Many of you are in full swing now that spring has come and is passing us quickly by - heading into the warmer (and hopefully not too dry) months of summer. In the meantime, CCE Cortland has been busy identifying and addressing the needs of our farming community.

Just a reminder, for those of you who distribute to the public (farmers markets, farm stands, CSAs, etc...) CCE has gallons of hand sanitizer for you, first come first serve just contact Dana Havas at (607)391-2664 or dmh353@cornell.edu

We have many events, programs, and initiatives scheduled throughout the upcoming year, including a monthly *Part-time Farmers Series* with the next workshop scheduled for Saturday, June 19th, 10 - 11:30 am on
the topic of soil health and testing (register here).

Are there certain topics you'd like to see covered in a workshop or discussion - let me know dmh353@cornell.edu or (607)391-2664

Statewide efforts that relate to Cortland County Farmers:
Together with the larger state-wide extension network, I've recently published a whitepaper on red meat processing. The goal of this study is to encourage Ag & Markets to direct efforts that will help to address the challenges facing red meat processors in NYS with the hope that this bottleneck will be diminished.

I've also been working with a statewide team on the topic of agriculture & utility-scale solar and how we, as Extension, might address the concerns in our communities including how landowners can navigate leases, what are the agriculture opportunities that can co-locate with these larger solar arrays, and much more. If you have any concerns related to ag & solar in our community please do reach out as I would love to develop appropriate workshops to help Cortland County farmers feel prepared to address their (your) concerns around this issue.

Finally, I've been working with a team of extension agents, faculty, and external stakeholders on the topic of animal fiber production. We are slowly collecting educational material to help animal fiber producers better prepare their clip for market, stay tuned for more as this effort develops.

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).

Of course one of my favorite aspects of my work with CCE Cortland is meeting you - our farmers! I enjoy learning and hearing about what you do, and more importantly what you need. 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. You can reach Dana at (607)391-2664 or via email at dmh353@cornell.edu

Recent Highlights from CCE Cortland
- Hosted a Part-time Farmer Pasture Walk on livestock fencing at Triple 3 Livestock in Marathon with Jim Phillips, CCSWCD, and Fay Benson discussing various topics and sharing information concerning livestock fencing best practices.
- Hosted the April Ag Coffee Hour: NRCS & Soil and Water Services with Juston Olsen (NRCS) & Stacy Russell (CCSWCD)
- Our spring 2021 intern, Elise Tucker - now graduated - published an article in the Cortland Standard on the impact of COVID-19 on Cortland County agriculture.
- More videos have been added to the CCE Cortland - Ag YouTube Channel (check it out here)
  - Ag-in-the-Classroom: Maple Farm (tour)
- Hosted a Cortland County 4-H feeder calf project showing and fitting clinic with Jeanne White from Simme Valley
- Host a Cortland County 4-H feeder calf project zoom workshop on the topic of Beef rumen & feeding protocols.
- Planning for the 2021 AgStravaganza event with 6 schools and 13 volunteers to educate our youth about agriculture in Cortland County.
- Collected a variety of articles and farmer-funding opportunities listed at the bottom of this email
- ...and much more in the works that we will share as time goes by!

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**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!

**Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District** (follow on Facebook).
"SWCD has numerous programs and services designed to enhance, protect, and preserve Agricultural Land. Our programs are dedicated to providing agricultural landowners with the assistance they need to plan for future generations. Water quality protection and improvement are a primary goal in all areas of environmental and agricultural planning. SWCD utilizes the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program to assist agricultural producers in inventorying and identifying potential on-farm water quality risks. Through AEM, SWCD identifies other programs that may help to address concerns identified on the farm and may provide technical assistance for the planning and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will reduce or prevent the impacts of potential pollutants. Examples of BMP’s are; barnyard runoff management, milkhouse waste collection and treatment, nutrient management, silage leachate collection and treatment, stream buffers, and prescribed grazing management."

Please contact Cortland SWCD at 756-5991 if you have any questions.

