



A partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in these nine counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne and Wyoming.

## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

April - June 2020

### Assisting Farms Through the Pandemic

The COVID-19 virus has certainly changed our lives. New information and resources from NYS agencies and Cornell were being compiled and updated daily, leaving many people feeling bombarded with information overload. The NWNYS Team began meeting weekly via Zoom to discuss critical issues and commodity updates.



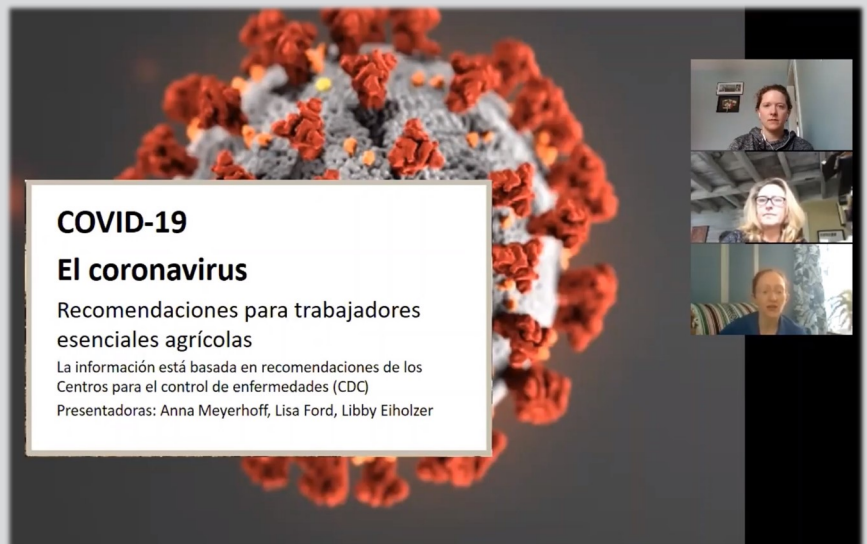
Our goal quickly became to filter and distribute the most recent developments in timely updates once a week in email and a mailer to our audience. The first update sent out on March 27 contained the team's status, safety precautions and emergency financial resources. Subsequent updates pertained to the team's topic areas of dairy, livestock and field crops with resources for operations of all sizes. Other resources that were included related to impacts such as marketing, employee safety training, and farm safety plan development. The email updates were sent to approximately 1,300 people and paper mailings were sent to 85 people.

### Reaching Spanish-Speaking Farmworkers during the COVID-19 Crisis

Through the specialists' interactions with farmers and farmworkers, it soon became clear that Spanish-speaking farmworkers might not be getting up-to-date, local information about the COVID-19 pandemic. Since local news sources are primarily in English, and state and local regulations were changing rapidly, there were many questions and rumors in the farmworker community.

In response, the NWNYS Team worked with Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development to create [English](#) and [Spanish](#) factsheets titled "Reliable Resources for Spanish- & English-Speaking Farmworkers about COVID-19." These explain what COVID-19 is, how to protect yourself, what to do if you or someone at your farm gets sick, and resources for those suffering from stress or isolation. These were updated as state and local recommendations changed. Together, the factsheets have been viewed 1,177 times and downloaded 197 times.

In addition, the Team worked with NYCAMH (New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health) and Cayuga Marketing to create a 5-minute [video in Spanish](#) explaining the basics of the coronavirus, which has been viewed 851 times and is available to view on YouTube. All resources were developed using CDC and NYS DOH guidelines.



Screenshot from the Spanish COVID-19 video.

Photo source: [https://youtu.be/W-B1hl\\_kkw](https://youtu.be/W-B1hl_kkw)

## Crop Alerts: Timely Pest Observations from the Field

There is no better way to scout for insects, weeds and diseases than “boots on the ground.” Every growing season is different. Environmental conditions can affect which pests will be problematic and lead to economic populations and possible yield losses.

The NWNy Team publishes a weekly online Crop Alert starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The alert informs growers and industry reps what pests we are currently seeing in corn, alfalfa, soybean and small grain fields. We include pictures of the pest and plant injury and possible management solutions. Many of the tips we get are from growers, consultants and industry reps. Our hope is to get the ag community out in the fields correctly identifying pests and their injury, at the right time, with the appropriate control measure before economic losses occur.

