CCE Cortland Behind the Scenes

It's been a fairly active month at CCE Cortland, we've had the opportunity to meet and talk with a number of our farmers - which is by far my most favorite part of the job! I (Dana) enjoy learning and hearing about what you do, and more importantly what you need, and am now developing the CCE Cortland Ag Calendar for 2021 in response to so many of these conversations. So thank you to everyone who I've had the opportunity to talk with and learn from. If you haven't heard from me please do reach out, I'd love to hear about you and your farm or farm-related business.

Just a few highlights from this past month include:

- Organized a Solar & Ag Coffee Hour for THIS SATURDAY, December 5th (together with CCE Tompkins) - register here and/or learn more below
- The Annual Meeting for CCE Cortland is TONIGHT, December 2, 2020, via Zoom. We hope you will join us. Registration is required. (Learn more and sign-up here)
- Developed a variety of virtual farm tours and Q&A documents to be used by our schools (and anyone else interested in Cortland County agriculture).
  - The videos can also be found on our YouTube channel
- Working with Randall School in Cortland to build a school garden (the garden bed is going in this week!)
- Developed a 4-H Feeder Calf project (learn more and sign-up here)
- Worked with Farmland for a New Generation to help land-owners find farmland seekers and farmland seekers find land.
- Worked one-on-one with some of our farmers as they prepare to open their seasonal businesses safely in this time of COVID-19
  - Don't hesitate to reach out we are here for you!

...and much more in the works that we will share as time goes by!

**Sign-up for our Ag Alert texting system.** Emails are often overlooked, and when important information comes around (such as the new labor law or the livestock law that was discussed in the recent past) people need a way to learn about these pertinent items quickly and efficiently. A text alert system has been developed to meet that goal, but you must sign-up to receive them. To sign up please [fill out this questionnaire](#) (you do not need to fill out everything if you don't want to, but to get the text alerts we at least need your cellphone number and service provider).

**Other Cortland County Ag-related organization news**

CCE Cortland is not the only organization in Cortland County that serves the farm community and we want to do our best to keep you up to date on some of the other institutions in our community working for
you!

Don't forget to check out the **Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District** website [www.cortlandswcd.org](http://www.cortlandswcd.org) and follow them on Facebook for program updates. Their annual Conservation Field Days has gone virtual this year and you can check it out [here](http://www.cortlandswcd.org).

If you haven't already heard, **Seven Valleys Health Coalition** was awarded a USDA grant to address Local Food Promotion in Cortland County. In talking with many farmers over the past few months I know how much the community needs this attention. We are all really excited to see this project move forward and thankful for their work in addressing this topic! Learn more about Seven Valleys Health Coalition [here](http://www.cortlandswcd.org).

**Cortland County Farm Bureau** is preparing for its statewide meeting - where statewide agricultural policy initiatives will be brought forward and in turn, will be introduced to the state legislature. Learn more about Cortland County Farm Bureau [here](http://www.cortlandswcd.org).

We have two agricultural-related USDA offices located here in Cortland County the **USDA-NRCS** (Natural Resource Conservation Service) & **USDA-FSA** (Farm Service Agency). Both of these agencies are here to help our farmers. NRCS "provides farmers with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation o the ground..." while FSA "serves farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of federal agricultural programs". You can find both of their contact information [here](http://www.cortlandswcd.org).

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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.

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Do you like what you're reading? Please share with your friends and if you're not a subscriber already click [here to subscribe](http://www.cortlandswcd.org).

