

Farm Flash



Cornell Maple Program Resources

Submitted by Remi Link.

If you haven't had the opportunity to go to the Cornell Maple Program site, you will find an abundance of helpful resources including recipes, instructional videos on production and useful links among others things.

With the cancelation of the 2021 January Maple Producers Winter Conference, there are still opportunities to gain knowledge on the ever growing maple syrup production industry. Cornell Maple Program has created a podcast, Sweet Talk: All Things Maple. The podcast is currently live and on several platforms.

More information on the podcast and other maple related topics can be found at <https://blogs.cornell.edu/cornellmaple/> Let's be positive for 2021, regain our humor back and the drive that makes us who we are. Maple producers are a hard working bunch. Looking forward to a great 2021 maple syrup season.

February 2021



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CCE Oneida County Agriculture has a facebook group
Join our group today at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCEoneidacountyAgriculture/>

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

We need your help! We are trying to update our database to better serve you, Please email Linda Wightman LW343@cornell.edu with your contact information, Thank YOU!

Upcoming Events

Practical soil health: Cover crop management and termination Feb 9, 2021 TIME: 12:30-2:15

John Wallace, Penn State weed specialist and Mike Hunter NCNY CCE team agronomist will discuss residual herbicides used in corn and soybean production and their impact on fall seeded cover crops as well as herbicide selection to terminate spring cover crops.

NYSDEC credits 1.0 CCA credits 1.5 PM

To register go to this link: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/cover_230
And enter the information that is required.

Practical soil health: Compaction management Feb 16, 2021 TIME: 12:30- 1:40

An agronomist from Ontario, Canada will discuss sources of compaction in field crop production, technologies and practices that can reduce compaction. Use this link to register for the event:

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/compact_230

And enter the information to receive CCA credits will be available

Practical soil health: Video of a no-till planter and discussion of its components – video conference

Feb 23, 2021 TIME: 12:30-1:40

The components of a no till planter are discussed in this video. To be followed by a Q/A session including CCE staff and no-till farmers.

To register go to this link: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/notill_230

And enter the information that is required. CCA credits available

Practical soil health: Soil Health Practices in Dairy Systems - video conference

March 2, 2021 TIME: 12:30-1:40

This seminar features a farmer panel who share their experiences adopting reduced and no-till and cover crops. Changes in practices and adaptations for improvement are described. Panelists share the detail of practices used such as interseeding, seeding mixes, and tillage. Benefits include reduction in soil compaction and improved infiltration.

To register go to this link: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/soilhealth_230

And enter the information that is required. CCA credits available

Animal Handling and Down Cow Safety Training

Thursday **February 25th** 7 to 8pm:

CCE of Oneida County in a cooperative effort with NYCAMH (New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health) is offering a free Animal Handling and Down Cow Safety Training opportunity. This virtual program will be conducted using Zoom and will also update producers on the PTO replacement shielding kits available thru NYCAMH as well as information on the John May Farm Safety program. Please register by February 23rd by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/y2gxylk8>. For more information please contact Marylynn at mrm7@cornell.edu.

R2M Recipe to Market

CCE of Oneida County, in partnership with Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC), Rome Campus will kick off 2021 with a 6-part workshop series: Recipe 2 Market (R2M).

Weekly on Wednesdays **Feb 24 through March 31** from 5:30 to 8:30p Farmers and local aspiring new food business entrepreneurs have the chance to take advantage of accelerating their concepts. Our first five classes are virtual workshops led by experts across the field. Electronic handouts, case studies, and video tutorials will assist in creating a better understanding of the many parts of a value-added food business. Our final class will complete the series with the practice of product storytelling and a lab tour of the commercial kitchen. For complete details on this workshop series and to register please follow this link

<http://cceoneida.com/events/2021/02/24/recipe-2-market-r2m>

Value Added Producer Grant Program

February 3, 17, March 3 Time: 6:00-7:30pm Cost: No Charge

Registration: <https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1486>

Are you interested in learning about Value Added Producer Grants through the USDA? Join CCE Educators for a 3 session program brought to you by: CCE Madison & CCE Oneida County, Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Team and Central NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

February 3rd What is VAPG? Presenters: Myron Thurston and Nicole Tommell Description: Have you ever thought about applying for a Value Added Producer Grant through the USDA? Did you know that you could get up to \$75,000 to pay for planning costs or up to \$250,000 in capital costs associated with expanding value added products on your farm? This session will explain the basics of what the Value Added Producer Grant is, how it works, and what types of information you will need to fill out the extensive application form.

