

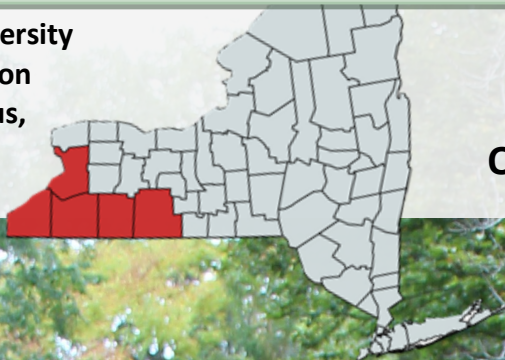
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# Cornell Cooperative Extension

Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu

A partnership between Cornell University  
and the Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Associations of Allegany, Cattaraugus,  
Chautauqua, Erie, and  
Steuben counties.



## 2023 Annual Report October 2022 - September 2023



### 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

**1,809**

Farm Consultations  
on topics related to Farm  
Business Management, Field  
Crops, Dairy Management,  
and Livestock Production.

**5,887**

Event and program direct  
participants who've attended  
one of our 123 events/  
collaborations or have received  
our direct email/mail updates.

**376**

Website submissions, press  
releases, interviews, and  
Facebook posts providing  
timely information to a large  
audience.

*Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.*



# Our Year of Programming in Review!

*By Katelyn Walley, Team Leader*

2023 has been a financially challenging year for some of our region's farms and an outstanding success for others! Our own team has seen some ups and downs from overwhelming packed programming seasons to heartwarming farm kitchen table moments. I'm so proud of everything we've accomplished in 2023 and am excited to see what 2024 brings.

We wouldn't be the TEAM that we are without having such wonderful, empathetic, and passionate people. We live and farm where we work and genuinely value the opportunity to share resources and connect throughout the region. It's been a rewarding year to have a full team and continue to grow connections internally and with the farming community.


It's almost been five years since our program began, and we're starting to see our initial investments and planning pay off in big ways. We've expanded the amount of research projects we're involved in, bringing local opportunities for cutting edge farm management changes. We're also partnering with agribusinesses and other Cornell University departments to broaden outreach in our region. Additionally, beginning right now, we're working on updating our needs assessment to ensure we're offering high quality programming and resources that are exactly what our region is looking for.

At the team impact level, you'll see just how many individual consultations we've had, and the truly wonderful success stories, in the coming pages. 2024 is shaping up to be another exciting year as we expand our in-person events, continue to add research projects and efforts, and offer easily accessible virtual programming. If you're interested in serving on our team's advisory committee to help support our programming and identify areas of need, please don't hesitate to give me a call!

I'd be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank and celebrate the support of our region's Executive Directors that we get the opportunity to work with. Thank you Laura Hunsberger of CCE Allegany County, Kelly McDonald of CCE Cattaraugus County, Emily Reynolds of CCE Chautauqua County, Diane Held of CCE Erie County, and Tess McKinley of CCE Steuben County. Additionally, our region is lucky to have such dedicated county association based educators who really provide outstanding services to our farmers - Cristian Acosta (Allegany), Sharon Bachman (Erie), Lynn Bliven (Allegany), Lisa Kempisty (Chautauqua), Kathleen McCormick (Erie), Shannon Rinow (Cattaraugus/Chautauqua), Susan Walker (Steuben), and John Whitney (Erie).

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our program and our 2023 successes. Best wishes for a safe and successful 2024!

Go Bills,



## Crops, Cows, and Critters Sponsorship

Our monthly newsletter reaches over 800 farms and households via paper mailing and email updates. We're grateful for our industry sponsors who help support our program by sponsoring the newsletter!

