News From CCE

From Liz Alexander, CCE Chemung Agriculture Educator

It may be back to school season, but e-learning is not just for kids! We’ve got some great webinars and events coming up that you won’t want to miss. Break out your calendars and sharpen your new pencils, and take note of what September has in store:

We’re starting this month off strong with an “Introduction to Composting” webinar on Tuesday, Sept. 1st at 3pm. This webinar will be hosted by our very own Chemung County Master Gardener and Master Composter, Peg Weidemann. Visit the CCE Chemung Facebook page for the Zoom meeting link.

Also starting this week, the Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program is offering a Fall Pasture Management Series to prepare for a productive 2021 season. Topics include late season weeds (Sept. 3), soil sampling (Sept. 10), and adjusting fertility (Sept. 17). All webinars are on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm. Preregistration is required and the registration fee is $25 for the series. Printed copies of the notes and CDs of the lecture recordings are available upon request.

Speaking of feeding livestock—have you had a chance to check out the new NYS Forage Exchange website?! The drought this summer has reduced the quality and quantity of forages produced in the state, so CCE has created a website that allows agricultural producers to purchase and/or sell forage. See for yourself at http://nysforageexchange.com/. In addition to the drought, the pandemic has hit many farms hard. Here is a quick reminder that Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) applications are due Sept. 11! Eligible commodities for CFAP include non-specialty crops, wool, livestock, dairy, specialty crops, nursery crops and cut flowers, aquaculture and eggs. I have heard from numerous sources that it is a fairly straightforward application and small farmers are strongly encouraged to apply. It’s not every day the government is giving out handouts to farmers—take advantage of it! Contact your local FSA office or go to https://www.farmers.gov/cfap to learn more.

Design Your Succession Plan is a 4-week program that will help your family create a shared vision for the future of your farm. The program is offered via Zoom, but will include a workbook and access to an online learning platform. The registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 30 and the cost is $60 per family. The program will run from 6:30-8 p.m., October 8, 15, 22. and 29. Contact your local CCE office for more information.

The Chemung County Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10th. You can pre-register starting Sept. 16th by calling Toni at (607) 734-4453.

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With the change in seasons, it’s also time for the fall and winter business to draft their NY Forward Business plans. (Maple syrup farms, I’m looking at you!) Please reach out to us—we’re more than happy to share our resources. We’ll all get through this crazy year together…

Until next time,
Liz Alexander, CCE
Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca* (above photo, left side), is a rough, weedy native perennial, commonly occurring in fields, open woods, waste areas, and roadsides throughout the eastern United States. It blooms from June to August with fragrant, pale pink blossoms in nodding, round umbels. Stems and leaves exude a milky sap when damaged. Large, warty seed pods (2-4" long) split open when ripe, releasing numerous silky-tailed seeds to be dispersed by the wind. Common Milkweed easily grows from seed, but also spreads rapidly by rhizomes and can form extensive colonies.

Milkweed is best known as the host for the monarch butterfly, which lays its eggs on the plant. Monarch caterpillars can only feed on milkweed leaves, while the monarch butterfly can feed on other plants and many insects visit milkweed flowers. There are many species of *Asclepias*, but *A. syriaca* and *A. incarnata*, the swamp milkweed, are favored by monarchs for egg laying.

Swamp milkweed (above photo, right side), is more attractive than common milkweed. The fragrant flowers are a more intense pink and the leaves are narrower and thinner. You don’t need a swamp to grow it, though *A. incarnata* does prefer moist soil; it can be grown in normal garden settings. Best, it is less aggressive than common milkweed. While writing this article, I happened upon some in a swampy area of Welseyville Creek, in the town of Caroline.

The flowers of the genus *Asclepias* are some of the most complex in the plant kingdom, comparable to orchids in complexity. Five sepals and five petals reflex backwards and what looks like petals are actually the corona (as opposed to the corolla, which is a grouping of flower petals). The corona has five hoods containing the nectar and also a curved horn structure. In the center of the corona is a compound structure called a gynostegium, a fused column of stamens and styles. Each of the five anthers is split into two halves located near the top of the gynostegium. Instead of pollen grains, the pollen is contained in sacs or pollinia, which are carried by insects from flower to flower. The insect feet must land precisely between the anther halves to pick up a pollen sac as they drink the nectar in the hoods and then the pollen sac must be deposited in a similar but empty location in a different flower.

In my first semester in college, my Botany professor, who was not young, got up on his desk on his hands and knees and demonstrated the gymnastics required by an insect to pollinate *Asclepias*. He was my favorite professor and *Asclepias* became my favorite flower.

There are over 70 species of *Asclepias* found in North America. The one most often grown in our gardens is the showy *A. tuberosa*, also known as the butterfly weed. It is shorter than common milkweed and the flowers can be orange or yellow or both. Butterfly weed emerges very late in spring so you have to be patient. While it grows easily from seed, it is slow to establish and may take 2-3 years to flower. It also does not transplant well due to its deep taproot. Once established, it will spread but is not invasive. *A. tuberosa* is not favored for monarch egg-laying.
but larvae have a high survivorship on the leaves, and it may be an important larval host later in the season.