February 17th How do I apply for VAPG?

Presenters: Helen Madden, Bonnie Collins, Marty Broccoli Description: Now you have decided to apply for a Value Added Producer Grant. How do you fill out the application? How do you make your application as appealing as possible to the person who will review it? This session will outline the process of writing and submitting the Value Added Producer Grant. Our team of experts will walk through the application and make suggestions on how to make your application as strong as possible.

March 3rd How are VAPG applications selected for funding?

Presenters: Liz Higgins Description: Your application is ready but you want to be sure that you have included all the right information. What is that information? What will the person that is reviewing your grant application be looking for and how is that application scored? This session will be led by someone who has reviewed VAPG applications and can give some insight on what types of applications get funded. We will also discuss what the funding process looks like.

Paycheck Protection Program Round 2

Adapted from Syracuse SCORE, *submitted by Bonnie Collins*

Below is information we know so far, for PPP Round 2. Please review this information if you are considering for the first and second round of funding. The first step is to reach out to your financial institutions to discuss the application process and second to ask your accountants what they would need from you to document PPP loan forgiveness or available payroll tax credits.

PPP: Second Round

On December 27, President Trump signed the \$900B Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Businesses Act which includes \$325B for economic aid to small businesses. Of this, \$285B is earmarked for allowing eligible borrowers to obtain a second round of PPP funding. The application for doing so is due out this week, which should address some open issues around process and documentation. However, as with previous iterations, we would anticipate ongoing explication and clarification via FAQs and other pronouncements even after the initial rules are published. Here's what we know so far:

Who is eligible: small businesses, nonprofits, independent contractors, and sole proprietors, Borrowers must:

- Have 300 or fewer employees
- Have spent or be on track to fully spend their existing PPP loan
- Demonstrate a 25% or greater reduction in gross receipts in at least one full quarter of 2020 compared to the same quarter in 2019

Loan Size:

- The maximum PPP loan for any business is \$2M
- As in the first round, most borrowers will qualify for PPP funding of 2.5x average monthly payroll

Covered period: second-round PPP recipients will be able to designate a covered period of between 8 and 24 weeks, as opposed to the fixed 24-week (or, for early recipients who chose to elect it, 8-week) period required by the first round

Open questions:

- Documentation of economic impact: we do not yet know how borrowers will be asked to document the decline in revenues.
- Utilization of prior PPP: it is unclear how borrowers will demonstrate that they have expended or will spend all their first-round funds. We also await guidance on how the second round will impact -- or rely on -- the first-round forgiveness application.

Covered cost definition & documentation: many of the newer categories (see below) are fairly broad and will require additional definition

Important Changes for New and Existing PPP Recipients

The Act also includes important modifications to both first- and second-round PPP loans. These include:

- **Covered expenses:** while both PPP rounds still require that 60% of the forgiven amount be spent on payroll, the range of non-payroll spending eligible for forgiveness has been expanded for both groups to include:

- **Supplier Costs:** payments to suppliers that are essential to operations, made pursuant to a contract or order in effect prior to the covered period
- **Worker Protection Expenditures:** operating or capital expenditures made to comply with HHS, OSHA, or state requirements or guidance related to COVID-19.
- **Certain Group Insurance Payments:** group life, disability, vision, and dental insurance benefits.
- **Operations Expenditures:** software and cloud services to support business operations, product or service delivery, payroll processing, human resources, sales and billing functions or accounting.
- **Property Damage Costs:** property damage from vandalism or looting due to public disturbances in 2020 not covered by insurance.
- **Deductibility of forgiven expenses:** the Act reversed the earlier Treasury guidance to clarify that payroll and operating expenses eligible for forgiveness will also be deductible for tax purposes.
- **EIDL Advance no longer reduces forgiveness:** borrowers will no longer need to subtract the amount of any EIDL advance from the PPP forgiveness amount, meaning that both the PPP and EIDL advance can effectively be "forgiven" if requirements are met.
- **Simplified forgiveness application (for loans of \$150K or less):** The SBA will prepare a new, 1-page application for full forgiveness based on borrower certification. We would expect this to be similar to the Form-3508S application issued earlier.

Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program

We invite and encourage **all farm and non farm youth and adults** age *14 years and older* who will be working on or around machinery to participate in the program. Youth ages 14-15 working for someone other than their parents must have successfully completed this course in order to be legally employed on a farm. The program will be held at the VFW next to Clinton Tractor (49 Franklin Ave. Clinton, NY) on **February 16-18** from 8:30am-3:00pm each day. The cost for 4-H members is \$25. For non 4-H members the cost is \$35. Lunch and all program materials are included. **Pre-registration is required by February 8.** You can register online at: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/TractorSafety2021-2-2-2_221 or by calling the Herkimer County 4-H Office at 315-866-7920. This program is sponsored by Clinton Tractor and Implement Company as well as the Workforce Development Institute through a grant from the Department of Labor.

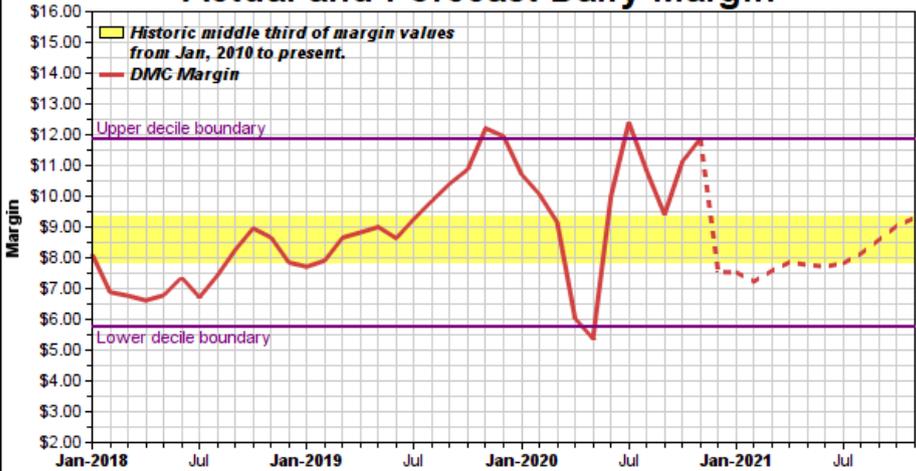
COVID Farm Business Mandatory Safety Plan Template

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf

Custom Rates Guide has been updated!

<http://cceoneida.com/agriculture/crop-production>

Actual and Forecast Dairy Margin



Updated 1/25/21

Current info as of 1.21.2020

2021 Cornell Guidelines and tentative release dates

Ordering options include print only, online only, and a bundle of print and online. You can check this link and for the 2021 version & order <https://www.cornellstore.com/books/cornell-cooperative-ext-pmep-guidelines>.

GUIDELINE	TENTATIVE RELEASE
Berry Crops	Late January 2021
Field Crops	Available NOW
Grapes	Early February 2021
Greenhouse Crops and Herbaceous Ornamentals	Late January 2021
Hops ¹	2018 Available now. No update for 2021.
Tree Fruit	Mid-January 2021
Tree and Shrub	Late February 2021
Vegetable Crops	Early January 2021
Pesticide Guidelines for Managing Pests Around the Home ²	Available now. No update planned for 2021.

¹ Last updated in 2018. ² Last updated in 2014.