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**Items of Interest and Other News**

**CFAP 2 Is Accepting Applications until December 11th** *(reposted from farmers.gov/cfap)*

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? USDA is implementing Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19... CFAP 2 provides producers with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb some of the increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more here: [https://www.farmers.gov/cfap](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap)

**Agri-businesses of all kinds need to watch for COVID 'hot-spots'**

As the winter months approach, COVID-19 numbers are on the increase, and this will impact our agricultural businesses, especially those who are open to the public. We recommend that all agricultural businesses become familiar with the [cluster zones](http://www.cortlandswcd.org), [what businesses are deemed essential](http://www.cortlandswcd.org), and the [NY Forward Plan](http://www.cortlandswcd.org). While much of agriculture is considered an essential business, it is good to be aware of the potential adjustments you will need to make if a cluster was to arise in your area.
If you need any help or assistance in reviewing these documents and/or your agricultural business please reach out to Dana at (607)391-2664

Additional resources:
- Cornell Small Farms Best Management Practices
- Cornell Ag Workforce Development

Spotted Lanternfly, an Invasive Pest Threatening Grapes and Other Crops, Found in Ithaca, NY
(reposted from Northeastern IPM Center)

A population of spotted lanternfly (SLF) has been found in Ithaca, NY, just off the Cornell University campus.

They were found on their favorite host plant, another invasive species, the tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima). However, SLF also feeds on many other trees and plants, which, unfortunately, includes grapevines. With New York State’s important Finger Lakes grape-growing region and wine industries so close to Ithaca, state agencies and researchers are particularly concerned about this pest’s impact in the region.

Read more here

2021 ARC and PLC Enrollment Is Now Open
(reposted from FSA Nov. 2020 Newsletter)

Agricultural producers can now enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, two popular safety net programs, for the 2021 crop year. Interested producers must sign up for either program by March 15, 2021.

Learn more here

A Whole Farm Approach to Managing Pests
(reposted from SARE)

SARE has published a 16-page bulletin that helps producers—and the educators who work with them—use ecological principles to design farm-wide approaches to control pests. It lays out basic ecological principles for managing pests and suggests how to apply them to real farm situations—along with cutting-edge research

Help Researchers Identify a More Sustainable Alternative to Conventionally Used Plastics in Farming

As we know, thousands of square miles of worldwide agricultural land today utilize polyethylene mulch for crop production. Over the last several decades, however, polyethylene—the polymer used for products such as grocery bags, shampoo bottles, and children’s toys—has become an environmental plague throughout the planet. A federal grant, matched by New York State and RIT, is enabling university researchers to study a competitive solution for identifying a more sustainable alternative to conventionally used plastics in farming.

Fill out the survey here and You can read the press release here.

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.

The Effects of COVID on Food and Farming are Studied by Cornell CALS & CCE
(reposted from Cornell CALS)

In this series of nine discussion papers, Cornell CALS experts seek to provide perspectives and insights on the impact of COVID-19 to selected
examples and anecdotes from farmers using such strategies in their fields. Ecological pest management principles create healthy crop environments and contribute to improved productivity on the farm or ranch.

Learn more [here](#).

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**Mandatory Sick Leave NYS**

The New York State Budget Bill signed by Governor Cuomo in April 2020 enacted a new sick leave law that requires all employers in New York, regardless of size, to provide annual sick leave to their employees:

- For employers with 0-4 employees: if net income is $1 million or less, employer must provide up to 40 hours of unpaid sick leave. If net income is greater than $1 million, employer must provide up to 40 hours of paid sick leave
- For employers with 5-99 employees: the employer must provide up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per calendar year.

The paid sick leave law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2021. However, employers are already required to start accounting for hours worked by employees as employees began accruing leave Sept. 30, 2020, 180 days after the budget bill was signed. Details and frequently asked questions on New York State's Paid Sick Leave program are available [here](#).

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**Looking for farmland? Looking for a farmland seeker?**

Are you a landowner in search of a farmland seeker (or a farmland seeker in search of a landowner)? Farmland for a New Generation New York helps farmers seeking land and landowners wanting to keep their land in farming. On their website, you can register to post a farmer or a farm property profile, search for farmers or search for farmland, learn about upcoming events, browse resources, and contact organizations throughout New York State.