The genus *Asclepias* was formerly in its own family, *Asclepiadaceae*, which is now classified as the subfamily *Asclepiadoideae* of the dogbane family, *Apocynaceae*. There are two common, native dogbanes that look similar to milkweed, *Apocynum cannabinum* or Hemp Dogbane and *Apocynum androsaemifolium*, spreading or fly-trap dogbane. Both plants have more branching in the upper half of the stalk than milkweed and the leaves are narrower. The seed pods are long and narrow with silky-tailed seeds that are also wind-dispersed. The flowers are not at all like *Asclepias*, though they are in umbels. Hemp dogbane has little white flowers that barely open (left photo), while spreading dogbane has pretty, bell-shaped flowers which are white with a pink stripe (right photo). Hemp dogbane has fibrous stems that persist all winter and were once used to make rope. *Apocynum* species are attractive to butterflies and other insects but are not a host for monarch larvae. Both species are toxic to humans (and dogs, hence the name dogbane).

Other members of this family are the invasive swallow worts, *Vincetoxicum rossicum* and *V. nigrum*. Both have long seedpods with wind-dispersed seeds similar in appearance to Dogbane. Swallow wort will also spread via rhizomes.

Other references:

https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/

https://wildadirondacks.org/adirondack-wildflowers-spreading-dogbane-apocynum-androsaemifolium.html

https://tellus.ars.usda.gov/stories/articles/which-milkweeds-do-monarch-butterflies-prefer/


**Got Flies in your Home?**

I know I do, and this time of year it seems they all want to come inside my home, especially my kitchen. I am going to try growing lemon balm in a pot in my kitchen—the citronella in the plant repels flies!

Try it!

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**Got Extra Produce? Share it on a Harvest Share Table!**

There are five Harvest Share Tables in Tioga County! This a great place to share your extra garden produce and fruit, and it helps families put nutritious, free food on their dinner plate. This year, even more than other years, the Harvest Share tables are helping gardeners help their neighbors.

I know that one great gardener put a bushel of tomatoes on one table and almost all of the yummy tomatoes were gone within a day!

Go to: http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/harvest-share-tables-share-gardens-bounty to see the closest Harvest Share table to you.
Design Your Succession Plan

“Empowering families to get started on their succession plan.”

Online Zoom Series Coming to NYS!

How will your family farm operate in the future when the owner retires or is gone? Are you currently working with another generation who may be questioning their role in the future of the farm, or are you yourself questioning your current role?

More than 80 percent of farm families hope to pass the family farm on to the next generation, but research shows only 30 percent of family farms survive to the second generation, and only 12 percent survive to the third generation. A successful transition to the next generation takes careful planning.

To help NYS farm families start their succession planning process, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators will be utilizing a new interactive program designed by North Dakota State University Extension, Design Your Succession Plan. This program will provide tools and resources to begin the succession planning process.

Participants will have an opportunity to open lines of communication with family to create a shared vision for the family business. They also will learn to choose and work with professional attorneys, accountants, lenders, insurance agents, and tax experts to construct a plan and documents that put the family's vision into action.

"The program will prepare you to envision, communicate, plan, write, and shape the legacy of your family farm or ranch business, as well as save hundreds of dollars by completing these crucial planning steps before visiting with professionals," said Bonnie Collins, Farm Business Management Educator, CCE Oneida County.

This program is being offered via Zoom. The cost is $60 per farm family and includes a workbook valued at $20. The registration deadline is Thursday, September 30 to ensure on-time delivery of the program workbook. In NYS, the program will be offered as a 4-evening remote course via Zoom in conjunction with an online learning platform used between meetings. The program will run from 6:30-8 p.m., October 8, 15, 22, and 29. Contact your local CCE educator, contact information below, or visit http://cceoneida.com/ for more information.

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Support Local Farms and Local Farmers

Some websites to explore:

**Buy Local Food**—a searchable website with farmers who sell direct to consumers. You can narrow your search for product and location: [https://buylocalfoodny.org/](https://buylocalfoodny.org/)

**Finger Lakes Farm Country**—an agritourism website, but includes maple, honey, and other products available for sale: [https://fingerlakesfarmcountry.com/](https://fingerlakesfarmcountry.com/)

**Meat Suite:** buy quantities of meat from local suppliers: [https://www.meatsuite.com/](https://www.meatsuite.com/)

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**Knotweed Biocontrol Released in NYS**

Dr. Bernd Blossey checking on Knotweed Psyllid (*Aphalara itadori*). Photo Credit: Dr. Stacy Endriss.

Japanese knotweeds (*Reynoutria japonica, Reynoutria sachalinensis*, and their hybrid *Reynoutria X bohemica*) are widespread and invasive, causing negative impacts on eco-systems and economies in the US, Canada, and Europe. This invader is extremely difficult to control, and managers seek environmentally friendly alternatives to annual herbicide treatments. Biological control (biocontrol) uses selected species from an invasive species’ native range to control the invasive species in its introduced range. When successful, this approach permanently suppresses the invader and is more targeted than chemical methods.

