

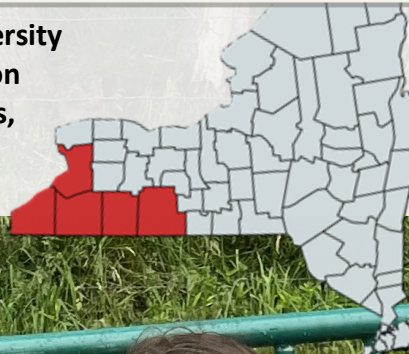
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Cornell Cooperative Extension

swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu

Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

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



2024 Annual Report October 2023 - September 2024



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

2,068

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

4,846

Event and program direct participants who've attended one of our 148 events & collaborations or have received our direct email/mail updates.

356

Website submissions, press releases, interviews, and Facebook posts providing timely information to a large audience of more than 20,000 indirects.

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.

Thank You Camila!

Our team has some sad news to share. Our outstanding Dairy Management Specialist, Camila Lage, is leaving Cornell Cooperative Extension as of May 1st, 2024.

Camila will be transitioning into a new role with Zoetis where she will be working with dairy producers in Western New York. While we're sad to see her leave, we're very excited for her in her new role - and are grateful that she is staying in our region.

Camila has been with our team for almost three years, and has been an incredible person to work with. She's developed genuine relationships with our regions farmers and stakeholders and created outstanding programs, resources, and initiatives.

Camila says that she "sincerely appreciates the opportunity to work with you and have enjoyed my time with Extension. Thank you for the support and encouragement you all have provided me for almost 3 years".

Congratulations, Camila, on your next chapter. We will miss you!



Welcome Katie!

We're excited to welcome Katie Callero as our team's Dairy Management Specialist. Katie will be working on programming related to herd health, milk quality, calf care, nutrition, grazing, and more. You can reach Katie by calling 607-422-6788 or emailing krc85@cornell.edu.



Katie Callero's journey into the world of animal science began with her early fascination with animals as a child. Katie then pursued higher education at Cornell University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Animal Science and a minor in Infectious Disease Biology, graduating with the distinction of cum laude.

After graduation, Katie worked as a lab manager for a dairy cow research lab housed in Cornell's vet school that focuses on transition cows. This experience sparked her interest in the world of research, and she decided to return to Cornell University to pursue her Master's of Science. Her thesis was focused on the behavior and welfare of cows and calves in relation to separation.

Katie is eager to connect with local producers and learn about their needs. She will be spending her first few months on the team visiting our region's farms and agribusinesses to learn more about the successes and needs, and how she might be able to help. She has been an incredible asset to the team already and will be another resource for the farmers in our region!

Field Crop Pheromone Trapping Network

The Pheromone Trapping Network allows for the monitoring of adult stages of pests to gain an understanding of the current populations present and their movements in the state. Early season pests pose a threat to our field crop production systems. Most notably, black cutworm poses risks to corn, while true armyworm is a concern in grass and small grains. Monitoring these populations allows for up-to-date information to be presented to farmers to make economical management decisions.

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Value-Added Dairy Tour Success!

On March 13th and 14th, a group of 30 dairy producers and CCE agriculture staff attended an overnight tour of value-added dairy processing facilities and farms in Eastern New York. This tour was organized by Katelyn Walley, SWNYDLFC, and Margaret Quaassdorff, NWNVDLFC as part of a larger program funded by the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center. Thanks to the grant funding, the total cost for producers was only \$100 in an effort to reduce barriers to participation. Tour participants enjoyed a chance to get away from the farm, learn from farms who have been processing their milk into a value-added product (and tour their facilities), connect with other producers interested in similar topics, and (of course) enjoy lots of samples of outstanding products!



