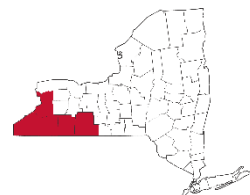




COWS CROPS & CRITTERS



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

2026 2nd Quarter Report **April 2026 - June 2026**



PHOTO CREDIT: Kelly Torrey

Starting A Farm Stand

The webinar, "So you want to start a farm stand," was developed to help answer questions that have come in to our team by farmers looking to open their own farm stands. It covered considerations for siting stands, managing transactions, keeping records, and taking payments through common food assistance programs. In addition, production, processing, and sales regulations were covered for each of the common product classes sold at farm stands in the region. These included vegetables, red meat, poultry, baked goods, canned goods, dairy, cosmetics, and plant sales. Between the live presentation and the recording, we were able to reach just over 100 individuals.

The recording to this webinar can be accessed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qct9yTm1PDI&t=2888s>



ADSA

Katie had the opportunity to attend the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where researchers from universities across the country gathered to share the latest advancements in dairy science.



Photo credit: Katherine Gottwald

NY Soil Health

Our team collaborated with the New York Soil Health Program, CCE Allegany, and CCE Cattaraugus to host a Soil Health Field Day. Bringing together more than 30 members of the local agricultural community, including farmers, agribusinesses, and local youth, participants were able to learn more about soil health through active demonstrations. These included the slake test, soil erosion test, cover crops, and open dialogue about active soil health practices being implemented on farms.



Photo credit: Katelyn Miller

Fecal Egg Count

In response to many requests to have a class that would go into detail about why Fecal Egg Count tests are performed and interpreted for sheep, goats, llama, and alpacas, Amy partnered with Rachel Moody from the CCE Capital Area Ag and Hort Program on a webinar that covered just that. The program was a huge success. Of 162 registrants, 100 joined live. The recording, posted to YouTube, has nearly 100 views and can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LIQ7tZ8EEA&t=3659s>



What can we Learn by Performing Fecal Egg Counts?

- Understand level of parasites on the farm
- Determine the effectiveness of dewormers using a fecal egg count reduction test
- Make management decisions based on worm loads combined with FAMACHA scores and 5-Point Checks®



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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, Farm Credit East, Fertrell, Growmark FS LLC, Lactalis USA, NY FarmNet, Pavlock and Son's Construction, Timac Agro, VM Agritech, and Wild Acres Family Farm.

Allegany County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Our team partnered with the New York Beef Council and Select Sires to bring together an artificial insemination training course for dairy and beef producers at Lismore Dairy in Arkport. Sixteen students learned reproductive biology of cattle, improving herd genetics through artificial insemination, and gained hands-on experience in handling semen and breeding cattle.



Photo credit: Amy Barkley

This quarter, Katelyn was able to provide support to growers looking for more information on hay brokers and current land rental rates. Connecting farmers with the right contacts and up-to-date market data helps to reduce the guesswork involved in important business decisions.



Photo credit:
Katelyn Miller

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Katie utilized the statewide calf model to help attendees at the New York Beef Producers Region 4 Annual Meeting learn the do's and don'ts of calf tube feeding. Participants had the opportunity to practice passing an esophageal feeder through the model calf's mouth and determine whether it was properly positioned to avoid accidentally delivering milk into the lungs.



Photo credit:
Amy Barkley



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Cattaraugus County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

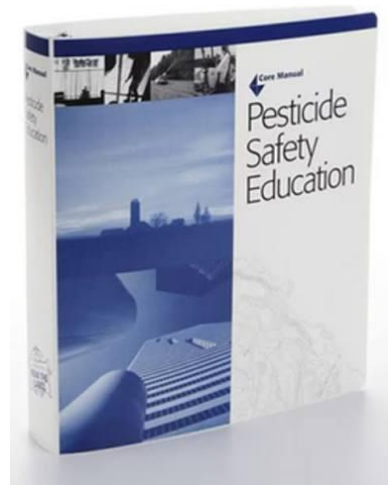
In partnership with Don Wild, our team presented at a meeting for farmers looking to start organic dairy farms to contract with two organic milk processing facilities. Topics included organic regulations, auditing and recordkeeping, best management practices for milking cattle, and considerations for growing organic crops. Our team anticipates continued work with this community, and are planning for programming on grazing management coming up later in the year.



