We are so excited to welcome Camila Lage to Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program as our Dairy Management Specialist. Camila will be working on research and outreach related to dairy herd health and management, calf and heifer rearing, milk quality, nutrition, and improving efficiency and environmental sustainability of dairies. She’s already done a tremendous job learning more about Cornell and the region, visiting with local dairies to learn more about their needs, and is designing a survey to assess needs related to dairy calf raising.

Camila grew up in the largest milk producing state of Brazil. She graduated as a Veterinarian from the Federal University of Minas Gerais - Brazil, where she also got her MSc. and Ph.D. in Animal Science with a focus on calf rearing. Camila spent 2 years of her Ph.D. program at Penn State as a visiting scholar, working with Dairy Nutrition, especially related to protein nutrition. Camila then worked as a Postdoc at the University of California-Davis, where she worked with the economic opportunities of implementing automatic milking technologies in dairy farms. She is looking forward to working with producers in the area and connecting the agricultural industry to Cornell resources.
Amy has been working with educators across the state to spearhead the CCE Flocks Talks program, which educates poultry owners about important issues related to poultry via free online webinars. This quarter, they had 42 participants learn about summer management and parasites of poultry.

Providence Farm Update

The mushroom workshop at the Providence Farm Collective was a huge success! The farmers grew oyster mushrooms using a low input method and are working together using what they’ve learned to develop and expand into this new enterprise. Amy was able to facilitate this experience and help participants with their own growing enterprises.

Katelyn joined Amy for a presentation on marketing, budgets, determining cost of production, and setting sales prices. One participant was particularly interested in the budgeting aspect and worked with her to develop an enterprise specific spreadsheet, which they will continue to use.

Corn Silage Pre-Harvest Meetings

PRO-DAIRY’s Joe Lawrence travelled to SWNY to join our local field crops producers and agriservice providers to share considerations ahead of the season’s corn silage harvest. This included conversations on bunk management, kernel processing, safety, and managing dry matter. These were well attended with outstanding conversation. We owe our gratitude to our hosts, Blesy Dairy Farm in Springville and Lismore Dairy in Arkport.

NY HERO Act Infectious Disease Plans

In September, all businesses in NYS were required to implement their Airborne Infectious Disease Plans. This included farms that had to immediately review their plans, verbally review them with their employees, and post them properly in the workplace. Katelyn worked to notify farm businesses in our region about this new requirement, provide assistance with navigating the state Department of Labor supplied templates, and delivering paper copies for those without internet.

Programming and Presentations

- Providence Farm Collective Meetings on Introduction to Raising Goats (July 10th), Labeling and Marketing (July 24th), Mushrooms (July 30th), Beekeeping (August 1st), Broiler Processing (August 14th)
- CCE Flock Talks: Summer Troubles (July 28th, Internal and External Parasites (August 25th), Summer Recap (September 23rd)
- Corn Silage Pre-Harvest Meetings in Springville and Arkport (September 1st)
- Continue to release regular Press Releases (6), Weekly Update Newsletters (12), Dairy Market Watch (3), Cows, Crops, and Critters Newsletters (3), and Field Crops Chronicles to keep our producers, stakeholders, and community members aware of our programming and support resources.