After extensive testing and review by federal agencies (USDA/APHIS), on March 20th, 2020, the Knotweed Psyllid (*Aphalara itadori*) was approved for release in the U.S. as the country’s first biocontrol agent for Japanese knotweed. This sap-sucking insect native to Japan was later released on June 10 (during NY Invasive Species Awareness Week) by Dr. Bernd Blossey and colleagues at Cornell University. A week after releasing the 2,000 *A. itadori* adults at two locations in New York’s Tioga and Broome counties, the researchers found the insects had successfully laid thousands of eggs. The releases in New York State are part of a nationwide effort with similar releases made in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, West Virginia, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington State.

The psyllid was previously released to manage knotweed in the UK and Canada, but in both countries failed to establish and build large enough populations to affect knotweed. The Blossey lab remains cautiously hopeful for success of *A. itadori* releases, however they will explore for additional safe but more effective biocontrol organisms in Japan and China. This work in NYS is led by Dr. Bernd Blossey (phone: 607-227-1572; email: bb22@cornell.edu) in collaboration with the NY Invasive Species Research Institute and funding from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
Treat Yourself to Three Minutes of Beautiful Gardens

I have always wondered what it would be like being a bird flying through a garden. What would it feel like? I got my answer when watching this amazing drone flight through the gardens of Longwood.

Enjoy! Watch this.

State Agencies Encourage Public to Report Findings of Invasive Pest

The New York State Departments of Agriculture and Markets (AGM), Environmental Conservation (DEC), and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) today confirmed that Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), an invasive pest from Asia, has been found on Staten Island. Several live, adult insects were discovered by OPRHP staff in Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve. SLF (see photo below) is a destructive pest that feeds on more than 70 plant species, including tree-of-heaven, and plants and crops that are critical to New York’s agricultural economy, such as maple trees, apple trees, grapevine, and hops.

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, “The Department is working closely with its partners at the Department of Environmental Conservation, the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to mitigate the impacts of this destructive pest, which can weaken plants and have a devastating impact on agriculture. While this find on Staten Island is concerning, New York State has taken strong actions to combat the establishment of SLF since 2017. We will continue our work to survey and inspect high-risk areas and implement targeted management plans. We also urge the public to be vigilant and report any suspected sightings of SLF to help slow the spread of this invasive.”

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, “Since Spotted Lanternfly was first discovered in neighboring states, DEC has worked aggressively with the State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, USDA and other partners to educate New Yorkers and take steps to prevent this invasive species from establishing itself in New York State. This invasive pest has the potential to severely impact and stress New York’s forests, agricultural crops, and tourism industries. The first live find on Staten Island is concerning, but our goal remains to find Spotted Lanternfly early and prevent it from further entering New York State and limiting any serious threats to our natural resources.”

State Parks Commissioner Erik Kulleseid said, “Spotted Lanternfly poses a troubling threat to the environment and agriculture of New York State but also to the quality of recreational opportunities and experiences we offer in our State Parks and public lands. I applaud our Parks’ environmental stewardship staff for identifying this pest, so New York State can quickly begin taking steps to slow its spread.

Spotted Lanternfly
Park visitors across the state can help in identifying and reporting this destructive pest, and I urge them to familiarize themselves with its signs.”

Following the finding by OPRHP, AGM, working with DEC, OPRHP, and the USDA, immediately began extensive surveys throughout the area. Crews will continue to survey areas on Staten Island, develop management plans to slow SLF’s spread, and minimize the damage and impact from this invasive species.

AGM urges New Yorkers to report potential sightings using the web reporting tool found here: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a08d60f6522043f5bd04229e00acdd63

SLF feedings can stress plants, making them vulnerable to disease and attacks from other insects. SLF also excretes large amounts of sticky “honeydew,” which attracts sooty molds that interfere with plant photosynthesis, negatively affecting the growth and fruit yield of plants, and impacting forest health. SLF also has the potential to significantly hinder quality of life and recreational activities due to the honeydew and the swarms of insects it attracts.

First discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014, SLF has since been found in New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Virginia. Given the proximity to the Pennsylvania and New Jersey infestations, New York State is at high risk for infestation.

Since 2017, AGM, DEC, and OPRHP have taken an aggressive approach to keeping SLF from establishing in New York State, conducting surveys of high-risk areas across the State; inspecting nursery stock, stone shipments, and commercial transports from quarantine areas; and launching a comprehensive education and outreach campaign to enlist the public’s help in reporting SLF.

While these insects can jump and fly short distances, they spread primarily through human activity. SLF can lay their eggs on any number of surfaces, such as vehicles, stone, rusty metal, outdoor furniture, and firewood. Adult SLF can hitch rides in vehicles, on any outdoor item, or cling to clothing or hats, and be easily transported into and throughout New York.

The public is encouraged to thoroughly inspect vehicles, luggage and gear, and all outdoor items for egg masses and adult SLF before leaving areas with SLF, particularly in the counties of states in the quarantine area—Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Virginia. If SLF adults are found, residents should remove them and scrape off all egg masses.

Residents can also help by allowing surveyors access to properties where SLF may be present. Surveyors will be uniformed and will always provide identification.

Identifying SLF

Adult SLF are active from July to December. They are approximately one-inch long and half an inch wide at rest, with eye-catching wings. Adults begin laying eggs in September. Signs of an SLF infestation may include:

- Sap oozing or weeping from open wounds on tree trunks, which appear wet and give off fermented odors.
- One-inch-long egg masses that are brownish-gray, waxy and mud-like when new. Old egg masses are brown and scaly.
- Massive honeydew build-up under plants, sometimes with black sooty mold developing.

