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To: [SWNYDLFC-L](#)
Cc: [Joshua Adam Putman](#); [Alycia Marie Drwencke](#); [Amy Marie Barkley](#); [Kelly Lynn Bourne](#)
Subject: Managing During a Drought, Dairy Funding Available, and Spreading Dogbane
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:14:38 PM

7.9.2020 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Management of Drought on Pasture

SWNY is beginning to encounter very dry conditions, where precipitation has been isolated to pop-up showers and looking to the sky for rain has started to become the new normal. As of July 9, the [US Drought Monitor](#), indicated that all of SWNY is abnormally dry. Just last week, only the eastern side of Steuben County was listed in this classification, and a week prior to that, the condition was isolated to the northeastern part of the state and Finger Lakes region. Dry conditions hit pastures hard. Proper forage management to ensure sustainable nutrition for livestock as well as vitality of the pasture should be a priority, especially if those pastures are a primary source of livestock feed. This article explores strategies for pasture and livestock, and was adapted from Doo-Hong Min, Michigan State University Extension and Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University by Dr. Mike Baker. For more information on Pasture Management, contact our Livestock Specialist, [Amy Barkley](#).

Funding Available for Dairies through the Dairy Advancement Program!

The Dairy Advancement Program (DAP) (previously known as the Dairy Acceleration Program) funded through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is designed to enhance long-term viability of New York dairy farms while maintaining a commitment to environmental stewardship. Funds are used to engage professionals for financial analysis and to create business plans, to design new or remodeled facilities and to develop farmstead environmental plans, including design of practices identified in the farm comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP). The funds will cover 80% of eligible expenses and include a relatively painless application process where you can work with either [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#) or [Alycia Drwencke](#) from our program. [View the full program details here](#) or [give us a call!](#)

Preparing Livestock Producers for Drought Conditions – Farmer Resources

As more of the region heads into abnormally dry conditions, it's important to keep in mind strategies to keep herds and flocks healthy, hydrated, and fed. Dr. Mike Baker has prepared [a series of drought resources](#) which can be found on the [Beef Cattle Management page](#). Strategies to stretch forages, change numbers of stock, wean early, and keep health up with enhanced nutrition are all ways to ensure that your stock makes it through the drier times. This list contains articles covering various drought-related topics from livestock educators across the state.

Spreading Dogbane – A problematic and toxic weed found in hay production in Southwest New York

[Josh Putman](#), Field Crops Specialist, recently ran across a plant in a hay field that had not been worked for a few years and was very difficult to identify. With help from [Cornell's Weed Ecology and Management Laboratory](#), the weed was correctly identified as Spreading Dogbane. [Spreading](#)

[dogbane](#) is in the same family as the milkweeds and swallowworts, and the same genus as [hemp dogbane](#); hemp dogbane can be very problematic in field crop production systems. Spreading Dogbane is a perennial plant and is found in open, dry areas and in disturbed habitats [throughout New York](#) and most of the [US and Canada](#). Dogbanes are reported to be toxic to livestock, containing a compound that interferes with heart function. This toxicity persists when the plant is dried as well as when fresh. References for these weed species can be found at [this blog](#) or at our [SWNY website](#).

Heat Stress Webinar in English and Spanish

Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY, CCE of NWNy and CCE of SWNY are offering a webinar on Heat Stress: Key Indicators & Management Strategies in both English and Spanish. The same information will be shared during both webinars. Each webinar is free and registration is not required. Click on the presentation title below to join the webinar. For questions or additional information contact [Alycia Drwencke](#).

Heat Stress: Key Indicators and Management Strategies: July 21, 2020 at 12:30 PM. Learn about the negative repercussions of heat stress in dairy cows and calves along with ways to prevent and mitigate it.

Estrés por Calor en Vacas Lecheras: Señales Claves y Estrategias de Manejo: July 22, 2020 at 12:30 PM. Aprenderán sobre las repercusiones negativas del estrés por calor en vacas lecheras y becerros, además de maneras de prevenir y mitigarlo.

Changes announced to the Paycheck Protection Program

Extension Specialists Elizabeth Higgins, Nicole Tommell, and Myron Thurston [have developed an updated Fact Sheet](#) regarding the new PPP Flexibility Act, which came into law on 7/5. Additionally, the Small Business Administration will be hosting two webinars outlining these changes on [Wednesday, July 15th](#) and [Wednesday, July 29th](#). Some key changes to the program include:

- Businesses may now spend the funds over a 24 week period (this was only 8 week previously) and get 100% loan forgiveness.
- There are exemptions provided for good faith efforts to keep your 2020 FTE numbers at 2019 levels (ie – some workers don't want to/aren't able to return to work).
- The amount that needs to be spent on payroll has been reduced from 75% to 60%. The other 40% is eligible to cover utilities, interest, etc.
- There is still \$100 billion+ left in the program, so it has been extended.
- If you're eligible to apply for PPP and still haven't, work with your lender to get your application in.

Managing the Heat is Important for People, too!

While we often think about our livestock's health, our corn yields decreasing, and our equipment overheating in times of drought and high heat, it's important to remember that [people are susceptible to heat stress](#), too! Be sure to encourage employees (and yourself) to take frequent breaks out of the sun/heat, provide adequate amounts of cool water, and use common sense while working in these hot conditions. [The CDC offers guidance on workplace accommodations along with the signs and symptoms of heat stress](#). You might be worried about having the additional face mask requirement for yourself and your employees! It's important to remember that the use of face masks dramatically reduces the infection potential from sick and asymptomatic employees and visitors. Employers *can require* an employee to wear personal protective equipment during a

pandemic. However, if an employee has a disability that might make this hard to do, the business must work to provide a reasonable accommodation when they are able. This could look like limiting the employee to only open-air jobs away from other employees, etc. For more information, read [this article from the Cornell Ag Workforce Development program](#) or contact our Farm Business Management Specialist, [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#).

Need DEC CORE Credits for Your Pesticide Applicator's License?

Register for our upcoming workshops to be held on [July 14th \(9am – 10:50am\)](#) and [July 21st \(6pm – 7:50pm\)](#). [View all of our upcoming events on our website!](#)

You are receiving this email because you have enrolled/subscribed to the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program through your local county extension office or through our contact form. To discontinue receiving updates from our program, simply reply to this email with "stop". If you have any questions, please reach out. If you know of someone who would benefit from our team's resources or is interested in learning more, please share the online contact form available at: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eVG2c8y0BtXaRgx

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM OUR TEAM: *Cornell Cooperative Extension's Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program prioritizes the health, safety, and well-being of our staff, constituents, and community members. **We are dedicated to continuing our exceptional programming and support services for the agricultural community in our region during this time of uncertainty.** Our team is continuing to answer requests for phone, email, and mail consultations while developing research-based virtual programming and resources to support our farm businesses. We are still able to travel throughout the region to conduct on-farm visits and research while following proper social distancing guidelines. We continue to communicate via weekly email updates and have increased our paper mailings. We are proud to be in positions where we can help farmers manage their businesses during this time and hope that you and your family stay safe and healthy!*

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[Cornell Cooperative Extension: Helping New Yorkers Thrive \(VIDEO\)](#)

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COVID-19 response:

Need information? View the following Cornell CALS and CCE Resource Pages Updated Regularly

General Questions & Links:

<https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/>

Food Production, Processing & Safety Questions:

<https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Employment & Agricultural Workforce Questions:

<http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources:

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/>

Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers:

<https://www.nyfarmnet.org/>

Cornell Farmworker Program

www.farmworkers.cornell.edu

www.trabajadores.cornell.edu (en espanol)