*Darleen Krisher-Meehan*  
**Country Crossroads Feed and Seed**

*Don Wild*  
**Wild Acres Family Farm**

*Curtis T. Corkey*  
**Principal Financial Services**

*Matt Budine*  
**Progressive Dairy Solutions, Inc.**

*Robert Church & Whitney Davis*  
**Finger Lakes Dairy Service, Inc.**

*Joe Foster*  
**Laing-Gro**

*Patrick Coates*  
**Farm Credit East**

*Cliff Love*  
**Nutrien**

*Mark Einink*  
**Cows Come First**

*Curtis T. Corkey*  
**Principal Financial Services**

*Ayshea Heckman*  
**Ernst Seeds**

*Ben Scott*  
**Advanced Dairy Services**

*Rheanna Short*  
**Growmark FS**

*CJ Cousins*  
**Sedam Tire**

*Amelia Parseghian*  
**NY FarmNet**

*Sherry Coventry*  
**The Evans Agency Insurance**



**CROPS  
COWS &  
CRITTERS**  
newsletter

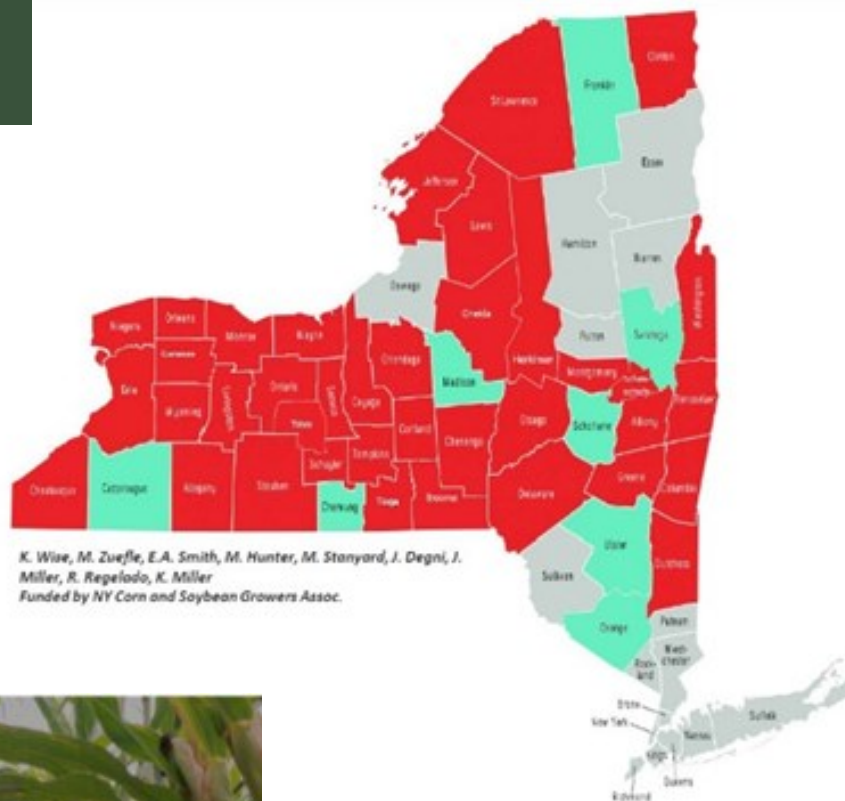
# Field Crops and Forage

Katelyn Miller

Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) is the number 1 yield-reducing pest of soybeans and is spread throughout NYS. With funding from New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association (NYCSGA), 11 fields were sampled in 2022 and 10 fields will be sampled in 2023 for this pest in Southwest, NY. More than 30 counties in NY have identified this pest in at least one field, with four of the five counties in our region being apart of that majority.



Tar spot was first identified in 2021 in NYS and it's not slowing down anytime soon. This disease affects corn (grain, sweet corn, silage, plots, etc.) by producing small, raised black structures which form on the upper and lower parts of the leaves. Tar spot is a very concerning economic and production risk for all corn producers. Scouting efforts have identified countless corn fields as having tar spot this growing season, and the number continues to climb every day.



Leveraging resources and expertise from CCE Regional Teams and innovative campus leaders, SWNYDLFC was able to host a virtual Field Crops Congress. This event brought 5 lunchtime sessions on topics related to pest management, on-farm experimentation, the value of manure, challenges for the 2023 season, and much more! This series provided convenient access to important credits for field crop producers, including 2.5 DEC credits and 4 CCA credits.



The Poveda Lab with Cornell University and the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program (NYSIPM) are working together to create a prediction model for Seedcorn Maggot. This pest impacts large-seeded crops such as corn and soybeans, creating feeding damage to germinating seed. The prediction model will be correlated to our Northeast climate and is being designed to serve as an early season prediction model for the Network for Environment and Weather Application (NEWA) platform. In Southwest NY, 5 farmers collaborated on this project presenting data from 9 total locations throughout the region.