For more information on Spotted Lanternfly, visit https://agriculture.ny.gov/spottedlanternfly.

CCE Tioga Welcomes T Hanson, Executive Director

T Hanson, the new executive director of the CCE Tioga office has enjoyed getting to know the people of Tioga County—but she is no stranger to Tioga, she grew up in Owego! Please welcome T to the CCE family.
Green practices can mitigate climate emissions on NY farms

By Krishna Ramanujan | Cornell Chronicle  August 13, 2020

New York agriculture has the capacity to mitigate its own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, two Cornell researchers say in a state-funded report commissioned by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The 65-page report, *New York Agriculture and Climate Change: Key Opportunities for Mitigation, Resilience, and Adaptation*, provides a scientific assessment of opportunities and barriers supporting climate adaptation and mitigation practices on New York’s farms.

It comes on the heels of the *Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act*, which Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law last year. The law mandates that all sectors of society mitigate 40% of GHG emissions by 2030, and 85% by 2050.

“This report provides a pathway for farmers, policymakers and citizens to increase productivity and the greenhouse gas mitigation of the land while also attempting to ensure a less variable climate for future farmers,” said Jenifer Wightman, a research associate in the Soil and Crop Sciences Section of the School of Integrative Plant Science, in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the report’s first author.

“In an industrialized state like New York, we need every sector to step up and make a contribution to mitigating climate change,” said co-author Peter Woodbury, senior research associate in the Soil and Crop Sciences Section. “There’s the opportunity to do that with agriculture and forestry while also getting other benefits” such as improved profitability and cleaner air and water, he said.

Though people mostly focus on carbon emissions, the authors said it’s important to account for three greenhouse gases produced on farms: carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

“It’s not commonly known, but methane and nitrous oxide account for 75% of agricultural emissions,” Wightman said, noting that methane is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a GHG, and nitrous oxide is 264 times more potent, making them important mitigation targets.

The report identified practices that remove GHGs more permanently from the atmosphere, as opposed to temporary fixes. Planting trees, the researchers wrote, can sequester carbon for hundreds of years if harvested for building materials that store carbon for the life of the structure.

“Because climate change is a 100-, 300-, 1,000-year project,” Wightman said, “we want to make sure that we’re supporting projects that lead to permanent greenhouse gas emission reductions and aren’t just temporary.”

The report includes a table that ranks 13 mitigation opportunities based on the scale at which they could be implemented, and whether they met important criteria. These standards were summed up by the acronym SMART – for “services” or co-benefits of an action; whether a strategy is “measurable,” “achievable” and “realistic” to implement; and whether the action provides a more permanent mitigation “time” frame.

The top five SMART mitigation actions were:

- **Manure storage cover and flare**: Storage units improve water quality by reducing manure spreading in winter months, but they create methane. By adding a cover to collect the methane and adding a flare, the methane can be destroyed. These systems last up to 20 years, cost $300,000 and remove large amounts of methane making it an inexpensive GHG mitigation for society, though it is a high cost per individual farm;

- **Nitrogen management**: Nitrogen inputs help plants grow, but ineffective use results in nitrous oxide emissions. Improving nitrogen use saves money, can increase yields and reduce ammonia and nitrous oxide emissions;

- **Livestock feed management**: Increasing feed efficiency can reduce cow methane emissions, decrease feed costs while increasing milk produced and decrease manure, all of which lessens GHG emissions;

- **Woodland management**: More than 21% (approximately 1.4 million acres) of farmlands are wooded. By protecting, maintaining and managing woodlands, farms can conserve and enhance this important New York state carbon sink while generating valuable hard wood timber to support retirement or a child’s college education; and

Activation of underutilized lands: About 1.7 million acres of underutilized or former farm land in New York state could be

A manure cover and flare, pictured here on Fessenden Farm in King Ferry, New York, can improve water quality while also destroying methane. Photo by Tim Fessenden
Growing Herbs indoors

By Jan Beglinger, Agriculture Outreach Coordinator for CCE Genesee

Herbs have been cultivated for thousands of years and were valued for religious and medicinal reasons. Herbs have also been used for dyeing fabric, repelling insects, making teas, seasoning food and the occasional craft project. An outdoor herb garden can be of formal design or herbs can be added to the flower bed. They make excellent plants for containers as they generally require minimal water or fertilizer. Grown outdoors, herbs are relatively pest free and wherever they are planted herbs attract beneficial insects, bees and butterflies. Most culinary herbs are Mediterranean in origin, so you need to give them similar conditions whether you are growing them inside or out. If you love to cook with fresh herbs, try a windowsill herb garden this winter.

Light is the most important element of your indoor herb garden. Herbs require at least six hours of direct sun light. A south facing window or western exposure may supply that, but they will need some supplemental light during our short winter days. Abundant light is required for plants to produce the oils that give herbs their flavor. When using supplemental lighting, place herb plants no closer than five or six inches, but no farther than 15 inches from the light source. If you are growing herbs from seeds you can place seedlings under two 40-watt white fluorescent bulbs for 14 to 16 hours. Use a combination of cool and warm bulbs to get a broad light spectrum. Without enough light herbs will be leggy and less flavorful. If all you have is a windowsill, plant your herbs in containers that can easily be rotated so that all sides of the plant receive light and to insure that the plant grows uniformly.

