Welcome

Welcome to the next generation of CCE Cortland Ag! We are so excited to be able to reach out to you and build our connection with the Cortland County agricultural community. The 'Ag Update' is a monthly newsletter, and for the time-being will cover all the agricultural sectors (this may change as we learn more about your needs). We would love it if this newsletter could serve as a jumping-off point for more communication between you and us - so please never hesitate to reach out - with questions, with comments, with conversation. We are here for you!

A quick note - we recognize that you may not want to receive these emails. To opt-out, simply click the unsubscribe button at the bottom of this email newsletter.

Getting to Know You, Our Farmers
Your voice matters, your questions matter, your needs matter to us – we hope you will take a moment and fill out this short questionnaire & help us learn more about you, our Cortland County farmers so that we can develop education and programming that best serves our agricultural community.

Link to the questionnaire: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1TZJknz7EcwCYxT

Meet the Cortland County Ag Team

In the next few newsletters, we'll be introducing you to the Cortland County Ag Team. In this edition of the CCE Cortland Ag Update, we are introducing you to our new Ag Team Leader, Dana Havas.
Dana Havas is our new Agriculture Team Leader, she has been engaged with the agricultural community for over the past decade and more directly connected with the CNY agricultural community since 2017, when she founded LocalFiber an organization that brings together the fiber-producing small ruminant community of the Finger Lakes. It was her work with LocalFiber that led her to pursue a master’s degree at Cornell University in Agricultural Applied Economics and a career at CCE. Her graduate work had her studying marketing and branding of regional value-added wool products, and analyzing how pre-farm gate systems, practices, and policies affect farm profitability.

She knew before she began her master’s degree that extension was where she wanted to build her career “I love that with extension I can put my feet on the ground and engage directly with the local agricultural community. I really enjoy working with communities and my goal is to work with the members of the Cortland County agricultural community and its stakeholder - learn about their needs, and then address those needs through CCE education and programming.”

The Ag Team Leader position has been vacant since August of 2019, leaving a lot of potential to rebuild and renew this vital component of CCE Cortland. You can be a part of this process by filling out the survey above, contacting Dana at (607)391-2664 ext. 405, and/or e-mailing her at dmh353@cornell.edu

Items of Interest and Other News

Just Plant It NY - Backyard Composting
(an excerpt from CCE Cortland's Website)
- written by Claudia Hitt Horticulture Program Educator -

Composting, the verb, is the act and art of recycling and reusing kitchen waste and garden refuse, along with all kinds of other organic materials to create compost the noun, something akin to soil. It is the magic of making something wonderful out of stuff we throw away. I just harvested a whole wheel barrel full of compost and have spread it on my raised rows in my garden as a soil amendment.

There are many types of composting systems – The Three Pallet system, the Welded Wire Bin, Containers, Barrels that spin, Lasagna layering in a pile, Vermi, and many more for you to consider. Your objective for composting and the amount of compostable material you generate will help you determine what system is the best for you. The location you choose could also have an influence on the type of system you pick. Some are easier to look at than others. Remember that water is needed for composting, so choose a site with access to water...

keep reading at http://cortland.cce.cornell.edu/gardening

NYS Livestock Survey - Addressing Slaughterhouse

Dialing In Your Dairy
Struggles
(reposted from Cornell Small Farms)

If you raise animals for meat in New York State, you are no stranger to the complicated logistics and roadblocks that exist in getting animals to slaughter. For many producers, the COVID-19 pandemic has made access even more difficult.

We are collecting information to communicate with policy-makers the scope of the problem from farmers’ perspectives — both pre-COVID-19 and during this pandemic — and to help determine possible solutions. To do this, we are asking NYS livestock farmers to take a survey. This survey focuses on the species you send to processing and the facilities that you use for those species.