Tour participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback and enjoyed the trip overall! Some specific quotes were:

- Everything was extremely well thought out and planned, Katelyn and her team did an amazing job at keeping us on time, planning, covering all the details. Communication prior to the tour was great. It was also great to network with other producers on the trip. Thank you again for including me and I'm excited to learn more from the potential discussion groups.
- Thank you for the opportunity and all the work that went into planning and keeping everyone on task.
- Excellent learning experience!
- Great job! Thank you for doing this.

Urban Mushroom Production



An entrepreneurial farmer from the Providence Farm Collective in Erie County was looking to increase her income in the winter months. She was connected to resources and materials to build out a small-scale commercial oyster mushroom grow chamber in her basement. Her operation allows her to supply 20-25 pounds of hyper-local oyster mushrooms weekly to her community while increasing her farm's revenue stream.

Field Corn Walks: Tar Spot

The Field Corn Walk addressing tar spot was developed in response to the increasing prevalence and severity of this fungal disease in Western New York. Over recent years, tar spot has emerged as a significant threat to corn yields, prompting researchers and agricultural extension services to focus on education and management strategies. This program aims to equip farmers with the knowledge and tools necessary to identify, manage, and mitigate the impacts of tar spot on their crops. Farmers participated in lively discussion and responses showed 75% of participants gained new information on the disease. Two programs were hosted in Erie and Allegany Counties focusing on discussion based, hand-on discussion of tar spot in corn.



Allegany County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Pesticides play a vital role in the management strategies of many farmers. However, understanding pesticide labels can often be complex. Our field crops specialist is a certified pesticide applicator who is able to offer specialized support to farmers, helping them navigate questions related to pesticide application effectively.



Our team partnered with Sunny Cove Farm and Lynn Bliven to host a broiler field day to share concepts around raising, processing, and further processing broilers with 13 current and aspiring farmers.



Farmer Meghan gave a farm tour to show how she raises and

broilers under the 1,000 bird exemption and participants had an opportunity to practice cutting up chickens into value-added parts allowed under the exemption. Participants

Our Farm Business Management Specialist assisted an Allegany Farm with information about funding sources, working with agricultural bankers, long term farm budgeting, and more as they embarked on a farm purchase journey. The farmer stated "Thank you for helping make this easier - it's a lot to sort through on my own".

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Cattaraugus County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Many farms depend on herbicides to manage weeds effectively. Given evolving regulations on chemical use and the rise of herbicide resistance, producers seek current and reliable herbicide recommendations. By leveraging the latest research findings, our specialists offer tailored herbicide program suggestions for corn production.

In cooperation with Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central school and CCE-Cattaraugus, our team participated in Kindergarten and Second Grade school tours at a diversified livestock farm. Students were able to feed animals, learn more about where milk, meat, and produce come from, plant a pumpkin, and more.



A local dairy farm is looking to renovate a pasture on a steep hill that their equipment can't access, and is considering clearing it with goats or sheep from a neighboring farm. Our team is helping them develop a grazing plan with the appropriate livestock at the right stocking density in a rotational system to reclaim the shrubby brushland to increase quality forage accessibility for their dairy herd.

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Chautauqua County Highlights from SWNYDLFC



Our team is supporting a small diversified livestock and produce farm as they transition from more labor intensive products to those which require fewer inputs that still meet their financial and land stewardship goals. Using the parameters they've shared, we're working together to develop a plan to move forward, including the development of practical grazing plans, disease management strategies, and marketing changes.

York State. Their feeding can result in significant plant damage, lower forage quality, and economic losses. To support a Chautauqua County farmer, our field crop specialist conducted weekly scouting to monitor PLH populations. This proactive approach enables the farmer to make informed and economically sound management decisions.

The potato leafhopper (PLH) is among the most prevalent insect pests affecting alfalfa in New



Farm succession planning is a difficult conversation that is often avoided because of its negative implications. Our Farm Business Management specialist worked with a young farm family in Chautauqua County to begin the process of succession planning early on to help prevent common issues and struggles.

