



# Cornell Cooperative Extension North Country Regional Ag Team

*The North Country Regional Ag Team is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties.*

## Quarterly Report

October -  
December  
2023

### CCE Dairy Specialists Start Monthly Podcast

Dairy farmers are regularly interested in hearing about emerging research updates and stories from other farmers. Podcasts provide another avenue to deliver this type of content and share information with local dairy farmers. During a 2020 CCE Agricultural Needs Assessment, North Country dairy producers ranked “podcasts/radio” as one of their top preferred learning methods, and CCE NCRAT Advisory Committee members have requested podcasts as they can listen to them on the go in the barn or the tractor.

To address this need, in collaboration with other CCE Dairy Specialists across NY and with PRO-DAIRY, the CCE North Country Regional Ag Team Dairy Specialists launched a new dairy podcast this past Fall. The goal of the podcast is to cover a wide range of emerging topics or topics of interest to the NY dairy industry, while providing technical information that can be applied to the farm. The podcast is called “Cornell Cow Convos”, it is housed on SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/user-301921459-118136586/sets/cornell-dairy-convos>), and new episodes come out at the end of each month. In each episode, a CCE Dairy Specialist interviews either a researcher, industry representative, or a farmer sharing their real-world experiences.

The first episode, released in October 2023, had 350 listeners and each of the 3 episodes since have over 100. The CCE Regional Dairy Specialists have received a lot of positive feedback about the series in addition to topic suggestions from New York dairy farmers, researchers, and agribusiness professionals. Further, the podcast has been mentioned in Morning Ag Clips as well as Hoard’s Dairyman Intel. Overall, the podcast is off to a great start, and it will increase the ability to reach more audiences and provide valuable information to the NY dairy industry.

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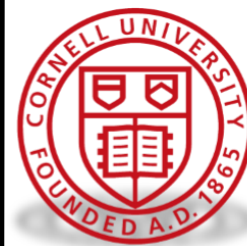
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# CCE and Cornell Educators Connect at Special 2023 Ag In-Service Climate Symposium



During late 2022 and early 2023, CCE Ag Educators and Specialists across NYS expressed interest in engaging more around climate topics. As a result, CCE leadership tasked a committee with planning and developing a climate-oriented program for late 2023. Chaired by Jenna Walczak, the committee included Katherine Bunting-Howarth, Antonius Chess, Jr., Nancy Glazier, David Kay, Laura McDermott, Jenny Kao-Kniffin, Sarah Muzio, Kitty O'Neil (CCE NCRAT) Savanna Shelnett, and Jenifer Wightman. This 2023 event built on a strong history of climate work at Cornell and CCE.

The 2023 CCE Climate Symposium was held on November 9<sup>th</sup>, at the end of the 2023 “Ag In-Service” conference at Cornell, Ithaca. Over 115 people attended the afternoon-long event in person and an additional 27 participants joined virtually. It was an opportunity for CCE Educators, Cornell faculty, researchers, and NYS stakeholders involved in climate, the environment, energy, justice, forestry, water, and agriculture to connect and briefly share information about climate-oriented projects and initiatives.

Jenifer Wightman, Cornell School of Integrative Plant Science, kicked off the event by giving an introductory presentation on NYS greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation, and funding. Julie Suarez, Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, gave the Climate Symposium’s keynote address on New York State climate policy, agriculture and forestry greenhouse gas mitigation goals, and Cornell CALS climate-related research and projects. The afternoon featured a series of one-minute lightning talks given by CCE county association, regional team, and campus faculty educators and researchers. Presenters were divided into three sessions, each focused on different aspects of climate work including ‘Responding to the Impacts of Climate Change in New York State’, ‘Forests and Farms,’ and ‘Energy and Community.’ Each lightning talk session was followed by fifteen minutes of question-guided discussion between individuals in the audience. Jenny Kao-Kniffin, CCE and School of Integrative Plant Science, gave concluding remarks that tied together the history and threads of climate work across CCE—from county associations to the newly-appointed CCE Director, Andy Turner.

