



A partnership between Cornell University & the  
CCE Associations of Allegany, Cattaraugus,  
Chautauqua, Erie, & Steuben Counties.

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

## 2025 4th Quarter Report

October 2025 - December 2025



PHOTO CREDIT: Kelly Torrey

## Calf Care & Calving Management

Katie conducted hands-on, on-farm trainings at large dairies focused on calf care and calving management. She led tube-feeding trainings for Spanish-speaking employees using a simulator model and live calves, provided Standard Operating Procedures, and supported bilingual communication between farm owners and staff. In collaboration with herd veterinarians, she also facilitated calving trainings using the “Birtha” dystocia model to help employees recognize normal births and safely intervene when needed.



## Seeds to Success Program

Kate participated with CCE statewide educators in the first cohort of the Farm Business Management (FBM)-focused Seeds to Success Program, funded by Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. Seeds to Success is an ag education professional development program designed to give agriculture educators from CCE the tools, knowledge, and connections they need to better support farmers with business planning. Through a mix of in-person sessions, on-farm learning, and interactive online workshops, Kate gained expertise in topics such as holistic farm planning strategies, workforce development, farm business management, accounting, access to capital, and marketing.



## Herbicide Resistant Weeds

Herbicide resistant weeds are a management challenge that farmers are regularly facing. Through our team’s campus connections, we can offer screening support, improving our understanding of what herbicide mode of action groups may not still be effective in troublesome weed populations. This fall, multiple species of weeds from our region were sent to campus to be screened for resistance, including tall waterhemp and marestail.



## Fecal Egg Count Workshops

As part of our team’s continuing efforts to reach more producers about integrated pest management in sheep and goats, we hosted a series of fecal egg count mobile workshops in each of our counties. Producers collected, prepared, and evaluated samples through a McMaster Fecal Egg Count procedure taught by Amy and John. We also taught how these evaluations should be interpreted to be used in treatment, management, and breeding decisions. In addition to performing the evaluations, farmers were encouraged to share how they approached internal parasite challenges in their animals for a peer-to-peer learning experience. The feedback from our workshops was very positive, with several participants connecting with Amy afterwards to help interpret fecal egg test results from testing they performed on their own herds and flocks using what they’d learned in the workshop.



## Thank you for the continued support of our newsletter sponsors!

We continue to receive extremely positive feedback about our printed/mailed monthly editions of “Cows, Crops & Critters”. We couldn’t do it without the advertising that helps us offset our costs. Our sponsors include: Country Crossroads Feed & Seed LLC, Ernst Seeds, Fertrell, Growmark FS LLC, NY FarmNet, Pavlock and Son’s Construction, VM Agritech, and Wild Acres Family Farm.

# Allegany County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Amy was invited to teach Beef Quality Assurance principles to production-minded students at Alfred State College. The training shared how handling and managing cattle impacts quality of the meat and the farm's bottom line. Following the classroom portion, students moved into the teaching barn, where they gained experience in moving cattle through the chute and performing a proper injection technique on both an injection simulation model, borrowed from the NY Beef Council, and live animals. Thirteen students were BQA certified as a result of this class, showing their commitment to the industry.



Kate represented the SWNYDLFC team at CCE Allegany's annual meeting in Cuba, NY and gave attendees an overview of what the team does and services available.