*Farmer Quote: Reading "Field Crop Finds" has helped me keep an eye out for pests and other things that I should be looking for. I really like that there are lots of photos and that I can read through timely things quickly. I use this information to help out my crop season and can call Katelyn if I have any questions. Thank you for this resource.*



# Dairy Management

Camila Lage

The Technology Tuesdays Webinar Series was developed with the intent of bringing the most updated information of different technologies available to dairy farmers. Over the 7 days of program we had 8 speakers presenting, 9 sponsors, and 1546 people from 54 countries participating. 22% of participants were resident of NYS and we had over 31 registrants from SWNY, including participants for the 5 counties. Participants rated all webinars higher than 4 in quality and we received a lot of feedback of people that: "like to see this webinar offering all year round and more topics" and that thought it was "Fascinating to learn about what dairy technologies are available, and the direction that the technology industry is moving."



**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF MANAGING TRANSITION COWS ON AMS**

- Transition cow management at Hemdale dairy  
Pete Maslyn  
Dairy Herd Manager at Hemdale farms
- Optimizing transition cows management on AMS  
Todd Ward, PAS  
Dairy Consultant

Webinar Live  
Thursday June 1st, 2023  
12:00 - 1:15 PM (ET)

Michigan State University Extension  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Sponsored by MSU, Extension and Field Crops Program  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

Register at: [www.events.anr.msu.edu/transitionAMS/](http://www.events.anr.msu.edu/transitionAMS/)

Farmers had the chance for a hands-on day of learning about calving management. A Hands-On Calving and Dystocia Workshop was hosted in Cattaraugus county on February 22. We had a full class of 14 participants from 8 farms and registrants from all 5 counties that are part of the SWNY regional team. The program was very well received from our participants, who thought they learned a lot and became more confident on their skills after the course. They were also interested in attending other trainings like the one we hosted. This was a successful team-effort program which, in addition to bring the expertise from Dr. Lynch (PRO-DAIRY), also involved all specialists from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team, who shared important information inside their area of expertise with the participants.



**From Robots to Low-Cost Parlors  
How Do Ya Milk a Cow?**

Dr. Larry Tranel  
Dairy Field Specialist  
ISU Extension, NE/SE Iowa

Technology Tuesday Webinar Series, Milking Systems Technology

No Endorsement of Product Intended

Since Automated Milking Systems are a relatively new technology, timely, high-quality information on different aspects of feeding and managing cows in this type of system is needed to guarantee the success and profitability of farmers transitioning to this system. The objective of this webinar, put together in partnership with MSU Extension, was to provide our target audience (farmers, stakeholders, and students) with the latest, unbiased information delivered by experienced people working directly with AMS or researching the topic on how to manage transition cows in AMS. The event was a resounding success, with 209 attendees from 35 countries. It attracted a diverse and engaged audience, provided valuable insights and knowledge, and fostered a collaborative environment for information exchange.



*Farmer Quote: The hands-on dystocia workshop was awesome! I've never gotten a training like this so close to home, and I learned a lot of tips for calving season. Camila was able to explain things in a way that made me pay attention and not feel inadequate for not knowing them before.*



# Livestock Management

Amy Barkley

Katelyn and Amy celebrated their Extension Educator of the Year awards with the NYS Beef Producers at the Region 2 Annual Meeting this past spring. This award is granted to individuals within CCE who have shown exemplary work with producers in their region and across the state, and is voted on by members of the New York Beef Producers.



Resistance to deworming chemicals is an ever-growing challenge for producers of sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. Our team helped share information about parasite management through a hands-on FAMACHA training in Cattaraugus County in partnership with CCE Allegany. In addition, this topic was the focus of one of the presentations in our "Goats 101" series, which has been viewed 57 times on our team's YouTube channel.



Sixteen small farms across SWNY are active participants on the NE SARE project, "Optimizing the Economic Return of Pasture-Raised Slow-Growth and Conventional Broilers". We are working with these farmers one-on-one to analyze their production and enterprise data to help them more efficiently raise chicken for their local communities, while also becoming more profitable. In addition, we've hosted one in-person field day/tour at a local 20-A processor, HLW Acres, and a virtual field day on processing chickens over Zoom, reaching a total of 39 participants.