Need help? Contact Dana at (607)391-2664 or dmh353@cornell.edu

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**Fire Preparedness and Prevention on Farms**

(reposted from NY Monthly Harvest - the NY Ag & Markets [Newsletter](#))

As the weather turns colder and we approach the winter season, it’s more important than ever to be aware of fire safety to prevent fires at home and on farms. The number of structural fires can increase during colder months, as items like space heaters and candles are used more frequently. According to Cornell’s Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), a house fire can become life-threatening within two minutes, and a home can be fully engulfed in flame within five minutes. When a fire takes place on a farm, many other precious resources are in danger of being lost as well – like animals, hay, grain, equipment, buildings, and more.

Fortunately, through some simple prevention and preparedness measures, you can reduce the risk of fire on your farm and protect your family, your animals, and your livelihood.

Prepare

Prepare to respond to a fire on your farm by following these steps:
create a safety plan, including evacuation routes and meeting places for people and animals. go over the plan with your staff.

invite the local fire department to tour the farm each year and review your safety plan with them. they may spot some areas to improve the plan.

it is important to have several fire extinguishers located around your farm and to check regularly that they’re in working order. remember, fire extinguishers are only helpful if used properly, so make sure staff members are trained to use them. it’s vital to put fire extinguishing power in the hands of emergency-trained employees.

install a fire alarm system. quickly alerting everyone to danger is critical for a safe evacuation. monitored systems also alert the fire department to automatically dispatch help to your location. there are also special requirements for flammable liquids storage. check with your local codes authorities to see what is appropriate.

regularly check any equipment you would use during an animal evacuation to make sure it is readily available and working, and that staff know how to use it.

have animals appropriately and uniquely identified. rfid tags and an inexpensive rfid reader allow for easy and stress free tracking of animals during emergency movement.

make sure any hazards on your farm are clearly posted (chemicals, physical hazards) so that assisting emergency personnel are not put in harm’s way.

keep bolt cutters within easy reach in your barn to cut tie stall neck chains quickly and easily.

prevent

take steps to make sure that fires are less likely to take place on your farm by following these steps:

- as a rule, prohibit smoking in or around the barn, park tractors and vehicles away from the barn, and store machinery and flammable materials somewhere else.

- store your hay properly. damp, incompletely cured (dried) hay can generate heat through a bacterial reaction during the curing process, and can get to the point of spontaneous combustion. measure the heat of your baled hay by inserting a temperature probe.

- inspect electrical equipment and wiring regularly and correct any problems.

- always plug major appliances directly into a wall outlet; never use an extension cord. unplug small appliances when you are not using them.

- replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away. use extension cords for temporary purposes only. avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under a carpet or rug. do not overload power strips and use power strips that have internal overload protection.

- keep lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs away from anything that can burn. use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.

- do not overload wall outlets. insert plugs fully into sockets. never force a three-prong cord into a two-slot outlet.

- it’s also important to review and inventory stored chemicals. write out an inventory sheet and keep a copy handy in an easily accessible location. this inventory helps facilitate an accurate appraisal of the danger level in your chemical storage area and can also help emergency responders put out chemical fires more effectively. during the inventory process, make sure all your chemicals are stored in properly labeled approved storage containers on stable, wall-secured shelving. the storage area should be out of direct sunlight and away from sources of heat. segregate chemicals that could interact, such as acids and bases or organic materials and oxidizing mineral acids.

- flammable and combustible materials are least likely to cause health problems or fires if they’re stored in a cool, well-ventilated space. the ventilation your storage area requires depends on the amount and type of chemicals stored there.

learn more

there is always more to learn to help you prevent and prepare for a fire on your farm. more information about fire prevention and preparedness is available at https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/other-hazards/fire/. additionally, visit https://agriculture.ny.gov/fire-prevention-checklist for a printable farm safety checklist.
Upcoming Workshops

**Solar Ag Coffee Hour**  
(CCE Cortland & CCE Tompkins)  
Dec. 5th, 6:30 - 8 pm  
Registration required - Online

Solar development in New York State will be governed by a new Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES). Learn how the ORES regulations will impact agriculture in our communities, and how to share your opinion about the regulations. Join us for a coffee hour presentation and conversation where guest CJ Randall, Lansing Town Planner, will give an overview of:

- what is being proposed
- how agriculture is addressed in the proposed regulations
- and how to submit comments before the comment period closes on December 7th.

