August 2021 Ag-Update

Menu
(click to go directly to the section)
CCE Cortland Behind the Scenes
Highlights from CCE Cortland
Other Cortland County Ag-related Organization News
Items of Interest and Other News
Upcoming Workshops
Funding Opportunities

CCE Cortland Behind the Scenes

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 & masks - 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 October 2nd & 3rd (the first weekend in October). We've also teamed up with Cortland County Soil & Water to organize a Legislative Farm Tour, scheduled for the last Saturday in September. On this tour, we'll be visiting four farms in the Homer/Preble area highlighting the economic, environmental, and civic contribution and value of Cortland County agriculture in our community. Finally, together with Seven Valleys Health Coalition (SVHC) and a summer intern, we're been developing a Cortland County Agricultural products brand position and standards that will be used by SVHC to create a marketing toolkit for the Cortland County Agricultural community.

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. She has also been leading a statewide team that focuses on Animal Fiber Production and marketing, and they are now gearing up to host an event highlighting the NYS wool supply chain at New York Textile Month in September.

Ag-education: With the help of Fay Benson of the SCNY Dairy & Field 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. Some of the upcoming events include a Direct Market Channel farm visit in September and Getting Started with Poultry in October (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**

- Held a fun-filled & successful livestock market sale at the Cortland County Jr. Fair
- Working with CCE Broome, Tioga, and Chenango Counties for a 4-County Farm Trail on October 2nd & 3rd.
- Working with Cortland County Soil & Water District to host a Legislative Farm Tour on September 25th
- 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.
- Developing a series of monthly workshops focusing on part-time and beginning farmers (the next two are: *Direct Market Channels* in September & *Getting Started with Poultry* in October - more information to come)
- 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.
- 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.
- 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](https://www.cortlandnyswcd.org) (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 Practices.*
Management Practices (BMPs) that will reduce or prevent the impacts of potential pollutants. Examples of BMP’s are; barnyard runoff management, milhouse 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.

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.

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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Items of Interest and Other News

Damage from Storms may be Eligible for Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
Excessive rain, flooding, and microburst events have caused severe damage in area(s) of Cortland and Tompkins County. Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Cortland/Tompkins Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office.

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”

Chlorpyrifos added to the list of pesticides that are no longer allowed to be distributed, sold, purchased, possessed or used for any purpose

An Executive directive was issued for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to ban chlorpyrifos, an organophosphate pesticide, in December 2019 to safeguard public health and protect environmental resources. Read more about DEC efforts relating to chlorpyrifos (leaves DEC website). DEC has taken the following steps to implement that Executive directive.

USDA Invites Comment on Meat and Poultry Processing Industry

USDA is seeking input from the public on how to invest an estimated $500 million of American Rescue Plan funds to improve infrastructure, increase capacity, and hasten diversification across the meat and poultry processing industry. A notice in the Federal Register identifies specific considerations regarding fair treatment of workers, loans, grants, technical assistance, partnerships and general topics on which USDA seeks input. USDA invites input from a wide range of industry stakeholders, and will consider comments received by August 30, 2021.

10 Acres of Farmland Available in Virgil

A landowner, in Virgil, has 10+ acres of hayfield that need cutting and then can be used for whatever purpose is agreed upon between the farmer and landowner. The field was cut last year but not this year. You may cut the hay and have it for free. The landowner grew up on a farm and wants to help a farmer (and it helps the landowner because it keeps the fields in good shape). Ideally, the person/farmer will use the land for multiple years.

If you are interested you can contact Dana at CCE Cortland to learn more (607)391-2664 or dmh353@cornell.edu

USDA to Provide Pandemic Assistance to Livestock Producers for Animal Losses

Livestock and poultry producers who suffered losses during the pandemic due to insufficient access to processing can apply for assistance for

Labor Research! What’s Happening in Your Farm?

An important research project is gearing up in the next few weeks to understand what is happening with New York farm labor during this time of great change in markets, regulations and technology.
those losses and the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Vilsack announced the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP) in [recorded] remarks at the National Pork Industry Conference in Wisconsin Dells, WI. The announcement is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Livestock and poultry producers can apply for assistance through USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) July 20 through Sept. 17, 2021.