**Seven Valleys Health Coalition** (follow on Facebook)
**Seven Valleys Food Rescue** is kicking off in Cortland County! We take edible food from farms and businesses that cannot be sold or would otherwise go to waste and distribute it to people who need it. Our goal is to reduce food insecurity in our community, as well as decrease food waste. If you have food you would like to donate, please contact Adrianne Traub at adrianne@sevenvalleyshealth.org or 607-745-0419. This is a project of the City of Cortland and **Seven Valleys Health Coalition**, a non-profit working to improve the health and well-being of the Cortland County community.

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**Cortland County Farm Bureau** (Follow on Facebook)
The Cortland Farm Bureau Board is looking forward to 2021 as our community slowly pushes beyond the 2020 challenges with COVID19. We still need to stay safe and be careful, but there is room for optimism as we look towards spring and another growing season. Cortland County Farm Bureau is working tirelessly to push policy
that addresses the issues facing Cortland County Farmers. If you have any questions or want to sign-up to be a member contact Jeff Perry (president of the Cortland County Farm Bureau) at jap255@cornell.edu

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
NRCS "provides farmers with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground..."

To learn more about NRCS's services and opportunities contact Justin Olson at justin.olson@usda.gov or 607-218-3504 with any questions.

We have a Farm Service Agency office (USDA-FSA) in Cortland County. The mission of FSA is to "serve farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of federal agricultural programs". You can find their contact information here.

- CFAP-2 is still ongoing with no end date in sight, all commodities are eligible.
- Farm storage loan rates are low right now.
- CRP has added new incentives

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**Items of Interest and Other News**

**Cayuga Lake TMDL Plan is Open for Comments**
(from Cayuga Lake Watershed Network)

"Groups across the watershed have come together to review the total maximum daily load (TMDL) and develop comments. The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) are working together under the leadership of Roxanna Johnston (Watershed Coordinator for the City of Ithaca, leader of the Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership) to gather a comprehensive list of comments from many stakeholders concerned with the water quality of Cayuga Lake."

Agriculture will play a large role in this plan and it is invaluable to hear from the agricultural community on this topic.

**Join the Farmer-to-Farmer Discussion Group Cortland Area on Facebook**

"A group for local farmers, created by local farmers. This is an information exchange page for the commercial farming community in and around Cortland, NY. Market gardeners and Homesteaders are also welcome. To join the group, please message an administrator, and answer a few questions about why you wish to join, your location and the type of farming you do. Please note that the members are screened solely for farming interest and membership does not reflect an endorsement of their goods or services. All members should exercise reasonable caution when interacting within the group just as you would with anyone you meet whom you do not know. This group is not directly affiliated with any organization"
Restaurant Revitalization Fund - Not Just for Restaurants!
(from the CCE CNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field crops team)

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) provides qualifying businesses with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss of at least $1,000 and no more than $5 million per physical location. The maximum grant is $10 million for businesses with multiple locations. Recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023. Wineries, breweries, and distilleries that sell directly to the public are eligible for this program. Farms, where a significant portion of the gross revenue (33%) comes from on-site sales of food and beverages to the public, may also be eligible.

Funding received from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund will not be taxable as gross income by the IRS and you can still deduct the expenses paid for with Restaurant Revitalization Funds from your federal taxes.

$28.6 billion has been appropriated for this program. These appropriations remain available until expended. SBA will continue accepting applications subject to availability of funds. The program is available now (as of May 14). There are set-asides for small businesses.

NYCAMH COVID Vaccine Educational Sheets
(reposted from NY Farm Bureau)

The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health has created two educational sheets to inform your employees about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine and its potential side effects. They include pictures and can be printed for both English and Spanish speakers.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to have higher payment rates, new incentives
(reposted from USDA-FSA)

USDA is updating the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to have higher payment rates, new incentives, and a more targeted focus on the program's role in climate change mitigation. USDA's goal is to enroll up to 4 million new acres in CRP by raising rental payment rates and expanding the number of incentivized environmental practices allowed under the program. Through the CRP Climate Change Mitigation Assessment Initiative, FSA will further quantify program benefits to better target CRP toward climate outcomes and improve existing models and conservation planning tools.