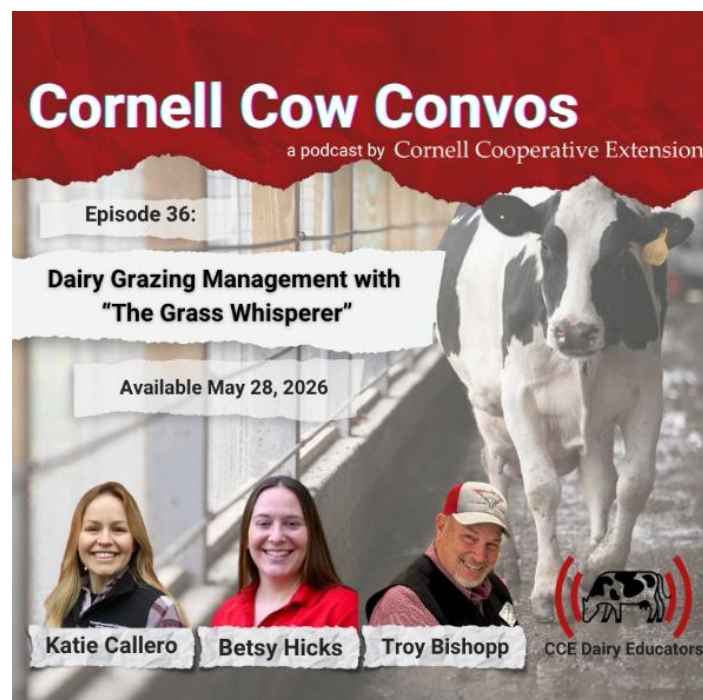
Kate and Amy worked with farmers on developing business plans, SWOT analyses, and grant applications for the NYS Beginning Farmer Competitive Grant Program through the New York Farm Viability Institute. This grant was very popular among farmers because of the broad spending categories and low match requirement. The program will release the list of awardees this fall. Our team works one-on-one with farmers to prepare for a multitude of grant applications.



Through collaboration with Cornell Vegetable Program at their winter produce auction meeting, Katelyn was able to provide one-on-one support for producers interested in becoming certified pesticide applicators. This included time spent reviewing the CORE and category manuals, developing hands-on learning strategies, and reviewing test taking strategies.



Katie and Betsy Hicks, South Central NY Dairy Specialist, hosted a podcast with Troy Bishopp from National Grazing Lands Coalition where they discussed dairy grazing management, grass regrowth rate, growing quality grass for dairy farmers, and "linger grazing."



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Chautauqua County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Our team, in partnership with Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) and Lake Erie Regional Grape Program (LERGP) actively have a pesticide safety education grant through NERME. As a result of this project, Katelyn was able to attend one of the LERGP coffee pot meetings hosted in Portland. Those who attended were able to learn more about calibrating their spray equipment, sprayer troubleshooting, nozzle selection, and calibration math.



Photo credit:
LERGP

On June 20th, Amy spoke to a group of farmers about forage testing and results interpretation at a multi-species pasture walk, hosted at the Vanstrom Homestead in Kennedy. In addition to forages, this 3-hour event covered other aspects of grazing management, including soil testing and results interpretation and a farm tour, including the history of how the Vanstrom Family transitioned from a dairy to grazing beef, sheep, and pastured broilers. We thank Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District, WNY Crop Management, and the NYS Beef Producers for their partnership on this program.



Photo credit: Amy Barkley

Katie partnered with Cornell Quality Milk Production Services (QMPS) and Springville Veterinary Services to host an educational event, "Milking It: Moving Milk Quality Forward." Forty-four attendees gathered to learn about the services offered by QMPS and management decisions that can impact milk quality, including selective dry cow therapy.



Photo credit: Margaret Quaassdorff

Our team continues to work with farmers as they investigate building and expanding their butcher businesses. This quarter, our team worked with one farmer who is working towards a 5A Exemption certification for their poultry processing facility, which will allow them to process poultry for others. Another farmer is working towards expanding their 5A Custom Exempt facility for livestock processing to expand access to farmers looking to sell their animals as halves, wholes, and quarters.



Photo credit:
Amy Barkley

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Erie County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

Through the team's NERME grant, "Improving Production Outcomes and Reducing Parasite Resistance in Small Ruminants in Southwest New York Using Targeted Deworming Strategies", a free hands-on Fecal Egg Count Mobile Workshop was hosted in Orchard Park at the end of June at the new CCE Erie Pavilion. This workshop walked participants through the integrated pest management protocols for internal parasites and gave them experience with preparing, evaluating, and interpreting fecal slides using the McMaster methodology.



