

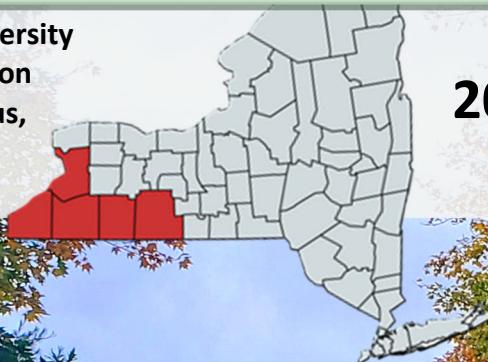
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Cornell Cooperative Extension

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.



2025 3rd Quarter Report

July 2025 - September 2025

**3rd
QUARTER
2025
BY THE
NUMBERS**

409

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

878

Event and program direct
participants who've attended
one of our 7 events/
collaborations or have received
our direct email/mail updates.

84

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

Cornell is an equal opportunity employer.

PHOTO CREDIT: Kelly Bourne

Approval of the Trade: Butcher

Our team is excited to announce that after years of research and ideation, our recent work with Southern Tier West, the NYS Department of Labor, and our farmer and processor partners has resulted in the approval of the trade, “Butcher”, the fourth agricultural apprenticeship program in the history of the NYS DOL. We are excited about this for several reasons, including continuing the precedent for other agricultural sectors to develop their trades, bringing more awareness to this critical industry, and increasing our livestock processing capacity in SWNY and across the state. A webinar recording of our October 2nd open forum to introduce the trade and process that butcher shops will need to undergo to take on apprentices is available upon request.



Farm Business Management Retreat

Kate participated with other CCE educators in the annual Farm Business Management (FBM) retreat, a forum for relationship building and technical information exchange in the FBM field. One outcome of the retreat is that Kate will be leading a collaborative process with other FBM specialists in the state to develop programming on best practices for grant-writing and access to capital for our farmer clients in SWNY.



IPM Strategies to Protect Corn & Soybeans in NYS

A field day, “IPM Strategies to Protect Corn and Soybeans in NYS”, was part of a state-wide series to present ongoing research focusing on neonicotinoid seed treatments of corn and soybeans. Corn and soybean fields in SWNY are part of a trial consisting of 80 fields statewide, making it the largest project ever conducted in Cornell IPM’s history. Approximately 40 attendees, comprised of farmers and industry representatives, heard presentations about ongoing research and the impact of seed treatments on pollinators.



“Growing Graziers” Grant

Katie received funding for a grant from the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NEDBIC) in collaboration with Wolfe’s Neck Center, PASA Sustainable Agriculture and the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture to facilitate the “Growing Graziers” program from the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship. Though workshops, discussion circles, and farm visits, the grant will help grow the grazing dairy workforce through this newly reimagined 9-month educational cohort program.



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 & Critters”. We couldn’t do it without the advertising that helps us offset our costs.

Our sponsors include: Wild Acres Family Farm, Country Crossroads Feed & Seed, Growmark FS, LLC, NY FarmNet, Advanced Dairy Services, Progressive Dairy Solutions, Fertrell, and Ernst Seeds.

Allegany County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

This summer, two soil health events were hosted in Allegany County. These events brought together more than 50 people for valuable conversations about varying topics like cover crop species and selection; the interactions organic matter and the rhizosphere; and soil health demonstrations like the rainfall simulator.



As drought conditions persist across SWNY, our team continues to provide guidance on managing production systems for drought resilience. In cases where drought has severely limited options for impacted forage and grain production, we have reviewed options with farmers to help them make informed choices as we move into fall. Some of the topics that we've covered include inventorying stored forages to ensure they'll have enough for winter feeding and pricing feedstuffs in cases where they need to buy in more to cover their production gaps.