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Erie County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Cover crops have been increasingly adopted in Southwest NY over recent seasons. With growing interest, farmers are actively seeking the most suitable crops to meet their specific needs. Choosing the right cover crop can be daunting, so I provided decision-making tools to an Erie County farmer to assist them in selecting a cover crop that addresses both their forage requirements and enhances soil health.



Through a partnership with the Providence Farm Collective, we continue one-on-one conversations with incubator farmers as they ideate and implement livestock enterprises both at the Collective and at the farmers' homes. To date, there are three enterprises that our team is mentoring: slow-growth meat chickens, oyster mushrooms, and honeybees.



Budgeting is a useful Farm Business Management tool for farms when approached with replacement decisions. Our specialist assisted a farm with developing a partial budget to analyze the fix vs. replacement costs of a large piece of equipment. This is a tool that the farm can continue to use in the future for continued, informed, decision making.

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Steuben County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Dry hay is a crucial forage for many producers, yet achieving high-quality harvests can be challenging due to fluctuating weather conditions. Our specialists assisted a farmer by providing resources on techniques such as baleage making, tedding, and hay testing, ensuring they could achieve a successful harvest with resources customized for their specific operation.

Our team assisted with CCE-Steuben's 2024 Agriculture in the Classroom Dairy Farm Tour. They hosted a station where students had the opportunity to interact with baby chicks and ducklings. The conversation included information about hatching poultry, care of young poultry, and (of course) a chance for lots of cuddles! Kudos to Stephanie and Jenny for coordinating an amazing event!

Chris Walters is a local photographer who, in late 2023, was looking for farmers along the Chemung River watershed to feature in The Mighty Chemung art exhibit at the Cedar Arts Center in Corning this year. One of our local dairy-turned sheep farmers agreed to an interview and photo session to share his experience along one of the river's tributaries. Chris will be weaving his story among others tied to the river at the exhibit's opening on Friday, July 26 from 5-7pm. The exhibit will run from July 26 - August 30. More details will be found on his website.



Photo by Christopher Walters

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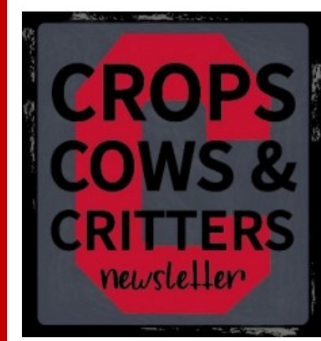
SWNYDLFC 2024 Funded Projects

Funded projects that were completed or worked on in this year:

- NESARE: Optimizing the Economic Return of Poultry
- VAAFM: Value-Added Dairy Production
- NYFVI: Precision Feed Management for Beef Cattle
- NYFVI: Cash Rentals & Custom Harvest Rates
- NERME: Mitigating Tar Spot in SWNY
- Neonicatoid Seed Treatment
- PRO-DAIRY: Dairy Market Watch
- PRO-DAIRY: Dairy Advancement Program
- FarmOps: Marketing Cohort
- FarmOps: Business Planning Cohort
- FarmOps: Live Seminars
- PFC: Technical Assistance for Farmers
- NERME: Farmers Market Benchmarking Survey
- SARE: Ag Educator Bootcamp
- CSFP: BF102 Markets and Profits
- AFTRNG: Non-Operating Landowner Outreach

Thank you for the continued support of our newsletter sponsors! We continue to receive extremely positive

feedback about our printed/mailed monthly editions of "Crops, Cows, and Critters". We couldn't do it without the advertising that helps us offset our costs. Our sponsors include: Growmark FS, Wild Acres Family Farm, Country Crossroads Feed and Seed, NY FarmNet, The Evans Agency Insurance, Advanced Dairy Services, Farm Credit East, CTC Financial Services, Crop Growers, Burlly Brothers Country Butchery, Robinson Road Ranch Supply, Progressive Dairy Solutions.



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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