In addition to sunshine, herbs need well-drained soil to grow their best. A potting mix of equal parts sand, commercial potting soil, peat moss and perlite will provide an excellent medium for growing herbs indoors. Use clay pots when potting up your herbs as they are more porous and allow for better soil drainage than plastic pots.

Water-logged soil can be the death of herbs especially in winter. Overwatering can result in root rots. Rosemary does not tolerate overwatering or cold damp soil. Do not water herbs with softened water from a water softener as the high sodium content can harm plants. While herbs appreciate reduced watering during the winter, allowing them to become too dry is also bad. Containers should have a drainage hole for excess water to drain out. Be sure to have some kind of saucer under the pot to catch that water. An unglazed clay saucer will let moisture pass through. Empty any excess water that collects in the saucer so plants aren’t standing in it.

Indoor herbs prefer daytime temperatures around 65 to 70 degrees F and night time temperatures of 55 to 60 degrees F. If you are growing your herbs on the windowsill, keep the foliage from touching the glass when it is cold outside. While most herbs can survive temperatures that are in the mid to low forties, some cannot. Basil, for example, cannot survive temperatures below 50 degrees F.

Herbs grown indoors will need some fertilizer, but don’t overdo it. Feed herbs with a low dose of water-soluble fertilizer every two weeks. Over fertilizing will mean more leaves but may negatively affect the aroma and taste. Soil pH should be between 6 and 7 for most herbs.

Whiteflies, mealybugs, spider mites and aphids are the main indoor pests that may take a liking to your herb plants. If insects do appear, a soapy solution can be used to control most pests. Mix up one to two tablespoons of a mild dishwashing soap to one gallon of warm water. Spray infested plants with this solution once a week as long as pests are visible. Check the plants to make sure that the soap solution does not discolor or otherwise affect the leaves. If this does happen, decrease the amount of soap used. Discontinue use if the leaves still look discolored or abnormal. Rinse leaves off before you use them.

The most popular reason for growing herbs indoors is to cook with them. Using fresh herbs in your recipes during the winter is a great pick me up. Culinary herbs that grow well indoors with limited space and light include: chives, parsley, mint, thyme, oregano, basil, rosemary and sage. Harvest young, tender stems that have not bloomed for the last 20 minutes of cooking. Fresh herbs are usually added to recipes toward the end of the cooking time to preserve their flavor. Less delicate herbs, such as thyme, oregano and sage, should be added during the last 20 minutes of cooking. When using fresh herbs in a recipe that calls for dried herbs, the general guideline is to use three times the amount of dried herbs indicated.

Having even a small indoor herb garden can provide a much needed breath of summer during the winter months.

Resources: Michigan State University, National Gardening Association, Missouri Botanical Garden, Bonnie Plants, Penn State University and University of Nebraska.
New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health — $1500 Available to STOP COVID on your Farm!

With the generous support of a grant from the Community Foundation for South Central New York, the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health is offering a matching fund program to assist farmers in preventing the spread of COVID-19 infection on their farms.

Projects may include, but not limited to:
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies
- Protective clothing, masks and face shields
- Lockers, etc. for personal worker clothing and items
- Time clocks, tele-video equipment, signage
- Hand washing stations and touchless soap dispensers
- Employee monitoring kits
- Air filters and ventilation
- Plexi-glass installation
- Picnic tables and single use dinnerware

For more details, a list of project ideas, and an application, please call 800-343-7527 or email StopCOVIDOnFarms@bassett.org.

2020 Fall Pasture Management Series

A timely, research-based virtual series focused on fall pasture management to prepare for a productive 2021 season.

Amy Barkley, Livestock and Beginning Farm Specialist with the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program.

Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program (SWNYDLFC) is committed to continuing to provide farmers with timely information to help promote their success. In this series, Josh Putman, Field Crops and Forage Specialist, and Amy Barkley, Livestock and Beginning Farm Specialist, will explore pasture management from its most basic perspective: soil health. Soil testing, followed by proper soil amending, is a cost-effective first step to reducing weed pressure and getting the most out of pastures for years to come.

This joint-taught series focuses on three timely topics: late-season weed ID and management; soil sampling, preparation and submission; and interpreting soil test reports and adjusting fertility. The series will run on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm from September 3rd – September 17th. The sessions will include time for questions. Details and registration.

Pasture and Grazing Management for sheep and goat producers go to https://extension.psu.edu/pasture-and-grazing-management to register

Penn State, Sept 8 & 15. 7pm ET

The Pasture and Grazing Management webinars will focus on pasture and grazing management practices for sheep and goat producers. The webinars will help you address soil fertility, select pasture forage species, develop good grazing and pasture management skills, and keep your animals healthy throughout the grazing season.

USDA is surveying farmers for their opinion.

This new, annual survey will evaluate USDA customer service and help us identify areas for improvement. The survey consists of 20 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Responses are confidential, and individual responses will be aggregated. The survey will be launched August 6, 2020, and will remain open for 6 weeks or until a 30% response rate is achieved.