A great example of Crop Alert’s value is our utilization of pheromone traps to monitor for Black Cutworm and Common Armyworm. Both of these pests migrate in every spring on storm fronts from the south and can cause severe yield losses in corn and wheat. The traps allow us to monitor their first arrival into NY and how many come in each week. Based on degree-day data we can determine when eggs will hatch and when larvae will be large enough to cause economic plant injury. We had some very large flights of both of these moths this spring. We were able to alert everyone when to start scouting their fields and determine if economic populations were present to warrant a control measures.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension** | Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program


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**CROP ALERT** May 11, 2020  
 Mike Stanyard & Jodi Putman, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NWNy Team page 1

**Significant Flights of Black Cutworm and Common Armyworm Moths!**

Despite the cooler than usual weather, significant numbers of BCW and CAW have been recorded in our region. So what is a significant number of BCW? Many universities determine a significant flight of BCW as 9 moths over a two-day period. We do not look at our traps daily, only weekly, so we cannot be as accurate. Now that we have some traps that have hit this number, we should monitor the number of degree-days accumulated (base 50°F). It takes roughly 300 degree-days for BCW larvae to be big enough to cut corn plants (4<sup>th</sup> instar). This is not a scientific process but it gives us a good idea of when we should be out there monitoring for damage.

There is no real degree-day thresholds for monitoring Common Armyworm. It will be roughly 100 degree-days to egg hatch. Grass hay fields and winter grains such as wheat and barley are favored egg-laying sites. Corn planted into a green cover crop will also need to be monitored carefully.



BCW catch on April 29 in Seneca Falls.  
 Photo: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNy Team

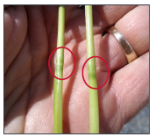
	BCW Ontario	BCW Seneca Falls	BCW Seneca	BCW Castle	BCW Avon	CAW Ontario	CAW Seneca Falls	CAW Seneca	CAW Castle	CAW Avon
April 15	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	4
April 22	1	4	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	2
April 29	13	23	7	5	5	5	15	3	4	4
May 6	3	8	8	24	25	1	19	10	10	40

**Degree-Day Accumulation April 29 - May 10, 2020 (Base 50°F)**

Sodus	Varrick	Rochester	Farmington	Elba	Medina	Corwin	Gainsville	Lakeville
Wayne	Seneca	Monroe	Ontario	Genesee	Orleans	Niagara	Wyoming	Livingston
27.5	32.0	29.5	26.9	21.8	26.8	24.7	9.1	24.5

**How do you Determine if your Wheat Has Reached Feekes Stage 6?**

Feekes stage 6 is a very important stage to identify. This is officially the stem elongation or jointing stage. Hopefully, all of your nitrogen is applied (first shot or second shot). I know it has been challenging to get herbicides and nitrogen applied this spring. To determine if you are at FS 6, pull up a couple of primary tillers. Peel down the lower leaves like you were peeling a banana and expose the shiny lower stem. If you can see a visible bump or node (like the knuckle on your finger), then you are at FS 6 (see picture). The tinv spikelet is developing right above the first node. The number of kernels is already developed. You can cut the stem vertically and see for yourself. It usually takes 7 days to reach FS 7, which is the emergence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> node. FS 8 is the first emergence of the flag leaf and that takes another 7 to 10 days. As things get heated up, we will run through these stages quickly! The weather has not been conducive to powdery mildew infection, which likes it above 60 degrees and 85% humidity.



First nodes visible on the primary tillers.  
 Photo: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNy Team

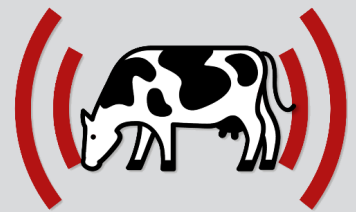
Helping you put knowledge to work  
 Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/REO, Protected Veterans, and individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Crop Alerts are available to view online at: <https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/newsletter.php>

## New Podcast Reaches Farmers Across the Region

The NWNy Team collaborated with Dairy Specialists across the state to produce a new podcast series entitled, “Dialing Into Your Best Dairy”. Episodes in the series were released weekly beginning on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The aim was to discuss management practices and tips to reach a herd’s full genetic potential. In 8 episodes, CCE Dairy and PRO-DAIRY Specialists discussed the different life stages of the dairy cow. Topics discussed included:

- raising calves through the milk phase and weaning
- managing weaned heifers up to freshening
- making decisions about which replacements to keep including inventory management
- disease prevention and culling decisions
- feeding and nutrition management during lactation
- facilities, time management, and ventilation considerations throughout lactation
- management factors surrounding reproduction, gestation and the dry period



Episode guests featured Cornell faculty and staff, allied industry professionals, and farmers sharing technical information and experience regarding each topic. The target audience of this podcast is farmers, farm employees, allied industry, and others who are interested in learning ways to improve dairy herd production, health, efficiency and profitability. As of June 24, two episodes had been released with a total of 350 listeners.