As we head into the busy-for-many-of-you summer season CCE Cortland is busy developing programming that will help our farmers thrive.

(A quick aside - for those of you who work directly with the public CCE Cortland still has plenty of hand sanitizer - give us a call at (607)391-2664 - and we can coordinate a day/time to get it to you)

Ag Promotion: To promote agriculture in our community we’ve been collaborating with CCE Broome, CCE Tioga, and CCE Chenango for a 4-county farm trail. The farm trail is open to the public and is scheduled for the first weekend in October - apply now to take be a part of this fun-filled and ag-educational weekend! Besides this 4-county-wide event, CCE Cortland together with Cortland County Soil & Water organized a Legislative Farm Tour, scheduled for the last Saturday in September

Statewide Efforts: Dana has been actively engaged in Cornell's statewide livestock team and their efforts have developed some great programming and outcomes including an NYS map of livestock processors. The map itself is still in development but a preview can be seen here.

Youth Programming: As many of you know the Cortland County Jr. Fair is just a few days away (July 6th - July 10th) - and many on the extension team have turned a lot of our attention to making this fair possible (especially Jackie Harnett and Rebecca Ireland-Perry). We hope that you will come, enjoy, see, and celebrate the work of our 4-Hers. Friday evening, at 6 pm, is the Market Sale where you can bid for livestock to take home for your freezer and/or table (poultry, swine, sheep, & goats).

Ag-education: With the help of Fay Benson of the SCNY Dairy & Feild Crops Team, CCE Cortland Ag, has developed a PT Farmer Series. A monthly gathering open to part-time and beginning farmers covering topics from livestock fencing to direct marketing. The details of the July gathering are stil be worked out, so stay tuned
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 (Dana) 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

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**Highlights from CCE Cortland**

- Organized the annual Agstravaganza event for Cortland County 4th graders (6 schools, 12 volunteers, and over 430 students)
- Working with a Cornell CALS-CCE intern to develop a brand for Cortland County Agricultural products - this branding effort will be shared with SVHC for their marketing efforts through the LFPP grant.
- Hosted a PTFarmer Soil health and testing workshop at Whey Street Dairy in Cuyler NY
- Working with a statewide team to develop an up-to-date list of slaughter and processing facilities in NYS and related programming to help increase packer capacity in NYS.
- Working with a statewide team to address ag-related utility-scale solar issues (please share your thoughts on Ag & Solar in Cortland County here)
- Leading a statewide team to address animal fiber production and marketing challenges, developing a presentation for NY Textile Month to introduce NY animal fiber and its supply chain to NY designers and artisans.
- Getting excited for the 67th Annual Cortland County Jr Fair (July 6th - July 10th) and the livestock auction on Friday, July 9th at 6 pm.
- 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 inventoring 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,
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 Adrienne 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.

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 o the ground..."
To learn more about NRCS's services and opportunities.

Please 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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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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Items of Interest and Other News

Sign-up to participate in the 4-county farm trail (October 2nd & 3rd)
This year's fall farm trail will be the 4-County Farm Trail for farms in Broome, Chenango, Tioga, and Cortland counties. I am very excited to announce that Senator Akshar and Senator Oberacker will be sponsoring this year's farm trail.
New this year we won't be including Farmers Markets on the trail but will have a separate spot on the brochure listing the markets with their times etc... If you manage a market or know of a market manager, please have them fill this form out and return it so we have the information.

This is about promoting your farm but also providing an educational experience to the public. If you have other farms that are interested, please share this information with them or have them contact your local CCE office of Broome, Tioga, Chenango, or Cortland counties.

Sign-up by July 31st.

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"

Don't forget to file your crop acreage report
(reposted from USDA-FSA)

Agricultural producers in New York who have not yet completed their crop acreage reports after planting should make an appointment with their Farm Service Agency (FSA) office before the applicable deadline. An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable in New York:

- July 15, 2021: Corn, Soybeans, Spring-Planted Small Grains, and most other crops including CRP and cover crops
- August 16, 2021: Cabbage and Beans

Summer safety tips for children staying at home or working on the farm
(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)

With Memorial Day marking the unofficial start to summer, longer days and warmer weather will lead to a rise in outdoor recreation in the upcoming months. Additionally, students have been eagerly counting down the final days until their summer break begins....

How Do You Know your Pricing is Right and Your Investment is Protected?
(by R. Hadad, Cornell Vegetable Program)

Frequently growers contact us asking about pricing for vegetable crops. This usually occurs just as the marketing season takes off. Answering this question is difficult for many reasons. There are no set rules for coming up with the appropriate prices for any crop and many factors come into play. What is needed is for growers to know what it cost them to grow it.