Don’t know about VegEdge? It is a newsletter produced by the Cornell Vegetable Program with LOTS of useful information on vegetable production – including high tunnel/greenhouse production. You can find out how to subscribe at https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/newsletter.php
PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE REMOTE GROWER TRAINING

Completion of this online course will:
1. Earn an Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) certificate (one per farm)
2. Satisfy the "FSMA Produce Safety Rule" for your farm (below)

MATERIALS PROVIDED
- A manual (including curriculum module slides and slide notes)
- References and a glossary
- FSMA-specific information

CONTENT COVERED:
- Worker health
- Hygiene
- Soil amendments
- Wildlife
- Agricultural water
- Post-harvest handling and sanitation
- Developing a Farm Food Safety Plan

Requirements
For this course, please ensure you have:
- Access to high-speed reliable internet
- A webcam turned on during the sessions
- A computer/laptop to participate in the Zoom sessions

SAFETY RULE
The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires ‘At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.’

This training will be held on November 10th-12, 2020, from 12:30-3:30pm each day via Zoom

$30 PER FARM

Please register before November 1st using the link below:
https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2020remotepsatraining_203
USDA is providing critical support to our nation’s farmers and ranchers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb sales losses and increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act (CARES Act) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act authorized the funds for the CFAP. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administer the program.

FSA is accepting applications for CFAP from May 26, 2020, to September 11, 2020.

Who is Eligible?
Eligible producers (person or legal entity) of specified agricultural commodities who have suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and who face substantial marketing costs for inventories are eligible for CFAP payments. These specified commodities include certain specialty crops, non-specialty crops, wool, dairy, aquaculture, nursery crops and cut flowers, eggs, and livestock.

For a list of eligible commodities and payment criteria, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

USDA may reconsider excluded commodities if credible evidence is provided. More information about request for consideration of additional commodities can be found at farmers.gov/cfap.

Producers may have some commodities that are currently eligible for CFAP while others are not. Producers are encouraged to apply for CFAP now for their eligible commodities. If a commodity is added to the program, producers will have an opportunity to amend their application.

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must either:
- have an average adjusted gross income of less than $900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018; or
- derive at least 75 percent of their adjusted gross income from farming, ranching, or forestry.

Persons and legal entities also must:
- comply with the provisions of the "Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation" regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions;
- if a foreign person, provides land, capital, and a substantial amount of active personal labor to the farming operation; and
- not have a controlled substance violation.

Payment Limitation
CFAP payments are subject to a per person and legal entity payment limitation of $250,000. This limitation applies to the total amount of CFAP payments for all eligible commodities.
New York State Forage Exchange Announced

Within New York State several regions have experienced drought conditions reducing the quality and quantity of forages produced for dairy and livestock production. To help agricultural producers locate forage to purchase, or for producers that have forage to sell, Cornell Cooperative Extension announces the NYS Forage Exchange website, nysforageexchange.com

The NYS Forage Exchange provides a free system to match potential sellers and buyers of forage within New York State. Sellers can easily register within the system and then post the forage they have available to sell. Potential purchasers can browse the advertisements, and then contact the seller through email for additional information or to complete purchase arrangements.

Watch this screencast on how to use the NYS Forage Exchange.

This is a moderated website, so all ad submissions are reviewed for appropriateness before publication on the forage exchange website. The information provided is general and educational in nature. Employees of Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension do not endorse or recommend any specific product or seller listed on this site.
Tracking the Consolidation of US Agriculture

I came across the paper published by the USDA’s James MacDonald and found it enlightening—he shows clearly how US agriculture has consolidated into larger farms. While his paper can be technical to read, I encourage anyone who is interested in the state of US agriculture to give it a go and read the paper.

Here is the link to the pdf of the paper: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/aepp.13056

And here is the web version: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/aepp.13056

Below are two tables from his paper. The first shows an increase in microfarms, a decrease in mid-sized farms, and a doubling of the largest farms (over 2000 acres).

The consolidation in the livestock sector is marked. Every sector showed an increase, often a huge increase, in the number of animals per farm.

### Table 2 US Farms, by the Number of Cropland Acres Operated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cropland acres operated</th>
<th>1987</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any cropland</td>
<td>1,848,574</td>
<td>1,475,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–9</td>
<td>186,761</td>
<td>282,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–49</td>
<td>486,778</td>
<td>490,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–99</td>
<td>302,671</td>
<td>202,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100–999</td>
<td>783,180</td>
<td>400,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000–1,999</td>
<td>66,546</td>
<td>57,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1,999</td>
<td>20,638</td>
<td>42,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cropland</td>
<td>445,362,028</td>
<td>396,433,817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Cropland acres operated includes cropland owned and rented, and excludes cropland that is rented out.

Source: Author’s calculations based on confidential farm-level records from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture.

### Table 3 Consolidation in Livestock Sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>1987</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broilers</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>681,600</td>
<td>744,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fed cattle</td>
<td>17,532</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>42,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogs and pigs</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>51,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkeys</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>137,246</td>
<td>157,000</td>
<td>168,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef cows</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg layers</td>
<td>117,839</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>872,500</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk cows</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Half of all animals are on farms with at least as many animals as the midpoint, and half are from farms no larger than the midpoint.