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Oneida Co Soil & Water 315-736-3334

USDA Farm Services 315-736-3316

Oneida County Farm Bureau
1-800-342-4143

Farm Net 1-800-547-3276

High Forage Diets? Three Things to Consider

Submitted by: Marylynn Collins

Found this article to be a great reminder of the importance of striving for high forage quality, making the time to monitor and manage forage quality through analysis, and planning ahead in the off season to maintain and adjust harvest equipment to achieve the status of feeding a high forage diet.

The ambiguous title for this article is because the definition of high forage diets is vague and unique to different people. Technically speaking, a diet that is 50% forage or greater is a high forage diet - which could be considered low to normal for the Northeast part of the US, whereas this could be considered high for the Southeast US. Feeding homegrown forages is one of the most effective ways to reduce feed costs. However, implementing a high forage diet that can support high production is complex and requires the consideration of multiple factors, writes Michael Miller, dairy nutrition consultant with [Trouw Nutrition](#).

Forage Inventory: The first and most obvious factor is forage inventory. Do you have enough inventory to support high forage diets and not run out of feed? If you do have to buy forage, then the cost savings of growing your own is minimized. When evaluating high forage diets, it is beneficial to measure your inventory and measure usage, and this can be done with help from your feeder and nutritionist.

Forage Quality: The next factor is the forage quality, more specifically fiber, as lower quality forage limits intake and milk production. Fiber has been historically quantified by neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and has been related to intake and chewing activity. Although NDF is a good indicator of intake potential, it does not account for all the intake variation. Recently, fiber digestibility has been quantified using long-term in vitro or situ fermentations for 30, 120, or 240 hours. These time points are called undigested NDF (uNDF) and can be presented on a dry matter basis or as digestibility on a % of NDF basis. The NDF digestibility at 30 hours (NDFD30) is a good gauge of how fast the fiber will digest and has been related to intake and milk production. The uNDF at 240 at hours (uNDF240) is an indicator of indigestible NDF, which will not be digested and has been related to rumen fill and intake. Recent work from Miner Institute has shown that, for every 1%-unit increase in uNDF240 of the total mixed ration (TMR), there is a 0.84-lb. decrease in dry matter intake (DMI). These measures are essential because they set the maximum forage you can feed in the TMR without limiting DMI.

Cow's Ability: The last factor is the cow's ability to consume a high forage diet. Forages have a larger particle size compared to concentrates and can lead to longer eating times. In another project from Miner Institute, cows were fed low and high uNDF240 diets with fine- and coarse-chopped timothy hay. The cows fed the high uNDF240 diet with the coarse-chopped timothy hay spent 21 minutes longer

eating per day while consuming 5.5 lbs. less of DMI than the cows fed the high uNDF240 with fine-chopped timothy hay. So, reducing the hay's particle size allowed the cows to eat more dry matter in less time. This becomes even more important when the cow's time budget is restricted due to extended time out of the pen for milking or increased competition at the feed bunk due to overstocking of the pen. So, when harvesting forages, it is critical to have a particle size that can easily be chewed and uniform to prevent sorting.

High forage diets that allow for high production are often the optimal scenario due to lower feed cost for homegrown forages. However, remember that it takes a lot of planning and components to achieve this. First is having enough forage to feed for the year, which could take a year of planning, such as a land purchase or hybrid selection. Forage quality is vital because as the uNDF240 increases, it can limit intake and milk production. The physical form of the diet and the cow's environment will play large roles in determining whether high forage diets will be successful on any farm. Each farm is unique and will take a team approach to achieve this goal.

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www.cceoneida.com/agriculture/newsletters

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Crop Shorts

By Jeff Miller

Soil Robots root out data

By PORTIA STEWART December 30, 2020

If you're like Taryn Bauerle, associate professor with the School of Integrative Plant Science Horticulture at Cornell University, you've spent time wondering what's going on in that space where the root meets the soil. Understanding this may help improve breeding efforts and soil management that improve yield.