To understand what it costs to grow a crop, one needs to know about cost of production for each crop. In order to find out this information, one needs to be able to identify all of the inputs that go into farming from seeds to equipment to labor

Senator Hinchey & Assemblymember Lupardo sponsor NYS Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act
(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)
State Senator Michelle Hinchey (SD-46) and Assemblymember Donna Lupardo (AD-123) gathered a broad coalition of environmental and agricultural organizations to discuss the NYS Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act (S.4722A-Hinchey/A.5386A–Lupardo), nation-leading legislation to provide farmers with the tools and resources they need to be active partners in New York’s efforts to mitigate the climate crisis. The bill, which passed the State Assembly unanimously last week (147-0), is expected to come before the Senate for a vote. Agriculture chairs Hinchey and Lupardo have built a wide range of support for the bill to help secure its passage in both houses before the end of the session.

**Identifying and Removing Toxic Plants in Pastures**
(reposted from Lancaster Farming)

During drought and other poor environmental conditions that reduce forage growth, there are concerns for poisonous weeds in pastures and hay.

Livestock may be forced to graze on weeds that normally they would not, or they may eat weeds out of curiosity.

Extension agronomist[s] encourage you to scout your pastures and remove these weeds before they cause livestock health problems.

**What is Sustainable Agriculture SARE Video Series & Print Media Available**
(reposted from NESARE)

How do you make a farm or ranch more sustainable? There is no single answer, but SARE’s 8 episode “What is Sustainable Agriculture” animation series highlights some common practices farmers and ranchers across the country use to improve profitability, quality of life and environmental stewardship.

To fixed overhead costs. This means keeping good records as well as finding where you might have put all the records.

Sounds challenging? It is. Understanding how this all works is a win-win situation for farms. Not only will you be able to figure out how to set a price that makes a profit but all the data you collect to make this calculation will also provide a farm with great useable financial information critical for making informed business decisions.

Starting this fall, we will be running a series of classes on pricing through understanding the cost of production, improving labor-management/relations, and understanding crop insurance programs for your benefit.

To help us get this project off the ground, we are asking for your feedback through a survey. 
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSeysn8_8CU8RqfEoRPFJZRRfTWW2wzTWin4AtLvijZw/viewform. Please fill this out and stay tuned for updates on these trainings coming this fall/winter.

**AFT & NY Farm Bureau Solar Energy Farmer Survey**
(reposted from NY Farm Bureau)

Solar energy siting is accelerating across New York, and New York Farm Bureau, American Farmland Trust and other agricultural organizations want to hear from you about your opinions on siting renewable energy on farmland and experience working with solar developers. Farmer input, opinions, and needs are central to this project, and so your participation is essential.

Please take 15 minutes to complete this short survey before midnight Sunday, July 11, 2021 to help guide smart solar siting decisions and policies at the state and local level in the future.

Keep an eye on the NYS drought monitor map
(reposted from National Drought Mitigation Center)
Upcoming Workshops

**Lunch-n-Learn - Commercial Vegetable Production**
(re-posted from UNH)
July 7th & August 4th
Online

July 7th Onions: Over Wintering and Direct Seeded
August 4th: Brussel Sprouts: Growing and Storage

**Building Blocks for Healthy Herds and Flocks**
(re-posted from NCAT)
July 8th at 6:30 pm
Online

Join NCAT Livestock Specialists Margo Hale and Linda Coffey for a free, virtual workshop on small ruminant health. In this workshop, these experienced producers will share their strategies for selecting and managing healthy, profitable animals. They also will explain the impact internal parasites have on sheep and goats. Participants will leave the workshop understanding how to recognize and support healthy stock by smart buying, thoughtful pasture management, and careful monitoring. There will be plenty of time for questions, and interaction via chat is encouraged. Pre-registration is required.

**Central NY Dairy Women’s Peer Group Meetings**
(re-posted from SCNY Dairy & Field Crops)
July 16th at 11:30 - 1:30 pm
Bobs BBQ - Homer, NY

The South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team is excited to announce that we will resume in-person meetings of our Central NY Dairy Girl Network Peer Group this summer. This peer group brings dairy women together to build camaraderie, share ideas and experiences, and learn from one another. We typically invite a guest to share an informal presentation about a topic of interest, and we encourage everyone to join the discussion. All women involved in any aspect of the dairy industry are welcome to attend.
The meeting is free. However, attendees should bring money to cover the cost of their own lunch. Please register online using the following link so we know how many people to expect:

**Sustainable Agronomy Conference**
(re-posted from American Society of Agronomy)
July 20th - August 24th
Online

The Sustainable Agronomy Conference will provide Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs), Agri-Sales Professionals, and growers with the opportunity to more fully understand and implement sustainable agronomy in the field. Learn the drivers, economics, agronomics, environmental benefits, and implementation techniques of sustainable crop production. Economic, environmental, and social aspects of sustainable agronomy will be considered.