Source: Author’s calculations based on confidential farm-level records from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture.
YOUR WAY TO SMART HOME
ENERGY SAVINGS!

GET A FREE PROFESSIONAL HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT
AND QUALIFY FOR:

1. **Empower New York**— Provides incentives for families making below 60% of the state median income ($57,564 for a family of 4). This covers 100% of the cost of qualified Energy Efficiency Improvements, up to $10,000 through 12/31/20, such as insulation, air sealing, new refrigerator and lighting.

2. **Weatherization Assistance Program**— Provides Additional Energy Improvements at no cost.

3. **Assisted Home Performance with Energy Star**— For families making below 80% of the state median income ($115,128 for a family of 4 through 12/31/20) This covers 50% of Additional Energy Improvements such as additional insulation and a heating system up to $5000.

GET RENEWABLE HEAT INSTALLED FOR ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES

Renewable Heat NY incentives are available toward the installed costs of high-efficiency, low emission wood heating systems for customers not currently using natural gas.

- **Wood Pellet Stoves**— Get $1500 - $2500
- **Wood Pellet Boilers**— Get up to $41,000
- **Cord Wood Boiler**— Get up to $12,000
- **Air Source Heat Pump**— Get up to $1000/10,000 BTU - Provides heating AND cooling
- **Ground Source Heat Pump**— Get up to $15,000/ $500,000 - Provides Heating AND cooling

GET COMMUNITY SOLAR— GET YOUR SOLAR FROM A LOCAL SOLAR FARM!

1. **Solar for All**— Save $10 avg/mo. Eligible households can subscribe to community solar for free. Income eligibility based on families making below 60% state median income ($57,564 for a family of 4).

2. **Subscription Solar**— Get 5-10% off the current electric rate.

3. **Purchase**— Get solar energy credited to your utility bill monthly from panels you purchase for your own property or on a community solar farm. Get tax credits and rebates that cover up to 50% of the cost-or-more.

For questions or if you would like a FREE Home Energy Assessment, Contact one of our Community Energy Advisers:

**Broome, Tioga, Chemung, Chenango Counties**: Eileen Hanrahan t. 607.366.0833 eeh85@cornell.edu

**Delaware County**: Valerie Dudley t. 607.865.6531 vsd22@cornell.edu

**Schuyler, Steuben Counties**: Phil Cherry t.607.535.7161 pc526@cornell.edu

**Tompkins County**: Karim Beers t. 607.272.2292 kwb6@cornell.edu
Funds to Become Certified Organic


“For producers producing food with organic certification, this program helps cover a portion of those certification costs,” FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. “Contact your local FSA county office to learn more about this program and other valuable USDA resources, like farm loans and conservation assistance, that can help you succeed.”

To Market, To Market

Tuesdays from 9:00am - Noon

October 6th - November 10th

This exciting six-week class will help you develop a product or service from start to finish! Local CCE Educators Mariane Kiraly, David Cox, Nicole Tommell, Laura Biasillo and Jim Barber have partnered to offer “To Market, To Market,” a six-part series to be held virtually and in-person at four regional locations to make your learning experience comfortable, safe, and flexible.

Participants will learn how to develop and screen an idea, analyze current trends, develop a budget, consider cash flow, determine pricing, manage marketing and distribution, access funding, test a prototype, consider legalities, manage risk, navigate regulations, and much more. A logical, process-oriented curriculum will lead to dynamic business plans that create new economic opportunities in the region.

This series will run Tuesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3 and 10, 9:00 a.m. – noon. We hope that most will attend virtually as space is limited at each association meeting room at Hamden, Cooperstown, Cobleskill, Norwich, and Binghamton to allow for social distancing.

The cost is $25 per person for entire series. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Pre-registration is required at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/to-market_212. “To Market, To Market” is supported by the Chobani Community Impact Fund at the Community Foundation for South Central New York.

Dairy Tales! Watch wonderful short films on Tioga County Dairy Farms

If you are a user of Facebook, I have a suggestion for you. “Like” the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District and treat yourself to a series of short films on local dairy farms. You will meet the hard-working folks who farm the land and provide the healthy dairy products your family enjoys.

And while you are at it, “like” CCE Tioga or Chemung!

Looking for Something to Do? Visit the CCE Tioga Master Gardeners’ Demonstration Garden!

Did you know there are many distinct gardens at the demonstration gardens: from roses, unusual shrubs, from an herb garden to a shade garden, and a butterfly garden and more, they are all here!

Come anytime to 56 Main Street in Owego and wander around. The gardens are beautiful and here for your enjoyment and to learn about new plants.
The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) is offering financial assistance to farm operations for repairs and upgrades that help make for a safer workplace. Funds of up to $5,000 are available on a first-come, first-served basis to applications approved through the John May Farm Safety Fund. For additional information, to download an application or to see videos of funded projects, go to https://www.nycamh.org/programs-and-services/john-may-farm-safety-fund.php, call 800-343-7527 or email at jmfsf@bassett.org<mailto:jmfsf@bassett.org>.