**Lupardo & Hinchey custom operators bill signed into law**
(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)

Governor Cuomo signed into law (A1889/S2135) for agricultural custom operators sponsored by Agriculture Chairs, Assemblymember Donna Lupardo, and Senator Michelle Hinchey. The bill will extend some agricultural district right-to-farm protections to custom operators when they are performing agricultural practices on behalf of a farm operator or owner.

**Are Carbon Markets for Farmers Worth the Hype?**
(reposted from Civil Eats)

Farmers, take note: Carbon stored in soil could soon become its own commodity crop. That’s the message from developers, corporations, and legislators pushing for new carbon markets specifically tailored to agriculture.

It's an opportunity for the voices of actual farm employers and employees to be heard through research! Strong participation from farm employers and employees is important!

**Producers Can Now Hay, Graze and Chop Cover Crops Anytime and Still Receive Full Prevented Planting Payment**
(reposted from USDA-RMA)

Agricultural producers with crop insurance can hay, graze or chop cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage at any time and still receive 100% of the prevented planting payment. Previously, cover crops could only be hayed, grazed or chopped after November 1, otherwise the prevented planting payment was reduced by 65%.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) added this flexibility as part of a broader effort to encourage producers to use cover crops, important conservation, and good farming practice. Cover crops are especially important on fields prevented from planting as they help reduce soil erosion and boost soil health. Learn more.

**Agroforestry Is Key to Cleaning Up Waterways and the Chesapeake Bay**
(reposted from Civil Eats)

From her porch on Village Acres Farm in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, Angela Brubaker can see the curved rows of trees in the new riparian buffer along Lost Creek. The tree tubes and stakes that support the young saplings stand like little monuments within freshly mowed, lush grasses.

**Can Family-Owned Forests Help the U.S. Achieve a Low-Carbon Future?**
(reposted from USDA)

A USDA Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) project is trying to reimagine how carbon markets can work with and for small landholders. The Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP), led by the American Forest Foundation (AFF) and The Nature Conservancy, bases carbon payments on specific forest management practices that have been scientifically shown to increase the amount of carbon that gets removed from the atmosphere and stored in the trees and soil. The project’s goal is to facilitate the participation of nearly 300 million acres of family-owned American forests in carbon markets.

**Upcoming Workshops**
Sustainable Agronomy Conference
(re-posted from American Society of Agronomy)
Tuesdays until August 24th 12 - 2 pm
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.

Exploring Agritourism for Your Farm
(re-posted from UT Extension)
Tuesdays in August
Online

A free online workshop in four two-hour sessions on what it takes to evaluate, develop, and market an agritourism operation.

First Fridays with Cornell Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
(re-posted from Cornell IPM)
First Friday of every month 12:00 - 12:30
online

August 6, 2021, 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (And the first Friday of each month following, check link for schedule) Virtual presentations on practical solutions to pest problems. Are pests bugging you? We're here to help! In this monthly virtual series, we'll explore timely topics to help you use integrated pest management (IPM) to avoid pest problems and promote a healthy environment where you live, work, learn and play. What is IPM? It's a wholistic approach that uses different tools and practices to not only reduce pest problems, but to also address the reasons why pests are there in the first place. Each month, our speakers will share practical information about how you can use IPM.

Cornell Hemp Field Day
(re-posted from American Society of Agronomy)
Thursday, August 12th 8:00 - 12:30
Geneva, NY & online

We will be presenting a hybrid event on Thursday, August 12 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – in person and broadcast live and recorded on Zoom to provide updates on Cornell hemp research. This outdoor field event will have two farm locations with multiple presentations, with the first location focusing on cannabinoid hemp research and the second on grain and fiber hemp and seedless triploid cannabinoid hemp.
Hemp growers, processors, and crop management advisors are encouraged to attend. Pre-Registration required.
Unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask outdoors when physical distancing is not possible.
Registration is free. Limited to 200 in-person attendees. It would be greatly appreciated if you register on or before August 10, 2021.