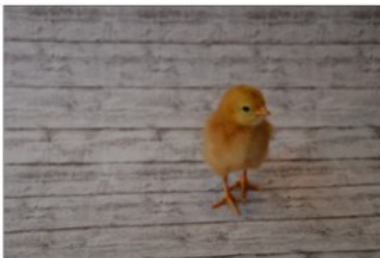
## Cornell Cooperative Extension Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program

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livestock → where have all the chicks gone? by amy barkley

### Where Have all the Chicks Gone? by Amy Barkley

Amy Barkley, Livestock Specialist  
Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program  
March 19, 2023



Where Have all the Chicks Gone?

by Amy Barkley, Livestock and Beginning Farm Specialist, SWNYDLFC

It's spring. Birds are calling, the harsh chill is starting to lift. Giddy with anticipation for your spring flock, you go onto your favorite hatchery's ordering page and find out that they are sold out through summer. Concerned, you try your local farm supply store, but there's nothing peeping in their bins - they sold out of their chicks as soon as they got them in this morning. So this begs the question, why can't you get ahold of chicks right now?

It's no surprise that increased input costs of farming have resulted in pricier eggs at the supermarket. To complicate matters, the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has resulted in the death of 10% of the nation's laying hen flock. This setback in production coupled with the holiday demand at the end of 2022 caused the wholesale price of eggs to spike to \$5.43/dozen in December. It's recently come down, but these prices are prompting more people than ever to add some chickens to their backyard and for small farms to increase the size of their laying flocks.

While egg laying flocks have been impacted by HPAI, breeder chickens supplying the eggs for meat producing (broiler) flocks have also been affected. The shortage of breeders means a shortage of meat-type chicks for everyone. For larger broiler breeder operations, that means chicks that would normally be made available to small farms and backyard producers may first fill commercial broiler houses instead, limiting their availability. That said, at this point the shortage is localized to different areas of the U.S. If your hatchery doesn't have broilers in stock, there may be other hatcheries that

Egg prices soared and chicks were in short supply this spring following the wave of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza that started in 2022, and continued into 2023. As more people got into raising small flocks and small farmers increased production of both eggs and chicken meat, our team provided production, management, and business information via articles, webinars, and one-on-one consultations.

*Farmer Quote: I love Amy's hands-on videos. I've been watching them over and over while I keep growing my farm by adding goats, and selling eggs, and processing meat birds. It's great that I know the information is factual and can pause and rewatch as I need to. Thank you for this resource.*



# Farm Business Management

Katelyn Walley

Our continued partnership with Cornell Small Farms Program's Farm Ops Initiative has brought valuable, approachable, and reuseable seminars and resources to veterans across our region and our state. Katelyn and Amy led 10+ live seminars on topics related to farm finances, business planning, tax management, goat care, poultry production, meat processing, regulations, and more.



*tools for farm succession planning*

FREE Virtual Webinar Series for farms interested in planning for the future!

Wednesdays from 6:30pm - 8pm

3/8 - Building a Strong Management Team  
3/15 - Assessing Your Business  
3/22 - Tax Management in Succession Planning

Visit [tinyurl.com/cceMarch](https://tinyurl.com/cceMarch) to register!

more info

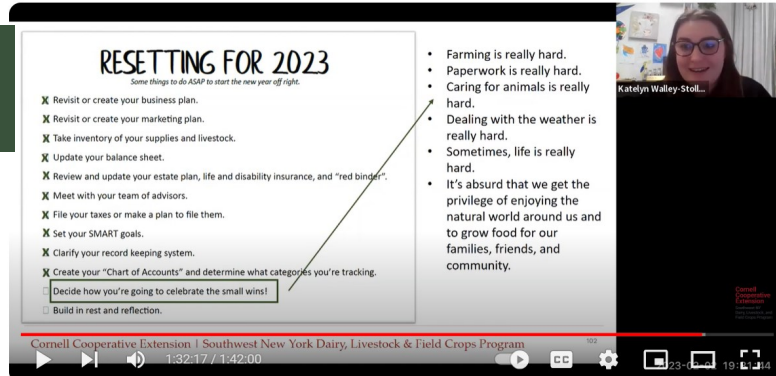


Over 50 farms joined our “Tools for Farm Succession Planning” series which covered building a strong management team, assessing your business, and tax management for succession planning. Several participants then reached out to Katelyn following the informational webinar for additional planning support and guidance.

The Dairy Advancement Program, managed by Cornell PRO-DAIRY and funded by NYS, provides critical funding for small and medium sized dairies to meet environmental and business challenges. SWNYDLFC specialists promote the program and help facilitate grant reporting, group communication, and project evaluation. Specifically, Katelyn works with farms as they navigate projects related to business planning, record keeping, advisory committees, and succession planning. This helps build connections within the region while also providing valuable resources and funding directly to our region.