DEC Announces a $450,000 'Regenerate NY' for Eligible Private Forest Landowners Through New Grant Program
(reposted from NYS-DEC)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced that $450,000 is now available in the first round of the State's new 'Regenerate NY' Forestry Cost Share Grant Program. The grant program is designed to assist private landowners growing the next generation of forests, which are crucial for mitigating climate change, providing wildlife habitat, protecting air and water quality, and supplying an important renewable resource.

$52.2M available from Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program
(reposted from NYS Ag & Markets)

Round 18 FPIG continues New York State’s commitment to provide financial assistance to locally led farmland protection efforts. The Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program provides financial assistance to counties, municipalities, soil and water conservation districts, and land trusts to enable them to implement farmland protection activities consistent with local agricultural and farmland

Farm Branding: Selling your Products through story - new ATTRA publication available
(reposted from ATTRA)
If you want your farming to be profitable, you need to be more than a farmer. You need to be the executive director of your farm business. Moving product to a paying customer, a.k.a. marketing, is the core of that business. And we have learned that product moves based on the meanings that we associate with it. Consumers buy from farm stands, for example, because they want to support local businesses, eat fresher, or know their farmer. In other words, consumers are buying the story of your farm as much as they are buying your physical farm products. This publication helps you take control of your farm story and develop a farm brand that will connect with your customers.

**Farming with Soil Life: A Handbook for Supporting Soil Invertebrates and Soil Health on Farms**
(reposted from XERCES Society)

Typically, if soil gets much attention from the general public, it is simply for how well (or poorly) plants grow in it. Soil science—an incredibly rich, complex, and multifaceted academic discipline—has long recognized that Earth’s soils are a dynamic interaction of physical, chemical, and biological properties. Our understanding and thinking continues to change. Farmers, conservationists, scientists, and others fascinated by soils have started pushing us all to ask questions about what lives in the soil. For the first time, there is a nationwide conversation about the paramount importance of soil biology.

Pasture Soil Compaction
(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)

I had a pasture soil compaction epiphany while working in a St. Lawrence County pasture on a NE SARE-supported project. The project was to plant radishes and other brassicas into established pasture swards. The goal was to try methods of establishment of late-season forages which would increase the palatability and nutrient density of fall pastures. The project had only minimal success because even though I burned back the pasture sward with acetic acid, it eventually grew back and smothered the young brassicas. While standing in the pasture, I looked under the fence line and could see the soil under the fence was a good six inches higher than the pasture soil. Under closer inspection, the plants under the fence were a healthier mix of cool-season grasses, while out in the pasture there were clumps of sedge grasses, which is an indication of low oxygen in the soil due to compaction.

Upcoming Workshops

**Lunch-n-Learn - Commercial Vegetable Production**
(re-posted from UNH Extension)
June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th
Online

June 2nd: Non-Chemical IPM
July 7th Onions: Over Wintering and Direct Seeded
August 4th: Brussel Sprouts: Growing and Storage

**Communicating for the Farm**
(re-posted from MSU & Perdue)
MSU Extension and Purdue Extension hosting webinar series to help ag producers engage with the public and share their story.

**Invasive Species in Agriculture**  
(re-posted from CCE Capital Region)  
June 8th, 3:30 pm  
Online  
Zoom webinar that will discuss invasive species that impact agriculture in New York State. An overview of some of the established, newly detected, and potential invasive species that impact agriculture. The impacts to vineyards, orchards, and other crops will be discussed.

**Honeybee Keeping Workshop**  
(re-posted from East Homer Grange)  
Sunday, June 13th, 2:00 pm  
East Homer Grange, East Homer, NY  
Keeping Honeybees is important to our crops; The East Homer Grange, in East Homer NY is offering a free ‘Honeybee Keeping’ Class. Ray Lowe owner of Hiwire Honeybees will be teaching the class.