Integrated Parasite Management for Goats & Sheep Workshop (FAMACHA Training)
(re-posted from CCE CNY Livestock, Dairy & Field Crops Team)
Tuesday, August 17th, 12:00 - 3:00 pm
CCE Madison

Internal parasites are one of the largest health issues that affect sheep and goats across the country. A lot of producers are unaware how important it is to understand parasites in their flocks. In this workshop, producers will be taught the basics of parasite control as well as how to develop integrated parasite
management programs for their farms that include evasive grazing and selective deworming and/or alternative treatments. We will also go over the current status of several alternative methods of parasite control.

**Summer 2021 Dairy Grazing Pasture Walk Series**
(re-posted from CCE SCNY Dairy & Field Crops Team)
Wednesday, August 18th, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
Troyer Farm, Candor NY

Isaac Troyer operates a 40-cow organic grazing dairy. He gained experience dairying with his father, and recently relocated his herd to a new farm in Candor, NY. This summer is his second grazing season at the new location. Troy will discuss how he uses his grazing chart to proactively manage for expected and unexpected events during the grazing season and give a snapshot of how the grazing season is going. Expect some lingering grazing observations in the pasture, stockpiling strategies, and learning how the Troyer family is using pastures to achieve their goals.

**Navigating the Leasing Process of Utility-Scale Solar in Pennsylvania: Understanding Key Lease Terms**
(re-posted from Penn State Extension)
Wednesday, August 18th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
online

As utility-scale solar projects are increasingly proposed across Pennsylvania (and New York), more significant numbers of landowners are being approached by land agents working for solar companies interested in leasing their land. Navigating the Leasing Process of Utility-Scale Solar in Pennsylvania: Understanding Key Lease Terms will give a short overview of what these extensive solar facilities look like, how the technology operates, and illustrate how they might impact their property, should they choose to lease to one of the companies.

**Video Explains What to Expect from GAP Food Safety Audit**
(reposted from PASA)
ongoing - online

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture posted a 21-minute video that explains voluntary Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audits. GAP audits verify that produce production minimizes microbial food safety hazards. This video visits Who Cooks For You Farm to conduct a mock GAP audit.

**Funding Opportunities**

**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.

**Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Application Opens**
(re-posted from Farm Bureau)
deadline: 08/20/2021
The Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge is a national business competition for startups addressing challenges facing America’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities. The competition aims to identify the top entrepreneurs who are addressing challenges farmers face on their operation. The Farm Bureau will award $165,000 in startup funds to ten businesses for their pitches. Learn more and apply by August 20.

- **Heritage Livestock Microgrant Program**
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- **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 to Provide Pandemic Assistance to Livestock Producers for Animal Losses**
  (re-posted from USDA)
  deadline: 09/17/2021

Livestock and poultry producers who suffered losses during the pandemic due to insufficient access to processing can apply for assistance for those losses and the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animals. USDA announced the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP) will accept applications from July 20 through September 17. Learn more and apply.

- **DEC Announces ‘Regenerate NY’ for Eligible Private Forest Landowners Through New Grant Program**
  (re-posted from NYS-DEC)
  deadline: 10/08/2021

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.

Applications can be submitted through the NYS Grants Gateway and will be accepted until 3 p.m. on October 8, 2021, or until funds are depleted, whichever comes first. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis. Applicants need to establish an account in the Grants Gateway System. During the COVID-19 emergency, only registrations submitted via email will be accepted. Per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.7, NYS notarization services may be performed remotely using audio-visual technology. Please contact a notary for additional information and instructions. Once registered, applicants can search the Grants Gateway for “Regenerate NY.” Click here for details about the grant opportunity including application criteria, visit DEC’s website for more information.
Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program  
(re-posted from NYS-Ag & Markets)  
deadline: on-going

Round 18 FPIG continues New York State’s commitment to providing 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 protection plans. The most frequently funded activity is the purchase of agricultural conservation easements on individual farms. However, the program may also award funding to enable other implementation activities, such as amendments to local laws affecting agriculture, option agreements, and covering the transaction costs of donated agricultural conservation easements.

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Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program  
(re-posted from NYS-Ag & Markets)  
deadline: on-going

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.

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

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

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

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

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National Rollover Protective Structure (rollbar) Rebate Program
"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.

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