Photo credit: Amy Barkley

Kate and Amy worked with farmers on developing business plans, SWOT analyses, and grant applications for the NYS Beginning Farmer Competitive Grant Program through the New York Farm Viability Institute. This grant was very popular among farmers because of the broad spending categories and low match requirement. The program will release the list of awardees this fall. Our team works one-on-one with farmers to prepare for a multitude of grant applications.



As a result of funding from Cornell IPM, our team was able to install a weather station on farm as part of the statewide noenicitinoid trials. This weather station tracks 11 data points including wind speeds, rainfall, and soil moisture, which can actively be used as a tool by the farmer, while also contributing to data for the project. Additionally, Erie County hosted three research sites this spring, one of which is a study looking at the effectiveness of diamide seed treatments as an effective alternative to noenicitinoids.



Photo credit: Katelyn Miller

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Photo credit: Margaret Quaassdorff

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Steuben County Highlights from SWNYDLFC

In response to many requests to have a class that would go into detail about why Fecal Egg Count tests are performed and interpreted for sheep, goats, llama, and alpacas, Amy partnered with Rachel Moody from the CCE Capital Area Ag and Hort Program on a webinar that covered just that. The program was a huge success. Of 162 registrants, 100 joined live. The recording, posted to YouTube, has nearly 100 views and can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LIQ7tZ8EEA&t=3659s>

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

This quarter, Katelyn was able to provide support to growers on a variety of topics including herbicide residual damage, interseeding alfalfa in rye, and chicken manure application rates.



Photo credit: LERGP

Katie and Jay Canzonier from Cornell's Agricultural Workforce Development team visited farms in Steuben County to discuss employee housing and on-farm challenges.



Cornell Cooperative Extension

AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The webinar, "So you want to start a farm stand", was developed to help answer questions that have come in to our team by farmers looking to open their own farm stands. It covered considerations for sighting stands, managing transactions, keeping records, and taking payments through common food assistance programs. In addition, production, processing, and sales regulations were covered for each of the common product classes sold at farm stands in the region. These included vegetables, red meat, poultry, baked goods, canned goods, dairy, cosmetics, and plant sales. The recording to this webinar can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qct9yTm1PDI&t=2888s>



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SWNYDLFC 2nd Quarter Events & Funded Projects

EVENTS

3/9 – Certified Organic Dairy Workshop, Conewango Valley
4/4 – New York Beef Producers Association Region Meeting, Alfred
4/14 – Milking It: Moving Milk Quality Forward, Springville
4/23 – Virtual Fecal Egg Count Mobile Workshop, Zoom
5/6 – LERGP Coffee Pot Meeting, Portland
5/12 – So, you want to Start a Farm Stand Webinar, Zoom
5/23 – FAMACHA and Internal Parasite IPM Workshop, Jamestown
5/28 – Cornell Cow Convos Episode 36: Dairy Grazing Management with “Grass Whisperer,” Virtual
6/5 – Artificial Insemination Training for Cattle Producers, Arkport
6/5 & 6/6 – Advanced Hoof Health Program, Belfast
6/20 – Multi-Species Pasture Walk, Kennedy
6/23 – Fecal Egg Count Mobile Workshop, Portland
6/24 – Fecal Egg Count Mobile Workshop, Belmont
6/30 – Fecal Egg Count Mobile Workshop, Orchard Park
6/30 – Soil Health Field Day, Farmersville

INTERVIEWS

Post News Article – “Demand for Beef Remains Strong Despite Challenges” – April 18, 2026
<https://www.post-journal.com/news/top-stories/2026/04/demand-for-beef-remains-strong-despite-challenges/>

Post News Article – “Dairy Market Pushes Forward Despite Challenges” - April 11, 2026
<https://www.post-journal.com/news/top-stories/2026/04/dairy-market-pushes-forward-despite-challenges/>

GRANT PROJECTS

- **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
- **NEDBIC:** Northeast Regional Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program
- **National Pork Board:** From Barn to Market: A Critical and Comprehensive Training for NY State’s Pork Producers

2nd QUARTER 2026 BY THE NUMBERS

310

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

1,796

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

74

Website submissions, press
releases, interviews, and
Facebook posts providing
timely information to a large
audience of more than
46,490 indirects.