12.16.2022 Updates from Cornell Cooperative Extension’s SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

A partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in these five counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben.

*Thank you Curtis T. Corkey from Principal Financial Services, Ayshea Heckman from Ernst Seeds, and Matt Budine from Progressive Dairy Solutions, Inc. for sponsoring this Weekly Update.*

**Bale Grazing: Feed the Cattle, Feed the Pasture, by Brett Chedzoy**

This method of winter feeding uses the distribution of bales of hay on winter pastures to move the cattle around constantly as they feed. This helps distribute manure, reseed spotty pastures with little effort, and may improve cattle health and welfare outcomes.

**Don’t undercut the high-producing cows**

With input costs rising, farmers across the country are looking for ways to improve profitability and reduce spending. Feed is a significant cost center and one that often gets scrutinized. Still, during the November Hoard’s Dairyman webinar, Mike Hutjens advised the audience that the ration is not the place to cut corners. Learn more.

**Reflecting on Tar Spot in 2022**

While tar spot was first found in Pennsylvania in late 2020, its spread was limited in the commonwealth until recently. This year (2022), tar spot was found across the majority of southern PA and in western PA into the Lake Erie region. We want to emphasize that there were no reports of yield loss due to tar spot in the areas affected. Read on to learn how the pathogen survives and spreads along with possible management strategies if the disease has been identified in your area.

**Reminder – Handling Union Conversations on Your Farm**

There has been an uptick in union conversations around the state. There are certain things employers can and can’t say when discussing unions with farm employees. Can’t Say TIPS (Threats, Interrogate, Promises, Surveillance) and Can Say FOE (Facts, Opinions, Examples). Learn more from Cornell’s Ag Workforce Development Program.

**It’s County Enrollment/Subscription/Support Time!**

Our program (SWNDYFLC) exists because 5 incredibly supportive Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations came together and partnered to better serve the needs of our region’s agricultural community. One way you can support them is by signing up for their enrollment/subscription/support programs. Reach out to your county’s Cornell Cooperative Extension Association to learn more! Click here for: CCE-Allegany; CCE-Cattaraugus; CCE-Chautauqua; CCE-Erie; CCE-Stuben.
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Cooperative Extension
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