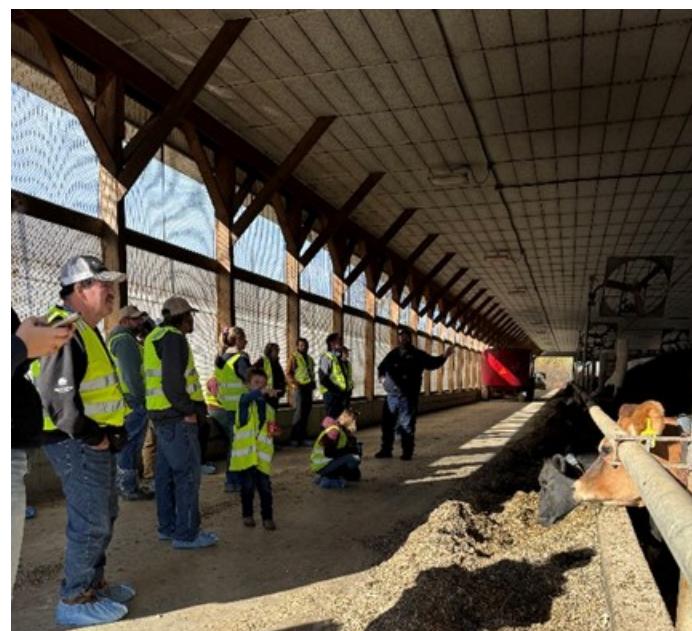
She also had the opportunity to attended the Dairy Systems and Technology showcase, hosted by Katie Callero and PRO-DAIRY. Through engagement with the hosts and farmer participants, Kate gained firsthand insight into farmer considerations for implementing technology modernization in dairy systems — at the production level with robotics and at the post-production level at a local creamery.



Tar spot, a leaf disease of corn, continues to be a continuing conversation in the agronomy space. This growing season, due to our lack of moisture, many areas did not experience pressure from this disease. However, river bottom areas, such as along the Genesee River, did experience disease pressure because of the continued leaf wetness that occurs, mostly as a result of fog. Connections with industry allow for seamless reporting of this disease, along with others.



Katie collaborated with Pro-Dairy to host a Dairy Systems and Technology showcase. Participants were able to see a functioning dairy creamery and robotic dairy. Both facilities were recently built and allowed farmers to see the modernization of technology within the industry. The event provided farmers with space to discuss the possible implementation of these technologies on their own farms, openly sharing both the benefits and the challenges the technology may present.



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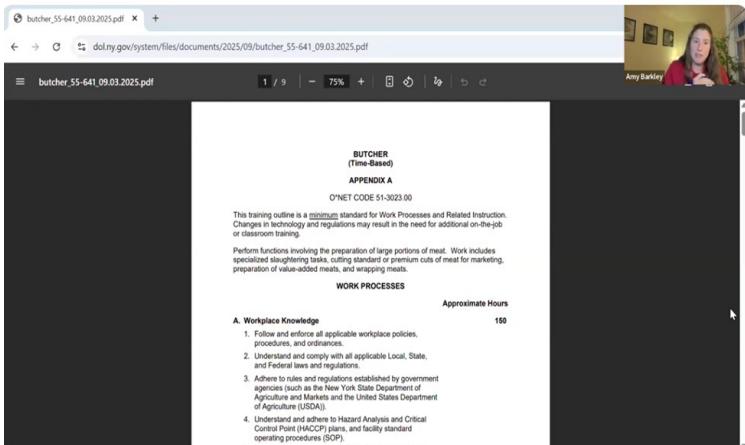
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# Cattaraugus County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

On September 6, 2025, "Butcher" became the newest agriculture trade in the NYS Department of Labor's list of approved trades. To advertise this achievement and to provide potential butcher shops and interested individuals with more in-depth information about the program, our team and Southern Tier West hosted a webinar in October. The recording of this program can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEdmmMJy1yk&t=1s>

Our team continues to guide interested parties towards considering this opportunity.



The screenshot shows a PDF document titled "BUTCHER (Time-Based) APPENDIX A". It includes a video of a woman named Amy Barkley. The document details training outlines for workplace knowledge, including adherence to policies, laws, and regulations, and specific tasks like preparing meat for marketing. It also lists "WORK PROCESSES" and "Approximate Hours".

Butcher Apprenticeship Open Forum: October 3, 2025

Katie held an on-farm calving training for a large dairy in collaboration with the herd's veterinarian. The calving training used a statewide educational model, affectionately named Birtha, to help participants practice assisting a cow in labor. We covered what a normal birth looks like and when to intervene during a calving. The model was then used to simulate different birthing positions and participants took turns trying to correct them to a safe birthing position.