At the end, participants were offered a survey to indicate what they need individually, organizationally, and within their communities to further their work on climate. Responses expressed a need for increased networking and communication between Cornell and CCE and expanded funding for education and research. Overall, the event succeeded in increasing awareness with 96% of post-event survey respondents reporting that they were more knowledgeable about climate related work across CCE and Cornell after the symposium. Additionally, 89% of respondents learned about or connected with a colleague that they plan to follow up with afterwards, and 96% feel that they now have more information and/or know where to find resources to incorporate climate topics into their work.

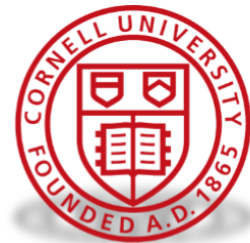
Speakers and participants expressed a desire for additional CCE climate-related events in the future, including topical webinars, regional working group meetings, site visits, one-day in-person meetings, and additional networking events. The mandate of Cornell Cooperative Extension is to put “knowledge to



work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being.” The post-event survey results reveal that the symposium provided CCE educators with the information and resources they need to educate stakeholders about practices for mitigating and adapting to climate change, as relates to this mandate.

Symposium recording: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-yuVQssvIQ&ab\\_channel=CornellSIPS](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-yuVQssvIQ&ab_channel=CornellSIPS)

# Early Detection of New Herbicide Resistant Weed Populations in NNY



We knew that it was only going to be a matter of time before herbicide resistant tall waterhemp and marehail were found in NNY. In 2019, CCE North Country Regional Ag Team Field Crop Specialists confirmed herbicide resistant marehail on a few farms in NNY and tall waterhemp on one farm in Jefferson County. Since then, multiple resistant marehail has spread across the North Country and can easily be found in five of the six counties in NNY. The early detection of the tall waterhemp population found on the farm in Jefferson County was contained and the farm managed to prevent the spread to other fields.

The first line of defense for herbicide resistant weed management is knowing what weeds are present. Proper identification and frequently monitoring weed populations for early detection of any potential resistant weeds present. If resistant weed populations are identified early, it provides growers an opportunity to contain and minimize the spread to additional acres across the farm operation.

CCE NCRAT Field Crop Specialists have committed to remain proactive in their educational outreach to growers and continue to maintain vigilance in detecting and identifying resistant weed populations that are rapidly expanding in the North Country. The team's efforts to address herbicide resistant weed management have included on-farm research trials and demonstrations, articles, grower meetings, and field days.

Since 2019, these efforts have included:

- Nine on-farm herbicide trials targeting multiple resistant marehail and tall waterhemp
- Writing or co-authoring 31 extension articles about herbicide resistance management
- Giving 70 in-person and virtual herbicide resistant management presentations throughout New York State, with five more scheduled in the first quarter of 2024
- On farm demonstration of importing weed seeds in a used combine purchased from out of state



Photo 1. Tall waterhemp found in soybean field in Lewis County, October 2023. Photo credit: M. Hunter, CCE NCRAT.

These continuous efforts have heightened the awareness of growers, crop consultants, and agribusinesses to closely monitor fields for the presence of herbicide resistant weed species, such as marehail and tall waterhemp. As a result of this proactive educational outreach and on-farm presence monitoring for new field crop pests, a new population of tall waterhemp was identified in a soybean field in Lewis County in October 2023 (photo 1). This was the first confirmed population of tall waterhemp detected in Lewis County. CCE NCRAT Field Crop Specialists outlined a management plan for the grower to control, contain, and prevent the spread to additional fields on the farm. Early identification and detection of new herbicide resistant weed populations is a key management strategy for growers, and CCE NCRAT is playing an important role with this.

## Our Mission

"The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people, and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically, and environmentally sustainable management practices and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry."

**Contact us directly through our website: <http://ncrat.cce.cornell.edu/>**

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