**Practical Solutions to Increase Lamb and Kid Survival**  
(re-posted from Penn State Extension)  
Dec. 8th, 7 - 9 pm  
Registration required - Online

The Practical Solutions to Increase Lamb and Kid Survival webinar will discuss sheep and goat gestation diets, how nutritional requirements increase in late gestation, and how nutrition impacts lamb and kid survivability. In addition, this webinar will explore simple management factors that increase the likelihood that lambs or kids survive to weaning.

**Storage Crop Facility School For Small Scale Vegetable Farmers**  
(re-posted from U Wisc Extension)  
Dec. 8th, 9 - 2  
Registration required - Online

Join us for this one-day storage focused event, where speakers from across the Northeast and Midwest will be presenting on challenges and updates surrounding vegetable storage! On December 8th we'll be focused on smaller-scale storage of mixed vegetables, and hear talks on storage construction and management, tactics for better storage, and disease control on a smaller scale. We’ll hear presentations on funding opportunities, farm food safety considerations for storage, and grower opportunities with the NYS Farm to School program. We invite you to join in as you can.

To register, or if you have any questions about this event, please email Margie Lund at mel296@cornell.edu and include the name(s), phone number, and email of those who plan to attend, as well as which day(s) you would like to attend.

**Thinking of Starting a Red Meat Packing Plant in NYS?**  
(CCE Livestock PWT)  
Wednesday, Dec 9th, 12 - 1:30 pm  
Registration required - Online

2020 has been a challenging year for livestock farmers and red meatpackers in NY. With many packers already booked solidly for 2021, livestock farmers are feeling panicked about how to get their animals harvested in a timely way. This has driven unprecedented interest in opening new slaughterhouse facilities in the state. But anyone who doesn't already have a strong background and expertise in the industry faces a steep learning curve, with high risk and a large investment of money.
Inspired by Annies Project
(re-posted from CCE North Country Regional Ag Team)
Dec. 9th & 15th 6:30 - 8 pm
Registration required - Online

Come and get "Inspired by Annie's" with Bonnie Collins and Laura Biasillo, NYS Annie's Project facilitators, as we discuss issues specific to farm women during a FREE 2 session program! We'll have guest speakers, engaging presentations, and offer best practices, tools and resources farm women can start implementing as soon as they leave the webinar! Only women are allowed to ensure a safe atmosphere for discussions

NYS Advanced Shearing School
Dec. 11th & 12th
Joardanville, Herkimer Co.

The shearing school for advanced shearers will be led by Doug Rathke, a well-known shearer and shearing instructor from Minnesota. For more information, contact Doug at 320-583-7281

How to Better Communicate with your Local Meat Processor
(re-posted from CCE North Country Team)
Dec. 18th, 7 pm
Registration required - Online

COVID-19 has encouraged families to raise their own meat, increasing demand for local meat processing. This online class will go over how to effectively communicate, prepare and plan with your local meat processor, understand the difference between USDA and custom cutting and Q&A with local meat processor, Tyler Ebersol, owner and operator of Ebersol’s Custom Cutting, Inc.

Funding Opportunities

Farm Storage Facility Loans
(re-posted from USDA-FSA)

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Farm Credit East Grants & Incentives for NE Agriculture Report
(re-posted from Farm Credit East)

This is a comprehensive list of grants and other incentives for agriculture throughout the northeast, including NY State, where you can find funding opportunities by state or by region.

National Rollover Protective Structure (rollbar) Rebate Program
(re-posted from ROPS4U)
rolling rebate opportunity

"The National ROPS Rebate Program (NRRP) is a voluntary program that provides rebates for approximately 70%* of the cost of purchasing and installing a ROPS (Rollover Protective Structure; rollbar) kit. This rebate covers the ROPS kit (rollbar and seatbelt), shipping, and professional installation, if desired"