Welcome

The weather is cooling down and late summer - early fall activity is in full swing for both the farmers in our community and here at CCE Cortland County. This past month we were excited to get a few initiatives off the ground and are looking forward to continuing them well into the future.

We hosted our first "Cortland Ag Coffee Hour" on Wednesday Sept.16th, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. It was a great little, relaxing, get-together outside the 4H building at the Cortland County Fairgrounds. Fay Benson joined us to talk about drought & whole farm insurance and otherwise, we talked sheep, crops, pricing, and just good ole conversation. The next Ag Coffee Hour is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st (more information below) - we hope that you can join us.

We also hosted, together with CCE Tompkins County, a "Virtual Open Farm Days – September is for Apples!!! " This event was on Monday, September 21st from 7:00 - 8:00 pm and highlighted farmers and value-add producers in our respective counties. Matt Hollenbeck from Hollenbeck's Cider Mill was highlighted from Cortland County. You can watch the recorded event here and access the online magazine here (which includes apple maps of Cortland and Tompkins Counties, apple recipes, apple facts, and farmer bios).

We look forward to you joining us when you are able. Look for upcoming events at the bottom of this newsletter.

Finally - We are working on building a text alert system. This system will only be used for items that are deemed important to the Cortland Ag Community at large (e.g. updates on the proposed livestock law, and NYS wage board hearings). If you would like to receive these text alerts please answer this questionnaire (all answers are optional but to receive text alerts we will need your cell number and carrier).

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

Over the past few newsletters, we've be introducing you to the Cortland County Ag Team. In this edition of the CCE Cortland Ag Update, we are introducing you to our Farm To School Coordinator.
Emily Fusco is our AmeriCorps Service member working on developing the Farm to School Program in Cortland County. Emily began her work at CCE in May of 2019. Over the past year she has run an outreach campaign to get the word out about Farm to School. She tabled at farmers markets, school open houses and school fairs with educational information about the Farm to School program. She also gave a presentation about the benefits of Farm to School at a Cortland County Rotary club meeting and the Cortland Counts Forum. Her main focus with the program has been providing education lessons about the importance of local food, cooking with local food, and providing taste tests to various schools in Cortland County. She hopes to continue these education lessons in the upcoming school year and get more Cortland County students interested in the value of local food. In addition, Emily hopes to build school gardens and have students participate in farm field trips to further connect Cortland County students to their food. She believes our current food system creates a disconnect in people's minds about where food comes from and that working in a garden and becoming connected with local farmers is the best method to mend this disconnect and create a greater appreciation for food!

In addition to working at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County as an AmeriCorps Farm to School Service Member, Emily is also a graduate student at Binghamton University. She is pursuing a double master’s degree in Public Administration and a Master’s of Science in Sustainable Communities. Emily has a passion for the environment and wishes to use her degree to develop and improve communities in a way that protects the environment and allows the community to thrive socially and economically. She believes Farm to School is a wonderful program that helps achieve this goal by connecting students to their food and growing their appreciation for nature, while at the same time supporting local agriculture and minimizing the environmental impact of food miles.

If you have questions about the Farm to School program, contact Emily at 607-391-2675 or email her at ekf39@cornell.edu.

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Items of Interest and Other News

**Drought Insurance for Forages**

*(an excerpt from the SCNY Dairy & Field Crops blog)*

- written by Fay Benson SNCY Extension Agent-

Pasture Rangeland and Forage (PRF) crop insurance was developed for producers that produce forage for their animals or for sale. It covers the single peril of drought. The basis of this insurance is on data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Their historical records for precipitation go back 50 years, which allows them to calculate the average rainfall for an area. When the
rainfall for the period chosen by the producer falls below the average rainfall plus a deductible, an indemnity check is mailed to the producer. **The sales closing date is November 15, 2020.** This leaves farmers a short time to learn about the policy and decide whether it would help their farms. The following are some of the basics of the policy.


**Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program - Round 2 now OPEN**

Round 2 of the Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program (CFAP) is now open until December 11, 2020. Many more products are eligible in this round, so it is worth attempting to apply for this assistance aimed at farmers who continue to ‘face market disruptions and associated costs due to COVID-19.’

If you have any questions or need assistance contact the local FSA office at (607) 753-0851

You can learn more at [farmers.gov/cfap1](https://farmers.gov/cfap1)

**USDA Proposes a "Strengthening Organic Enforcement" - Comments Due October 5th**

(reposted from September eNews NOFA-NY)

*This Rule* is the biggest major change to the Organic Rule since its original implementation. It will update and modernize the organic regulations to strengthen oversight and enforcement and reduce fraud in the organic marketplace. It will also implement provisions from the 2018 Farm Bill, and some recommendations from the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

Submit comments [here](https://www.labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/farm-laborer-wage-board.shtm?fbclid=IwAR3abyo0DgBVEH55-GJtO_sY10jOwtMdYqbXSBbCWgkc7j19fk78PEE-iA)

**Final Wage Board Hearing Scheduled for 09/30 at 6 pm**

(from NYS Department of Labor website)

Under the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act, which Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed into law in 2019, farm laborers became entitled to overtime premium pay starting on January 1, 2020, for any work that they perform in excess of 60 hours per week, and for work performed on their designated day of rest.