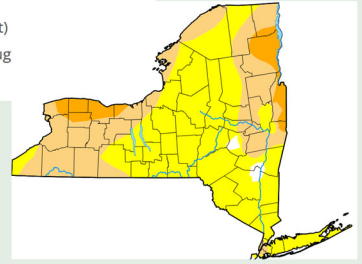
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Map released: Thurs. October 2, 2025

Data valid: September 30, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data



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Cattaraugus County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

It goes without saying the importance of hay forages to our region's farms. Katelyn continues to provide support to hay producers, sharing resources for taking & interpreting soil tests, weed control options, and reseeding.



One of the services that our team offers is helping farmers develop grazing plans. Our specialists work with farmers in the county to determine factors including forage availability and quality throughout the season, designing paddock sizes to meet rotational goals, and how to manage soil nutrition to improve pasture performance.



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Katie, Amy, and Katelyn joined CCE Cattaraugus for the annual legislator walk at the Cattaraugus County Fair with New York State Assemblyman Joe Sempolinski. Our team was able to join in the discussion with legislators as we walked through the 4-H barns and talked with 4-H families.



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Chautauqua County Highlights from SWNYDLFC



Amy continues to work with sheep and goat farmers in the county to understand the levels of internal parasite

Katie hosted an episode of the Cornell Cow Convos podcast with Pro-Dairy extension specialist Kathy Barrett where they interviewed Dr. Joao Costa from University of Vermont. Dr. Costa discussed the potential benefits of feeding a calf colostrum past its first day of life.

Kate participated with other CCE educators in the annual Farm Business Management (FBM) retreat, a forum for relationship building and technical information exchange in the FBM field. From this, Kate will be leading a collaborative process with other FBM specialists in the state to develop programming on best practices for grant-writing and access to capital for our clients in SWNY.

resistance to dewormers within herds and flocks. While internal parasites are one of the most financially devastating aspects of raising sheep and goats, there are only three classes of dewormers available to treat them. Learning which dewormers the parasites are resistant to helps with developing a whole farm integrated pest management plan to allow the dewormers that are still effective continue to work for many years to come.



Tall Waterhemp is one of five species in the pigweed family in NY that have a strong impact on our row crop production. This weed particularly is concerning because of developing herbicide resistance, especially in the Midwest. A new population of this weed has been identified in the county and is currently being screened to see if it is herbicide resistant.

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Erie County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Kate will gradually be taking on the Beginning Farmer portfolio within the SWNYDLFC team. In September, Kate fielded a call from a beginning turkey farmer in Lancaster. In consultation with the SWNYDLFC team lead, she advised the client in farm business establishment, relevant local regulations, agritourism considerations, and other requested information.



Photo credit:
Providence Farm Collective

Farmers at Providence Farm Collective participated in a hands-on intro to beekeeping workshop in late September to learn what it takes to keep honeybees. Amy demonstrated equipment and handling safety measures to limit unwanted stings,

showed how the bees communicate and work as a community within the hive, and discussed some of the rewards and challenges of keeping bees.

Hola - Hello
Gracias - Thanks
Por Favor - Please
De Nada - You're Welcome

Katie provided a farmer with key workforce resources, including connection to Cornell's Agricultural Workforce Development team and access to future bilingual training opportunities. She also shared Spanish-language materials to help strengthen on-farm training and communication.

A field day, "IPM Strategies to Protect Corn & Soybeans in NYS", was part of a state-wide series to present ongoing research. This research focuses on neonicotinoid



seed treatments of corn and soybeans and is part of 80 corn and soybean fields statewide, the largest project ever conducted in Cornell IPM's history. Approximately 40 attendees, comprised of farmers and industry representatives, heard presentations on ongoing research and the impact of seed treatments on pollinators.

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Steuben County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Internal parasite management is a top priority for sheep & goat farmers, which can be achieved through judicious use of anti-parasitics combined with nutritional and grazing strategies. A hands-on FAMACHA training was hosted to support this educational effort at a mid-size sheep farm in Woodhull. As a result of our team's introduction to 13 farmers through this workshop, we've seen an increased number of individual consultations in the region in the areas of small ruminant management as well as grazing systems design and management for these species.