Katelyn was nationally recognized with an “Achievement Award” for her work with CCE since 2014 from NACAA, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. This national award is peer nominated and recognizes early career achievements from cooperative extension educators. Additionally, she represented the entire Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops team who received a Communication Award for their newsletter “Crops, Cows, and Critters”, which was a National Finalist. She also entered a photo which received recognition as a Regional Winner. As part of the award recognition, she was also able to attend the national conference which was hosted in Iowa this year and included professional development, trainings, and farm tours.

*Farmer Quote: Katelyn has helped our farm a lot with our succession planning. I appreciate having someone that I can call that will help talk me through things and not try to sell me something. It's great that she's got farming experience and is more than a “piece of paper” and books. I'm glad my tax dollars fund SWNYDLFC.*



FarmOpsP: Setting Your Farm Financial Goals Part 2



75 views 7 months ago Farm Business Management  
Presented on February 2, 2023.

## Advancement Program

Business Planning

Human Resource Management

Environmental Planning



Supporting excellence in the New York state dairy industry



# Allegany County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Supporting farms on sometimes sensitive topics, like farm succession planning, business expansion, and more, is a unique specialty of our Farm Business Management specialist. We're currently working intensively with 3 dairy farms in Allegany County who are undergoing some type of a transition by providing unbiased resources, moderating planning meetings, and helping analyze farm financial positions.

Our team has been working with a farm in Allegany County, looking to improve their manure management system through technology adoption. Our program is assisting with finding grant opportunities to offset some costs and identifying technologies that will best fit the farm's needs.



Following up on the Pasture Walk held in Steuben County, where we talked a little about tools for calculating forage availability, Kim and Janice from All Birds Farm reached out with interest in more discussion about those tools. This conversation sparked a collaboration for a fall pasture walk and a grazing webinar, which will be held in October, in partnership with the DGA program. Attendees will have the opportunity to see firsthand a Paddock Track device, a promising, innovative technology for forage management.

Through our statewide NE SARE project and partnering with Lynn Bliven, we are collecting data from 6 producers for "Optimizing the Economic Return of Pasture-Raised Slow-Growth and Conventional Broilers". Farmers are working with CCE to collect data and receive one-on-one consultations on how to be more efficient in raising chickens for meat to feed their local communities while improving the profitability of their enterprise.



An IPM and FAMACHA parasite training for sheep and goat producers at the Shepherd's Place in Houghton used hands-on education to teach farmers how to select animals for deworming in addition to improving pasture management to reduce internal parasite burdens.

A pasture walk hosted at Kent's Farm in Wellsville brought together 28 producers with varying types of livestock. Attendees were able to learn about soil health topics like water infiltration, forage production, the impact of soil types on forage, erosion, along with visuals on the value of resting pastures and unique forages to fill feed demands.

A Corn Silage Pre-Harvest Meeting was held in Caneadea which brought together 13 farmers and industry representatives to prepare for this year's corn silage harvest. Attendees were able to learn from Joe Lawrence of PRO-DAIRY about particle length, packing density, inoculant use, bunk safety, and much more!

Our team assisted an Allegany County farmer with accessing funds through the Dairy Advancement Program to transition their record keeping system from paper ledgers to electronic bookkeeping. We coordinated communication between the grant funder, the farmer, and the contractor who they were working with the set up QuickBooks. Once the project was completed, SWNYDLFC continued to support the farm by troubleshooting entry issues and designing routine reports to monitor farm profitability.



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# Cattaraugus County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

The region's first Forage and Pasture Management Workshop, hosted at Pioneer High School, brought together educators and 40 farmers from across WNY. Farmers learned about harvesting and handling stored forage for sale and feeding; managing pasture for optimized growth and nutrition; and the expense considerations of growing and harvesting farm-grown forage for winter feeding vs buying it in.



A Shop Talk was hosted focusing on "Managing In-Field Variability". Joe Lawrence from the PRO-DAIRY led this meeting, highlighting best management practices for ensuring that feed enters the bunk at the highest quality possible. This event



brought together 11 different farmers and industry representatives and allowed for the open discussion of challenges producers face and opportunities to improve their understanding of harvesting systems through research-based knowledge.

Our Dairy Management Specialist has been working with a farm in Cattaraugus County on data analysis and management troubleshooting to evaluate how to increase productivity and reduce farm costs. This includes nutrition analysis, feed audits, reproductive performance indicators, and more.

