 2019 was $175 per short ton, $2 higher than November but $4 lower than December 2018. The 5-State weighted average price for premium alfalfa hay in December was $200 per short ton, $9 lower than the November price.

Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA) announced today an agreement has been reached with Dean Foods (Dean) for the farmer-owned Cooperative to become the stalking horse bidder to acquire a substantial portion of Dean’s assets and business.

The two parties have been working to reach an agreement since DFA became aware of Dean’s plan to initiate voluntary Chapter 11 reorganization proceedings.

As part of the proposed deal, DFA has agreed to pay a base purchase price of $425 million, and assume various liabilities, subject to certain adjustments, to acquire 44 of Dean’s facilities and associated direct store delivery system, as well as certain corporate and other assets and functions.

While the parties have reached an agreement on the terms of the asset purchase, the transaction remains subject to various approvals, including approval from the Bankruptcy Court overseeing Dean’s Chapter 11 reorganization and the U.S. Department of Justice.

“As Dean is the largest dairy processor in the country and a significant customer of DFA, it is important to ensure continued secure markets for our members’ milk and minimal disruption to the U.S. dairy industry,” said Rick Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer. “As a family farmer-owned and governed cooperative, no one has a greater interest in preserving and expanding milk markets than DFA. We are pleased that we have come to an agreement on a deal that we believe is fair for both parties.”

DFA is advised in this matter by Latham & Watkins, LLP, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, LLP and Houlihan Lokey.
COMING EVENTS

March 10-Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYS Forest Owners Association General Meeting-Bats—at 7:00pm, United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471-Please visit the NYFOA website under Events for more details.

March 11-Steuben County Crop Symposium, Civil Defense Center, Bath, NY. See front cover for details.

March 17 and April 22, Wash pack School, Albion, NY and Portland, NY. See full page ad in this issue for more information.

March 26 & April 2-Core Pesticide Trainings & DEC Certification Exams, Jamestown, NY and Bath, NY. See full page ad in this issue for more information.

March 30-31, 2020, Cured Meats Processing, Cornell University
To register, please visit https://dairyextension.foodscience.cornell.edu/programs/ and use the sidebar heading Meat Foods to find the workshop of interest and register online.

April 1-2, 2020, Meat HACCP, Cornell University
To register, please visit https://dairyextension.foodscience.cornell.edu/programs/ and use the sidebar heading Meat Foods to find the workshop of interest and register online.

FOR LEASE/RENT

6+ acres for lease for organic cultivation. Must have ag exemption. Call 607 483-8758 between 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM, M – F.

Available For Rent: Steuben County SWCD has an Esch 10’ No-Till Drill for rent. Rates are $12-$25/acre based on number of acres planted. Delivery/pickup available. Please call (607)776-7398 ext.3 for more information.

Seeking conservation minded individual with interests in permaculture to rent 3-4 acre, gentle grade, southern exposure field for agricultural production in Steuben County, NY. Acceptable practices include organic vegetable production, small scale poultry, and organic greenhouse or high tunnel production. Other considerations will be determined by owner. Improved, uncultivated ground will require proper preparation for success. Currently no housing available on the property, but can be discussed with owner in the future. Contact CCE Steuben at 607-664-2574 for further information.

Attention Cattle Farmers: I have pasture/farmland for rent, 40-50 acres, reasonable rate. Located in Steuben County on State Rt. 63. Contact Marian Crawford at 585-728-5303.