As part of that act, the Commissioner of Labor is required to convene a farm laborers wage board to hold hearings and make recommendations as to overtime work and, specifically, the extent to which the overtime threshold for farm laborers can be lowered below 60 hours per week and whether any such reductions should be phased in through a series of successively lower thresholds. Register to speak or send an email: [https://www.labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/farm-laborer-wage-board.shtm?fbclid=IwAR3abyo0DgBVEH55-GJtO_sY10jOwtMdYqbXSBbCWgkc7j19fk78PEE-iA](https://www.labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/farm-laborer-wage-board.shtm?fbclid=IwAR3abyo0DgBVEH55-GJtO_sY10jOwtMdYqbXSBbCWgkc7j19fk78PEE-iA)

**Review the Paycheck Protection Program with Farm Credit East**

(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)

ENFIELD, Conn. — Join Farm Credit East on Wednesday, September 30 at 9:00 a.m., for a webinar that will present a recap and update on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness process.

While Northeast businesses and employees have benefitted from loans approved through the PPP, the second critical step is to achieve maximum forgiveness of the loan. This webinar will discuss the latest guidance from the Small Business Administration on Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness. Along with this review, consultants Keith Dickinson and Erin Pirro will answer attendees’ specific questions about how to make sure they’re ready to apply.
USDA Risk Management Agency Announces Modifications to Whole-Farm Revenue Protection

(reposted from ATTRA)

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced modifications to the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) program to decrease paperwork and recordkeeping burdens for direct marketers beginning with the 2021 crop year. Participants in stakeholder meetings recommended RMA decrease the requirements for reporting yield and revenues for each commodity, which is especially difficult for direct marketers who may sell several commodities through a roadside stand. The newly implemented modifications allow growers to report two or more direct-marketed commodities as a combined single commodity code with a combined expected revenue for all commodities.

Agricultural businesses that received a PPP loan are encouraged to attend this free webinar. For more information and to register, visit FarmCreditEast.com/Webinars.

Estimating Winter Hay Needs & Quality

(reposted from Cornell Beef Cattle Management Blog)

With the exception of some baleage or an unusual dry spell, most hay has been made for the season. As forage yields across the state have been 20-40% below normal, an inventory is important information to have. If you are lucky and have a surplus, this may be a good year to sell some forage as a cash crop. If you’re in a deficit, then you need to reduce cow numbers or buy forage – neither of which is an attractive choice.

For a forage calculator and information on harvest, storage and quality go here.

Trump & Biden Outline Ag Priorities

(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)

WASHINGTON — A new look into the priorities for rural America of President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden is revealed in responses to a questionnaire distributed by the American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF asked the Republican and Democratic candidates to respond with their stances on several topics directly affecting America’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities, including trade, labor, regulatory reform and sustainability.

Read more at https://www.morningagclips.com/trump-biden-outline-agricultural-priorities/

Cornell Maple Program Releases new Notebook

(reposted from Cornell Maple Blog)

The latest volume in the Cornell Maple Program Notebook series is now available for free download. In this volume, Sugarbush Management Notebook, topics range from improvement thinnings to regeneration, to pest and disease control, and leasing the sugarbush. Additionally, there is a new tool available on the “Sugarbush Management” page of the CMP website to follow along with the Notebook and access external resources.

Get the notebook here.

Available Grants

Organic Certification Cost Share Program
applications due Nov. 2nd
"OCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). Certified operations may receive up to 50 percent of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed $500 per certification scope."

If you have an idea and are interested in pursuing this grant opportunity call Dana at CCE Cortland (607)391-2664

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**SARE Farmer Grant**

applications due Nov. 17th

"Farmer Grants are for commercial producers who have an innovative idea they want to test using a field trial, on-farm demonstration, marketing initiative, or other technique. Farmer Grant projects should seek new knowledge other farmers can use and address questions that are directly linked to improved profits, better stewardship, and stronger rural communities. A technical advisor—often an extension agent, crop consultant, and other service professional or farmer with advanced expertise—must also be involved. Projects should seek results other farmers can use, and all projects must have the potential to add to our knowledge about effective sustainable practices."

Grants are capped at $15,000 and projects can run up to two years.