Our team hosted a pasture walk in Woodhull, bringing together close to 30 community members. Participants learned more about soil sampling and report interpretation, weed control, and measuring forage availability. Since the meeting, we've had follow-up consultations on local farms to assist with pasture questions.

Kate participated in a teamwide farm visit consultation with a beef cattle farmer in Woodhull to discuss business aspirations and planning, funding opportunities, best practices for rotational grazing, forage management, and herd health. The visit is exemplary of multisector, demand-driven support to a farmer in a geography where the SWNYDLFC team is looking to expand its reach and impact.

Katie worked closely with a small farmer in Steuben County to assist them in applying for the Dairy Advancement Program grant hosted with Cornell's Pro-Dairy team. This grant can help the farmer fund a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) which will allow them to protect their soil and water resources.



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SWNYDLFC 3rd Quarter Events & Funded Projects

Events:

- 7/30 - Cattaraugus County Fair Legislator Walk, Little Valley
- 7/30 - IPM Strategies to Protect Corn & Soybeans in NYS Field Day, Hamburg
- 8/13 - FAMACHA and IPM Training, Woodhull
- 8/13 - Soil Health /Cover Crop Day, Andover
- 8/20 - Pasture Walk, Woodhull
- 9/1 - Soil Health /Organic Cover Crop Day, Fillmore
- 9/2 - Intro to Beekeeping Workshop, Orchard Park
- 9/6 - Beef Extravaganza, Addison

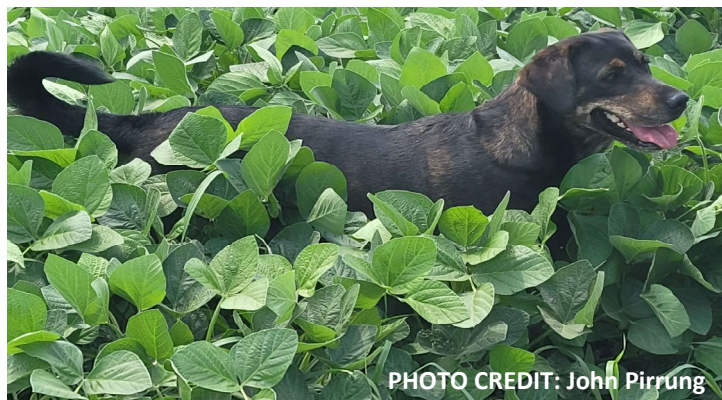


PHOTO CREDIT: John Pirrung

Funded projects that were completed or worked on this quarter:

- **NERME:** Mitigating Tar Spot in Southwest New York
- **NERME:** Creating Active-Learning, Grab n' Go Pesticide Safety Education Modules and Toolkits
- **NYSDAM:** 2025-2026 Integrated Pest Management (Bioeconomy) - Neonicotinoids Implementation
- **NERME:** Improving Production Outcomes and Reducing Parasite Resistance in Small Ruminants in Southwest New York Using Targeted Deworming Strategies
- **SARE:** Optimizing the Economic Return of Pasture-Raised Slow-growth and Conventional Broilers
- **BFRDP:** Empowering Refugee, Immigrant and Black Beginning Farmers through Personalized, Culturally Adapted Training & Education at PFC
- **NEDBIC:** Northeast Regional Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program

Connect with our Team!

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



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Beef, Sheep, Goat, and Poultry Production
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Livestock Pasture and Grazing Support
Livestock Health and Welfare
SWNYDLFC Leadership and Outreach



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Pest and Disease Management
Field Trials and Troubleshooting



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Animal Nutrition and Reproductive Management
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Beginning Farmer Guidance
Farm Specific Business Planning
Risk Management
Production Economics



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