**Virtual IPM In-depth!**
(re-posted from CCE IPM)
July 22nd from 12:30 - 3:30
Online

Register by July 18th, $25 per person, Program starts at 12:30 for check-in and runs through 3:30

Pesticide recertification credits are available. To get pesticide credits, you must send me a picture of your pesticide license (photos work better than photocopies) by July 18. More information will be sent to those wanting credits as we go along. Just a note – if you are planning to watch the In-depth in a group you must have your own device to sign in and be able to answer poll questions so we can verify you for the pesticide credits.

Special for this year!
We are trying to make our virtual program as interactive as possible so we have several offers for registered participants that relate to our topics. Contact me if you are interested in any or all of these offers – at eml38@cornell.edu

1. Free water sampling offered by JR Peters – only 10 available – first come first served.
2. Free alkalinity and pH test strips mailed out to you before the In-depth so you can test your own water – 50 available
3. Free lighted 40x hand lenses mailed out to you before the In-depth – 50 available

The Doctor is IN session
We aren’t having an official ‘Doctor is In’ session but if you have an issue and can send me good pictures of it, Brian might use it in his talk and we will do our best to get all issues identified even if he doesn’t.

**New York Nut Growers Association 2021 Summer Meeting**
(re-posted from NY Nut Growers Association)
July 24th from 8:00 - 4:00
Cambridge, NY

The morning will be devoted to talks on various aspects of nut growing: research on hazelnut cultivars, hazelnut processing and post-harvest care, walnut blight, the NYNGA English Walnut Project, the right soil for nut trees, commercial processing of nuts, and research into historical New York nut tree nurseries. Participants will have a chance to meet other growers and share information. After lunch, participants will have a choice of visiting nut orchards in either Cambridge or Stephentown.

**Summer 2021 Dairy Grazing Pasture Walk Series**
(re-posted from SCNY Dairy & Field Crops Team)
July 28th from 12:00 - 2:00
Carey Farm, Groton, NY
Come see how Dan and Eric Carey graze nearly 300 dairy cows on 200 pasture acres in Groton, NY. Fay will discuss controlling soil compaction in grazing systems and present compaction data collected from the Carey’s pastures for the past 3 years. Mary Kate will share how the Cornell Dairy Farm Business Summary benefits grazing dairies and present an example illustrating how the Carey’s decision to pave laneways has influenced profitability on the farm.

**Save the Date: NOFA Summer Conference**
(re-posted from NOFA)
July 30th - August 6th
Online

The Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) New York will be celebrating their 50th anniversary with a hybrid version of the Summer Conference for August 6-8, 2021. The conference will bring farmers and gardeners together from throughout the region to share experience and knowledge.

**Funding Opportunities**

**Conservation Reserve Program**
(re-posted from USDA-FSA)
deadline: 07/23/2021

The USDA has set a July 23, 2021, deadline for agricultural producers and landowners to apply for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup.

**Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant**
(re-posted from USDA)
deadline: 08/02/2021

The Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) program assists currently operational meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities in obtaining a Federal Grant of Inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA); or to operate as a State-inspected facility that is compliant with FMIA or PPIA under a respective Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program.

**Heritage Livestock Microgrant Program**
(re-posted from livestock conservancy)
deadline: 08/15/2021

In 2020, The Livestock Conservancy awarded more than $22,000 to farmers, ranchers, and shepherds raising endangered breeds of livestock and poultry across the country. Now in its fourth year, the Microgrants Program continues to put funding into the hands of our most important conservation partners – the people doing the hard work day after day to steward these genetic treasures for the security of tomorrow’s food and fiber systems.

**Sheep Production and Marketing Grant**
(re-posted from USDA)
deadline: 09/15/2021

The Sheep Production & Marketing Grant Program seeks to develop solutions for practical problems on a national basis and address the needs of the entire sheep industry, while focusing on the measurable benefits for sheep producers, encouraging partnerships among other sheep industry organizations, and reducing duplication of effort among participating organizations.
USDA reopened the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) and announced the Pandemic Assistance for Producers (PAP) program, which will distribute pandemic assistance and resources to farmers impacted by COVID-19 disruptions.

**Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program**
(re-posted from NYS Ag & Markets)

The $800 million COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program provides grant funding to small and micro businesses and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations impacted by the pandemic. The grants will be flexible and can be used for a number of different business operating expenses, including payroll, rent or mortgage payments, taxes, utilities, PPE or other business expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021.

**NRCS - EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative**
(re-posted from NRCS)

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

**NRCS - EQIP High Tunnel System Initiative**
(re-posted from NRCS)

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

**National Rollover Protective Structure (rollbar) Rebate Program**
(re-posted from ROPS4U)

"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"
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.