If you have an idea and are interested in pursuing this grant opportunity call Dana at CCE Cortland (607)391-2664

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**The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH)**

First come, First serve

"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](https://www.nycamh.org/programs-and-services/john-may-farm-safety-fund.php), call 800-343-7527 or email at jmfsf@bassett.org."
If you have any questions regarding this event please feel free to contact, Ashley McFarland at 315-604-2156 or am2876@cornell.edu

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**Women In Ag Coffee Hour**  
(CCE Cortland & Madison Counties)  
Wednesday, Sept. 30th  
Online

"CCE'S Madison & Cortland are teaming up for a Women in Agriculture discussion about life on the farm, general wellness, and food!

REGISTRATION: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/septwia_225"

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**Positioning Your Livestock Business for Financial Success: A Financial Management Workshop for Livestock Producers**  
(CCE Albany Co.)  
Wednesdays Sept. 30th to Nov. 18th  
Online

"How do you feel, financially, about your livestock business? What information would help you feel more comfortable with the decisions you make?

CAAHP CCE Educators Dayton Maxwell and Steve Hadcock are offering a seven-week workshop series on farm financial management for livestock producers.

This workshop series will help you better understand the financial position of your livestock business. A better understanding of your financial position will help you use what you learn to make your business thrive."

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**To Market, To Market**  
(CCE Delaware)  
Tuesdays October 6th to Nov. 10th  
Online

"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 and Jim Barber have partnered to offer “To Market, To Market,” a six-part series to be held virtually and in-person at five 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.

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**Design Your Succession Plan**  
(SCNY Dairy & Field Crops Team)  
Thursdays Oct. 8th to 29th  
Online

"Four weekly Zoom sessions with CCE educators and professionals - including accountants and attorneys - will prepare you to envision, communicate, plan, write, and shape the legacy of your family farm business.

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."

Register by Sept. 30th

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**Wool Classification Workshop**  
(CCE CNY Livestock & Field Crops)  
Oct. 13th  
Online

"This virtual event we will discuss the different types of fleeces there are and how they would be classified. Sheep producer's looking to sell their fiber this would be a great event to attend to learn what your sheep are producing and how to potentially market this undervalued product.

The Zoom link will be sent out to the registrant's email."

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**Virtual: Swine Production 101**  
(CNY Livestock & Field Crops)  
Oct 20th  
Online

"The swine production 101 workshop will be held virtual. We will discuss the basics of raising swine and go over the proper nutrition and animal husbandry that is required to achieve your greatest potential for your herd. This is a beginner's course.

The Zoom link will be sent out to the registrant's email."

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**Cortland Ag Coffee Hour**  
(CCE Cortland)  
Wednesday, Oct 21st
"Join us for the Cortland Ag. Coffee hour - a free (donations welcome) monthly gathering for the farmers which make up our Cortland County Agricultural community. The location will change month-to-month.

Each coffee hour will include a guest who will talk about a topic relevant to the Cortland county ag community. This month's guest is Mary Kate Wheeler of the CCE South Central NY Dairy & Field Crops Team. Mary Kate will talk with us about farm grants & loans. Conversation and discussion with each other and with our guests IS the reason for getting together and plenty of time will be made to ensure we have this opportunity to say hello and catch-up."

Virtual: Sheep & Goat Production 101
(CNY Livestock & Field Crops)
Oct 27th
Online

"Sheep and goat farms are becoming more common over the past few years. There has been quite a few questions being asked across the board when it comes to these two small ruminants. This virtual workshop will go over the basics of raising sheep and goats. This course is open to all areas of expertise but please know we will cover the majority of beginner topics.

The Zoom link will be sent out to the registrant's email."

Remote Produce Safety Alliance Growers Training
(CCE Broome)
Nov. 10th to 12th
Online

"Join Virtual PSA Trainers on November 10th-12, 2020, from 12:30-3:30pm each day via Zoom to gain your required food safety training by the Food Safety Modernization Act and many 3rd party food safety audits, such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

PSA Trainers will spend approximately seven hours of instruction time covering content contained in the area of worker health, hygiene, soil amendments, wildlife, agricultural water, post-harvest handling and sanitation, along with how to develop a Farm Food Safety Plan. Activities and interaction time among peers will also occur each day to meet the requirements from AFDO and the Produce Safety Alliance related to attendee engagement."
Each participant farm will receive a manual. The manual includes curriculum module slides and slide notes divided by tabs with learning objectives. Additionally, references, a glossary, and FSMA-specific information is included. Registration is required by November 1st in order to ensure each farm receives the manual prior to the course beginning."

 virtual pesticide application courses for recertification
(penn state)
whenever you'd like
online

"Interactive online courses available for pesticide applicators to earn recertification credits at their convenience."

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

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