SWNYDLFC connected a well known dairy farm located in East Otto with crucial funding that allowed them to modernize their record keeping system, analyze farm profitability, and create a farm succession plan for continued sustainability. The farm has also been able to reach out to the team regarding employee training, facility planning, and farm business management decision making.

In a developing relationship with a new farmer, our Field Crop Specialist has been able to provide support in optimizing their forage production. Research-based information has been provided on bird damage in corn with thresholds, along with herbicide options for corn and oats, and improving best management of herbicide use.

A Beef Quality Assurance meeting was held at a well known farm in Perrysburg which taught farmers how to handle and medicate livestock according to national standards. This program is one of two options required of farms that want to participate in the NY Grown and Certified Program, and is required by larger beef processors.

In conjunction with CCE-Cattaraugus, the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau, and other Cattaraugus County agribusinesses, Katelyn Walley coordinated a farm tour which brought over 100 students, parents, and school staff closer to agriculture. This also inspired several follow up resources and articles, providing support and guidance for farms looking to host their own farm tour.



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# Chautauqua County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

## June Is Dairy Month!

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Camila Lage shares information about Dairy Month in Southwest NY

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 5, 2023



Camila Lage, from Cornell Cooperative Extension's SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program share her appreciation for dairy farmers. (Courtesy Photos)

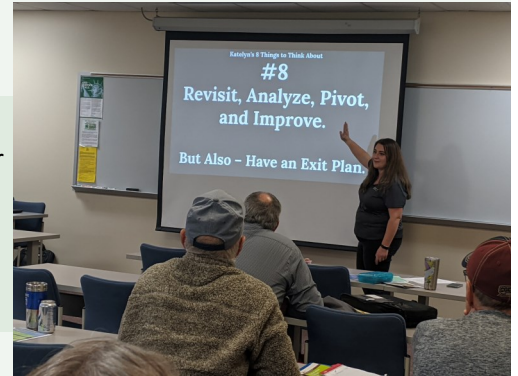
In June 2023, SWNYDLFC shared information about June as Dairy Month as a press release, which was widely shared in local newspapers, Morning Agriclips, and social media, including a reshare from the NE Agribusiness and Feed Alliance. A resident from Chautauqua County reached out to learn more about information on dairy farm tours open to the community and was directed to the fantastic events CCE Chautauqua put together yearly, such as the 2023 Open Barns Doors Days.

With a vast amount of acreage planted to winter grains in NY, pest control is important to ensure economic viability. The Hessian fly is a pest that stunts growth of small grains, especially winter wheat, making it important to plant after the fly-free date. We were able to provide research-based information to help a

producer calculate the best time to plant fall small grains in their operation.

In conjunction with American Farmland Trust's Farmland for a New Generation initiative, SWNYDLFC, as a Regional Navigator, connected a non-operating landowner with a beginning farmer who was interested in starting their farm with a lease to own set up. This involved facilitating several meetings, reviewing strategies and plans, and checking in with each party to meet programming goals and ensure the land remained in production agriculture.

"Hogs, Hops, and Honey - Oh My!". This was a presentation led by SWNYDLFC for Chautauqua County's Ag Forum that explored and offered risk management education for farms interested in diversifying to improve farm profitability. Farms are continually looking for options to reduce product risk by increasing revenue streams in a sustainable way.



Hay production is important to the county, making research-based information about controlling perennial pasture and hayfield weeds pertinent to hay production. We have been able to provide consultations to producers about weed control options, while also highlighting reseeding methods to increase species competitiveness.

SWNYDLFC is working with 2 grass-fed beef farmers in Chautauqua County who are part of a larger state-wide NY Farm Viability study that will determine the efficiencies of producing grass-fed beef in NYS. Together, they are testing forage, taking cattle weights, and determining the efficiencies of their cattle, while following the growth of two sets of farm-born calves over 3 years.

In February, our Dairy Management Specialist, in conjunction with the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program, Camila Lage connected with a farmer in Chautauqua County who is also a mentor for the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship program visited a local participating advisor to learn more about his grazing system the challenges with the apprenticeship program, and brainstorm programs that could be helpful to dairy farmers.

A "Meat" Your Farmer event was hosted in partnership with Chautauqua County CCE in November 2022. The event interfaced local farmers with members of their community and shared information on purchasing bulk meats directly from the farm.