Please text Kim Harris-Boyden to register (315-385-9795)

**Marketing Your Farm Products**  
(re-posted from Virginia Cooperative Extension)  
June 16th 9 - 11 am  
Online  
Promotion, packaging, pricing, and display

**CCE Cortland Part-time Farmer Series: Soil Health Workshop**  
Saturday, June 19th, 10 - 11:30 am  
Location TBD  
registration recommended  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County will be continuing its summer series of in-person workshops for part-time farmers. This workshop will introduce attendees to assessing and managing their soils for production as well as environmental concerns. We are asking attendees to bring a cup of dry soil with them from an area they farm. The soil will be tested for pH levels and aggregate stability. Since these meetings are discussion-based we hope attendees will bring their concerns and their experience to share with other farmers from the area.

**Organizing Work for High-Quality Results**  
(re-posted from Cornell Ag Workforce Development)  
6-weeks starting in June  
Online  
how to develop clear expectations and standard operating procedures, delegate effectively, and diagnose and correct performance problems. Materials will release in June 2021 and registration is open now. Cost is $275 for
Supervisors are critical to the success of farm businesses. They have a major impact both on employees' daily work experiences and on the production performance of the business. The Agricultural Supervisory Leadership certificate helps farm supervisors and managers develop skills and apply human resource management practices to create rewarding workplaces and drive business results, like more engaged employees and less turnover. The six courses within the certificate program, which can be taken in any order, offer extensive practice and engagement activities to build confidence and skill sets.

Previously Recorded Webinars

Cornell Cooperative Extension Livestock PWT Presents
(re-posted from CCE Livestock PWT)

Insights into the Cow/Calf Enterprise
Introduction to Stocker Cattle
Finishing Beef

Leasing for Solar Development Webinar
(re-posted from Penn State)

Transferring a farm business to the next generation or to another owner is one of the most challenging and important activities a business owner will ever undertake. Maintaining business viability while meeting the needs of the exiting and entering members is paramount. Join Gabriel Gurley of New York FarmNet, for a one-hour program focused on initiating, planning and directing farm business transfer for your business.

Eorganic Webinars - on demand
(re-posted from EOrganic)

Learn the latest in organic farming practices and research by attending or watching an eOrganic Webinar. Sign up for upcoming webinars to watch slides, listen to the presenter, and type in questions during the live events. To receive notices about upcoming webinars, and find out when we post the archived sessions, sign up for the eOrganic newsletter.

NRCS Conservation Webinars On-Demand
(re-posted from NRCS)

You can search for pasture and grazing related topics in these on-demand webinars

Funding Opportunities

National Grid Agricultural Discount
(re-posted from National Grid)
on-going

The Residential Agricultural Discount Program is an electricity rate discount applied to the electricity delivery charge, available since September 1, 2014, to eligible National Grid residential agricultural customers, as a result of funding through the New York Power Authority (NYPA) ReCharge New York program.
The Residential Agricultural Discount Program is an electricity rate discount applied to the electricity delivery charge, available since September 1, 2014, to eligible National Grid residential agricultural customers, as a result of funding through the New York Power Authority (NYPA) ReCharge New York program.

Financial assistance is available to inventory and analyze farm systems that use energy and identify opportunities to improve efficiency through the development of an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP). The AgEMP, or energy audit, is completed by NRCS-certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs) and provides:

- Itemized energy use by individual systems to establish a baseline for electricity and other fuel improvements,
- Recommendations for equipment improvements and upgrades,
- Potential energy reductions and financial savings for each recommendation
- Cost estimates of potential improvements, and
- Length of expected payback for energy efficiency upgrades

A High Tunnel System, commonly called a “hoop house,” is an increasingly popular conservation practice for farmers, and is available with financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). With high tunnel systems, no summer is too short or winter too cold because high tunnels:

- Extend the growing season
- Improve plant quality and soil quality
- Reduce nutrient and pesticide transportation
- Improve air quality through reduced transportation inputs
- Reduce energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce

"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"

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.

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