High moisture corn is a home-grown forage that has a place in many dairy rations. This year, our weather caused inconsistencies in many corn acres drying down, creating additional challenges to harvesting quality forage. Katelyn provided support to local farmers on best management practices, strategies to manage varying moisture contents, storage options, and harvest management.



Kate became a certified Project Facilitator for the Annie's Project. Annie's Project is a national educational program dedicated to strengthening women's roles in agricultural enterprises. In Q1 of 2026, Kate will be co-hosting a 2-part "Inspired by Annie's Project" webinar series: Leaving your Legacy: Planning for Your Farm's Future. "Inspired by Annie's Project" programs, like this, are specific to local needs and assist women to develop additional skills across a range of areas, including information management, financial documentation, land ownership and leasing, marketing commodities, and educational needs.



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# Chautauqua County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

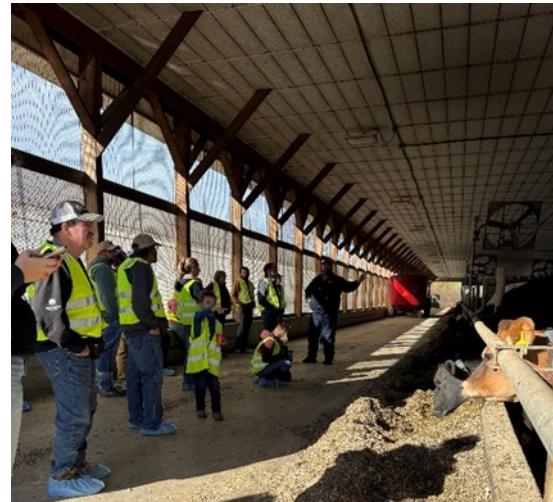
Kate attended the Dairy Systems and Technology showcase, hosted by Katie Callero of the SWNYDLFC team and by PRO-DAIRY. Through engagement with the hosts and farmer participants, Kate gained firsthand insight into farmer considerations for implementing technology modernization in dairy systems—at the production level with robotics and at the post-production level at a local creamery.



Through the help of local agriculture staff, Katelyn connected with and supported a new landowner in the county. This individual was interested in gaining more resources on grain production, market opportunities, local agribusinesses, soil sampling resources, and lease agreements.



Katie collaborated with Pro-Dairy to host a Dairy Systems and Technology showcase. Participants were able to see a functioning dairy creamery and robotic dairy. Both facilities were recently built and allowed farmers to see the modernization of technology within dairy. The event provided farmers with space to discuss the possible implementation of these technologies on their own farms, openly sharing both the benefits and the challenges the technology may present.



Amy and Katelyn Walley-Stoll gave the final report on the summary of our team's three-year grant project, "Optimizing the Economic Return of Pasture Raised Slow Growth and Conventional Broilers" in November. This report includes the average production and financial numbers for farmers raising pastured broilers under the 1,000 bird exemption in NYS, and we had a handful of farmer participants from Chautauqua County. The recording of this webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7FZi1-4Fw&t=506s>

## Project Farm Distribution

- 38 total farms participated across two cohorts
- 123 flocks' worth of data
  - 97 Cornish Cross flocks
  - 26 Slow Growth flocks



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# Erie County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

In October, Kate represented CCE at the Erie County Farm Bureau annual meeting along with SWNYDLFC team member, Katelyn Miller.

She has also become a certified Project Facilitator for the Annie's Project. Annie's Project is a national educational program dedicated to strengthening women's roles in agricultural enterprises. In Q1 of 2026, Kate will be co-hosting a 2-part "Inspired by Annie's Project" webinar series: Leaving your Legacy: Planning for Your Farm's Future. "Inspired by Annie's Project" programs, like this, are specific to local needs and assist women to develop additional skills across a range of areas, including information management, financial documentation, land ownership and leasing, marketing commodities, and educational needs.