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# Erie County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

The team is partnering with Harvest NY to bring information to schools about the purchasing of meat from local farms as part of their 30% NY Initiative. A Zoom presentation was shared in May and we are planning an in-person event to bring together farmers and food service directors in early 2024. This partnership helps improve farm profitability with access to new markets and local school systems with local food.

In June, we shared a survey to understand better which tools (if any) farms are using to evaluate colostrum quality and management. Following up on the survey, The SWNY team is recruiting farms to do a pilot experiment to

An Agronomic Weed Management and Cover Crop event brought together speakers from various disciplines as well as 16 producers and industry representatives. Speakers and attendees discussed weed identification, management, herbicide efficacy, forage value, and evaluated the cover crops.

Multiple beginning farmers in Erie County have requested information on getting started with sheep and goats. In response, "Goats 101" was created as 4-part webinar series to share basic information on the care and management of these critters. The videos were shared live and later uploaded onto our team's YouTube channel to serve as reference material for others who want to know how to begin.



In an exciting cross over between Regional Team specialization and 4-H Youth programming, we presented to a packed house of 4-H youth (and their parents!) about the basics of farm financial management, budgeting, business planning, and goal setting. While the youth in attendance were able to receive educational credit, several parents reached out later on to continue discussions for their farm businesses.

In April, producers gathered at Phillips Farm for a Shop Talk to learn more about "Incorporating Small Grains into Your Forage System". In this round table style meeting, those involved were able to glean information from others about how to incorporate different forages in their feeding system. As a result of this meeting, one farmer decided to incorporate triticale into their forage system this year.

The team partnered with the NWNy and MSU Extension to bring information about managing transition cows in Automatic Milking Systems. Erie County has many farms with this technology, and information on this topic is scarce. A Zoom presentation was shared in May, where we brought a NY farmer to share his vast experience. We had attendees from across the region, including three farmers from Erie Co.



In December, SWNYDLFC traveled to Buffalo to present to a group of farmers from the Providence Farm Collective about small and beginning farm tax management. This was a fun night that included Schedule F practice exercises, real life examples, plenty of time for questions and answers, and an interesting discussion on business structures and liability insurance while adding in the nuances of multi-language translation in real time.

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# Steuben County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

A pasture walk at Heaven Scent Farm held in July focused on soil health and forage quality education using live demonstrations and data recorded at the farm to share information with 31 individuals. This program was a partnership with the team, CCE Steuben, and the SCNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team.

“All of the Chicken Things” brought together beginning farmers in Steuben County who wanted to learn more about raising chickens for meat and eggs and how to prepare and package their products for sale. Poultry is a very common enterprise on small farms, and by improving production efficiency and understanding of how to package products, it can be a way to gain the capital to diversify into other farming co-enterprises.



## BEFORE



Before divisions, cows would continue graze same pastures



Uncovered soil



Overgrazed pastures

For over a year now, SWNYDLFC has been helping an Amish farmer from Steuben County to plan and implement rotational grazing with water access for cows 100% of the time in each on his dairy. 2023 was his first year managing the cows under this system during the grazing season, and he already saw benefits in animal performance and plant and soil health.

## AFTER



Cows do not need to get back to the barn to have water



Grass have time to recover



Cows have access to fresh pasture more often

Through connections made with the office, Katelyn Miller has been able to provide producers with research-based resources on soil sampling, utilizing frost seeding to reseed fields, alternative weed control and additional resources on restoring perennial hayfields and pastures.

Large scale solar installations have been a huge topic for Steuben County residents in recent months, and even more so for rural landowners. This can lead to unexpected consequences like increased land values, high rental rates, and challenging contract negotiations. Our team has had dozens of conversations with

farmers, non-operating landowners, and county officials about this topic and how it interacts with our agricultural industry.

Earlier this year, Camila Lage connected with a farmer in Steuben County who applied for funds to evaluate a new business venture through The Dairy Advancement Program, funded by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and coordinated through Cornell PRO-DAIRY.

In the past year, our field crop specialist has worked closely with a Steuben County grain farmer to provide resources on soil sampling, soybean and corn yield discussion and pricing, weed control, fertilizer and lime management, ear rot identification, and adoption of interseeding.

We've been helping to address concerns with employee management and labor sourcing with Steuben County farms by connecting with campus resources from the Cornell Ag Workforce Development Program, reaching out to supporting agribusinesses, and identifying areas where farm managers need additional training and support.



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# Connect with our Team!

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program provides free workshops, trainings, individual consultations, email and mailed newsletters, and research-based resources and information.



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