To boldly plumb the depths of the soil, Bauerle and Robert Shepherd, associate professor with the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, are working to develop 1' to 2' wormlike robots. These soil-monitoring machines will drill into the soil and mimic the peristaltic, or wave-like, movements worms make when they tunnel through the soil. "We know it will work because there are giant earthworms of the scale we're talking about that can move underground," Shepherd says. One of the robot's tests will be to travel an entire row of maize and collect data on soil density, compactness, temperature and humidity. Combining the in-ground data with information about above-ground characteristics may also help predict factors such as grain yield and stress tolerance.

Shepherd's lab has provided initial prototypes and expects to have a digging robot that can measure humidity & temperature in under a year.

I will be looking forward to seeing the results of these new study methods. We sometimes find the answer to field crop problems with a shovel and the examination of the soil and root systems. It will be interesting if they can gather data at several critical times in corn development like: at germination, v5 stage, and reproductive stages.

Ultra high protein soybeans for plant based protein

Benson Hill, a crop genetics startup from St. Louis, created a new soybean that not only helps meet the demand for plant-based meats, but improves sustainability as well. The company developed a soybean with up to 50% more protein than current soybean varieties.

The initial launch will include 20,000 acres in 2021, and Benson Hill anticipates acres will expand to tenfold by 2022. Ultra-High Protein varieties will be available through the Benson Hill Seeds division.

Horizontal Silo Feedout Safety Protocols

By James Carrabba Agricultural Safety Specialist NYCAMH

Removal of feed from a bunker silo or a drive over silage pile is a daily task on the farm that has a lot of potential for serious injuries. The dangers include falls, engulfments, runovers and entanglements, which can result in serious injuries or death. There have been cases where feeders have fallen from the leading edge of a silage face and dropped 15 to 20 feet to the concrete pad below. Another very serious safety hazard is silage face collapse which can happen without warning. Even the most meticulously maintained silage faces can collapse suddenly. Unfortunately, for producers, there are no universal industry standards that can be referred to for horizontal silo feedout safety. The following list summarizes key safety guidelines that could be followed to ensure safety in a silage feedout program.

Feedout Safety Protocols

- If new silage has been added to existing old silage in a horizontal silo, mark that transition point. The new silage will not be interlocked with the old silage and large sections can collapse unexpectedly when feeding out.
- Only authorized personnel should be in the silo area. Keep visitors and children away and post appropriate warning signage such as "Authorized Personnel Only" and "Danger, Keep Out, Silage Can Avalanche". Post bilingual signs if necessary. Consider fencing off the horizontal silo area.
- Workers should wear high visibility clothing or vests.
- Use the "buddy system" and have a second worker present whenever working around silage. Workers should maintain communication and visibility with each other while working in or near silos.
- Never walk up to the face of the silage. Stay back a distance that is three times the height of the face. Document the face height so that workers can more accurately gauge this distance. You could mark the safe distance from the silage face with safety cones.
- Use a loader bucket to collect silage for samples. Collect the sample from loader bucket when it is a safe distance from the silage face.

Preventing Falls, Face Collapse and Entanglements

- When working on top of the silage, stay back from the leading edge at least 8-10 feet. Wear footwear with non-slip tread. Some guidelines have suggested staying back from the edge as far as the face is tall. Use long handled tools to pull back the tires and plastic from the leading edge. If possible, throw tires and plastic off the sides of the silo.
- Remove tires, sidewalls, gravel bags and plastic or coverings in the daylight. If this must be done at night, there should be adequate lighting provided.
- Minimize spoilage and manage it safely. Make every effort to minimize it through best management practices for maintaining forage quality (inoculants, high density, oxygen limiting plastic, plastic along walls, etc.). If spoilage has to be removed, use equipment operating from the ground level to do so rather than manually removing it by hand.
- Shave down the silage face when removing silage. Keep the silage face as smooth as possible. The silage face could be angled back slightly towards the pile to further reduce overhang situations. To prevent potential overhang situations, don't engage a loader bucket at the bottom of the silage face.
- Do not drive parallel and in close proximity to the silage face with loaders or other heavy equipment.
- Never park vehicles or equipment close to the silage face.
- Always shut off equipment, such as a silage defacer, prior to servicing or adjusting.