Attention: Gardeners: Creation of a new American Rose Society Chapter! There are many gardeners who grow roses or would like to grow roses in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier who would be greatly served by having a local chapter. A local club would provide opportunities for meeting gardeners throughout our region, learning about growing roses, and visiting private and public gardens featuring roses. The counties in our region could include: Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins. If you are interested, please contact me. It would be great to have our first meeting sometime this winter. Lee Ginenthal, Der Rosenmeister Nursery derrosenmeister@gmail.com 607-351-1336

NYS Grown & Certified Opens Applications for Honey Producers- NYS Grown & Certified has expanded to include honey producers. To be eligible, honey producers must harvest 100 percent of their honey in New York, complete Cornell University’s Honey Food Safety Best Practices Manual test, and label their honey products according to standards set in the Best Practices Manual. Applicants must also submit the Honey Bee Health Information form and have a bee health inspection every two years. For more information and to apply, please visit certified.ny.gov.

News from Cornell Small Farms

Farming in cities isn’t new, but lately there has been a resurgence of interest. We are seeing more new farms in urban spaces across NYS. Whether in rural or urban environments, we want to see all small farms thrive. The more people who identify as farmers, the better!

How are we helping urban farmers? Years ago, we created the “Guide to Urban Farming in NY,” which mirrors our guide for rural farming (look for the update coming soon). In 2019 we published “The Promise of Urban Agriculture,” which summarizes the critical factors and specific recommendations to support the success of commercial urban farmers. We will now be sharing these findings into online classes. Last April, we started engaging community educators and urban farmers on how to grow, process and market specialty mushrooms, such as oysters, shiitake and lion’s mane. While COVID-19 has propelled us to get creative with online teaching and learning, enthusiasm about growing mushrooms is catchy! Our research on production and economics of mushroom growing will help urban (and rural) farmers make better decisions.

Finally, we have started to develop new training materials and online classes for indoor farming, such as greenhouses and vertical farms. Some of these systems take a lot of investment, but others can be done for lower cost and as part of urban farms or community gardens (aka mushrooms!). Stay tuned for these classes over the next couple of years.

Which brings me to our suite of online classes! Registration is now open for the upcoming season, and we even have a few new courses this year.

Ask a Sista Farmer Facebook Live Series Hosted by Soul Fire Farm

Soul Fire Farm has been hosting Black womxn farmers every Friday on Facebook Live to discuss gardening, livestock, agroforestry, plant medicine, and food preservation. The next season will begin in September, and they are currently seeking new presenters. Learn more.

Northeast Farmers of Color Webinars

The Northeast Farmers of Color (NEFOC) Land Trust is hosting a series of webinars this year about land-based wealth redistribution, land tenure, and economic strategies. The next event will be on Monday, August 31, at 6 p.m. about “Cooperative Land Tenure.” Learn more and register.

Toolkit to Communicate the Value of Native Plants

Interpreting the Science: A Toolkit to Communicate the Value of Native Plants is a project completed for the degree of Master of Professional Studies in Horticulture specializing in Public Garden Leadership from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. The Public Garden Leadership program is a joint program of Cornell Botanic Gardens and the Horticulture Section of the School of Integrative Plant Sciences, CALS. Jessica Brey is the author and photographer of all content in this tool kit unless otherwise noted. To reproduce any content in this tool kit please contact her. To download the toolkit: https://www.jesbrey.com/interpretation.
Chemung County Farmers’ Markets

Elmira East Side
Location: 760 East Water St. next to Riverview Holiday Inn
Season: Mid-June - Early October
Day: Friday 2:30—6:00 PM
Contact: Danielle Howie, 607-734-4453ext 216; dkh54@cornell.edu
Vendors accept: FMNP, SNAP

Elmira Grove Park
Location: Grove Park, between Walnut Ave. and Grove St.
Season: June - October
Day: Monday 3 - 6 PM
Contact: Matthew Glenn, 607-546-4535; maglenn_1999@yahoo.com

Elmira Wisner Market
Location: Wisner Park on N. Main St. & W. Church St.
Season: June - September
Day: Thursday 10 AM—2 PM
Contact: Jennifer Herrick, 607-734-0341; info@elmiradowntown.com; Wisnermarket.org

Chamberlain Acres Garden Center
Location: 824 Broadway, Elmira
Season: year round
Day: Sunday, 11 AM - 3 PM
Contact: Glenn Miller, 607-737-1313
info@chamberlainacres.com

Tioga County Farmers’ Markets

Candor
Location: Candor Town Hall Pavilion, Route 96
Season: June 25 - September 3
Day: Thursdays 3:30 - 6:30 PM
Contact: Maria Cole, 607-972-5058; froglegs1711@hotmail.com
Vendors accept: FMNP

Owego
Location: Walgreen parking lot, corner Main St. & Central Ave.
Season: June - October
Day: Tuesday and Friday 9 AM -1 PM
Find us on Facebook!
Contact: John Purdy, 607-642-8439; bradenson@msn.com
Vendors accept: FMNP

Spencer
Location: Park across from Fire Dept., North Main Street
Season: June - September
Day: Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Contact: Stephanie Hafl, 607-589-7496; hafls@yahoo.com
Helping You Put Knowledge To Work

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and that provides equal program and employment opportunities.

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