Take the survey here:
https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eDq2ujYtbOZqK2yx

BIPOC Farmer Relief Fund
(reposted from NESAWG toolkit)

Are you a BIPOC farmer or fisherperson that has been impacted by COVID-19? The Northeast BIPOC Farmer Relief Fund is now accepting applications from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or People of Color) producers with priority for those who use sustainable, regenerative or environmentally sound practices and who contribute to their community in some way. Funded by Farm Aid, this fund will provide $500 relief payments for up to 200 applicants. Applications are open until August 10, 2020. For more information, visit nesawg.org/bipoc-covid-farmer-fund. Visit pasafarming.org/relief to apply!

COVID Farm Assistance Program
(reposted from USDA website)

"Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19."

If you're a farmer, you're likely eligible and it is fairly easy to sign-up. Learn more at https://www.farmers.gov/cfap

State Legislation will protect farmer's ag tax assessment
(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)

Senate Agriculture Chair Jen Metzger (SD-42) and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (AD-100) this week passed a bill (A10464/S8464A) to ensure farmers negatively affected by COVID-19 do not lose their agricultural property tax assessments. Nationally, many farms have seen a big decline in revenues, and dairy farms have taken a particularly big hit, many being forced to dump their milk. Currently, agricultural operations are required to have at least $10,000 in gross sales over two years for farms over seven acres in size and $50,000 in gross sales for those under seven acres. The Gunther-Metzger bill provides that farms that met the requirement before the pandemic would continue to receive the assessment despite the potential reduction in sales.
Food Safety Practices Found to Increase Sales for Small Farms
(reposted from Cornell Small Farms)

Previously perceived as a financial burden to small-scale farmers, food safety practices have now been shown to open new markets to producers, leading to an overall gain in revenue.

A new study led by Todd Schmidt, an associate professor in Cornell University’s Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, surveyed New York farmers who had participated in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) training programs to assess the costs and returns of food safety improvements. Overall, the study showed that the benefit-cost ratio was 4.61, on average, which means that the benefits of implementing food safety practices are almost 5 times the overall annual costs.

Upcoming Workshops

**On-Farm Poultry Processing Workshop**
(re-posted from CCE Allegheny Co.)
July 27th
Online

"This workshop will provide the required training to meet the needs of small-scale poultry producers wanting to process under the NYS 1000 bird exemption. They will cover the processing of birds and demonstrate proper techniques for dressing poultry along with reviewing requirements for selling poultry under 1000 bird exemption in New York State. Workshop participants will learn to recognize diseases of public health concern, take basic biosecurity measures, write and implement basic Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures, develop Good Manufacturing Practices, and an understanding of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point plans, along with properly dispose of offal and management of wastewater."

**Manage Forage in Drought Workshop**
(re-posted from CCE North Country Ag Team)
July 30th & August 4th
Online

"They are timely material about saving your pasture (we are in a bad drought up here in the North Country) and planning for possible forage shortfalls for winter. Please feel free to join in. They are aimed at livestock farmers and grass dairies and others who use pasture and home grown feed. There is a small fee to attend on Zoom."

**Direct 2020: Virtual Conference for Your Farm Business**
(re-posted from NCAT: ATTRA)
August 4th
Online

"This free online conference will provide farmers with access to the best practices, minds, and insights to build a direct-to-market business. Learn how quality, brand, price, and convenience provide four levers for your farm to succeed in selling direct."

3-night Aggie Beef Course
"On Aug. 11, participants will learn about how cattle grow and develop in the feed yard, how to evaluate the carcass quality and cutout from live animal characteristics, and about beef carcass quality and yield grading.

For the second session on Aug. 12, participants will learn what happens as the beef carcass is merchandised into the different meat cuts, how much bone and fat are in a carcass, and how much of a carcass is made up of the high-priced meat cuts such as tenderloin and ribeye.

To close out the course on Aug. 13, participants will hear production experts give helpful pointers on maximizing the value of cattle through genetics and beef management practices."

We'd greatly appreciate any feedback. Feel free to contact us at any time (607)391-2664

Copyright © 2020 Cornell Cooperative Extension Cortland County, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.