Evaluate your current silage feedout procedures. Are you following the safety protocols listed in this article or are there areas where you can make improvements to keep everyone safer? Take the time throughout the year to regularly train family members and employees on these safety protocols so that you can prevent silage feedout mishaps and injuries.

Information in this article was retrieved from the Silage Safety Foundation, <https://silagesafety.org/> Also, thanks to Karl Czymmek and Joe Lawrence of Cornell PRO-DAIRY who reviewed and shared information used in this article.

For more information on this topic, and for safety resources such as personal protective equipment, retrofit PTO shields and SMV emblems for sale, visit our website at: www.nycamh.com, or call (800) 343-7527. NYCAMH, a program of Bassett Healthcare, funded in part by the New York State Departments of Labor and Health, is enhancing agricultural and rural health by preventing and treating occupational injury and illness.

Getting updates by attending video conferences

Many people are computer phobic not having spent much time using a computer. Because of the realities of current conditions with Covid 19 many meetings that we would have attended this winter are not being held. I personally had to change the way we had the crop congress to provide this meeting to local growers. We split the program into two 2-hour video conferences with discussion of this year's Cornell corn silage hybrid variety trial results, the major insect pests of corn and alfalfa and their control, best management practices in growing soybeans and management of the most common soybean diseases.

Not having provided programs using zoom (a video conferencing software) before, I had to learn how to use it, to be able to provide these updates to you. Well unfortunately, I wasn't the only one who had to learn about zoom, any grower that attended also had to invest some time to learn how to download the zoom program, which is free, and how to sign in to the meeting. They also had to learn how to register for each program on our website.

Here is a quick step by step of what you need to know to attend a video conference put on by Cooperative Extension.

- First find out what we are offering... read the Farm Flash or go to our website.
- You can get on the website by typing cceoneida into the search bar on your browser
- At the top of the web page is the word events- click on it to see a chronological listing of the workshops that are being held
- If you read the description of a program that you want to attend click on the associated link(usually a different color) and enter the information that is requested to register for the program
- You are now on the registration page, click on the blue registration button. A page will open, type in the requested information (usually name, cell number, email and sometimes more) hit the submit registration button and you are now registered.

- You will receive an email from us at a date close to the day of the event with the time and day of the event and a link for the program
- On the day of the event, a few minutes before the event click on the link and it will bring up the video conference.
- I have told growers that downloading the zoom software makes life a bit easier and it is easy to do. Go to your browser and type zoom download into the search bar. Click on download center-zoom link. A page opens... click on zoom client for meetings blue download button. You may be asked a few questions either hit next or yes to all until it loads. Close the program and you are done.

Any of the organizations that are offering any training this winter are using video conferencing and zoom is the most popular platform. Setting yourself up and learning the basics of video conferencing will be a good investment of your time. Many companies will continue to provide training using video conferencing in the future.

Fit testing

Respirators are required PPE on some pesticide product labels like gramoxone or some formulations of atrazine. If respirators are required then applicators have to go through a medical physical every other year and an annual fit test with the respirator you use. The pandemic has made it difficult if not impossible for these activities to occur. EPA worker protection rules are still in place. Applicators have to wear the appropriate PPE. There is a waiver on fit testing currently in place due to the pandemic as long as the applicator has already been through a physical and fit testing in the past. The waiver eventually will be lifted and we will do our best to notify you when that happens.

Training for use of new banvel formulations used in soybean production There are 3 companies that have produced new formulations of banvel that can be used on banvel tolerant soybeans. Growers have to attend an annual training to be certified to use these products, one option for training is provided by
 BASF : <https://www.engeniaherbicide.com/training.html>
 Bayer: <https://www.roundupreadyxtend.com/stewardship/Pages/default.aspx>

USDA report and its effect on the markets

Recently the USDA put out a report that corrected the national corn yield average downward by 3.8 bu/ac which is one of the most significant corrections in recent history. The markets reacted quickly boosting corn prices. The report also identified very tight stocks of soybeans increasing soybean prices.



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