Nearly 30 participants joined Jean Bonhotal from the Cornell Waste Management Institute, NRCS, Soil and Water, WNY Crop Management, Pro-Dariy, and CCE to learn about the new animal mortality composting site at Philips Family Farm, Inc. in North Collins. We shared the funding available for this kind of project, how the pad is designed to capture runoff and nutrients, and how constructing/maintaining the pile impacts the rate and completeness of the composting process.



Katie visited a large dairy in Erie County and held an on-farm training for tube-feeding calves in collaboration with their herd veterinarian. After the training was finished, Katie assisted with language translation to facilitate discussion between farm owners and Spanish-speaking laborers about standard operating procedures around the calf barn.



Katelyn continues to build strong relationships with local agribusinesses, one of which is a lime enterprise. Their relationship allows for knowledge exchange both ways, with open conversations around educational gaps in soil pH and lime topics, driving future research, and discussions around upcoming reporting changes for the industry around greenhouse gas emissions.



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# Steuben County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Mugwort is a complicated weed to eradicate, as it spreads by rhizomes underground. Katelyn has provided support to a local hay farmer for controlling this weed, providing chemical and physical control recommendations. There is little public information available for control in this setting, so this consultation will be ongoing into the spring as they reconnect to determine what strategies were effective, which can be used to help more farmers.



*Photo credit: University of Connecticut, UCONN Extension*

Our team hosted a Fecal Egg Count Mobile Workshop in Bath in early November. Producers prepared and evaluated fecal samples using a McMaster Fecal Egg Count procedure taught by Amy and John. We also taught how these evaluations should be interpreted to be used in treatment, management, and breeding decisions. In addition to performing the evaluations, farmers were encouraged to share how they approached internal parasite challenges in their animals for a peer-to-peer learning experience.



Katie hosted an on-farm tube feeding training with the Spanish-speaking staff of a large local dairy farm. The employees first practiced on a calf simulator training model and then we tube fed two real calves. She provided them with a Standard Operating Procedure document that reviews what was covered in the training for them to have posted to assist staff in the future.



Kate provided feedback on a Dairy Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant proposal and wrote a letter of support for an organic dairy in Steuben County. This dairy farm seeks funding to create lasting infrastructural improvements designed for multi-purpose, holistic benefits including enhanced herd performance, increased profitability, and improved animal welfare. They aim to increase operational efficiency to reduce labor inputs, freeing up time to spend on more strategic management tasks, including responsiveness to market incentives for higher production.



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# SWNYDLFC 4th Quarter Events & Funded Projects

## Events

- 10/2/25 - Butcher Trade Open Forum, virtual meeting
- 10/9/25 - Workforce Development: Virtual Butcher Trade Presentation for Ag & Markets
- 10/21/25 - FEC Workshop, East Aurora
- 10/22/25 - BQA at Alfred State College
- 10/30/25 - FEC Workshop, Jamestown
- 11/4/25 - FEC Workshop, Ellicottville
- 11/4/25 - Dairy Systems & Tech Showcase, S. Dayton
- 11/6/25 - FEC Workshop, Bath
- 11/6/25 - Mortality Composting Demo, North Collins
- 11/13/25 - Broiler Project final webinar
- 11/20/25 - NERME presentation at CCE In-Service
- 11/25/25 - Small Farms Poultry Course

## Funded projects that were completed or worked on this quarter:

- **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

## 4th QUARTER 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

238

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

1,218

Event and program direct  
participants who've attended  
one of our 16 events/  
collaborations or have  
received our direct email/  
mail updates.

91

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



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Meat and Egg Safety and Quality  
Livestock Pasture and Grazing Support  
Livestock Health and Welfare  
SWNYDLFC Leadership and Outreach

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Soil Analysis and Fertility Recommendations  
Pest and Disease Management  
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Animal Nutrition and Reproductive Management  
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Farm Specific Business Planning  
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Production Economics  
Market Analysis

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Sample Preparation  
Data Analysis  
Lesson Plan Co-Development  
Teaching Support