8.13.2020 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Upcoming Webinar Covers 2020 Changes to New York Farm Labors Laws
Important changes have been made to the New York Farm Labor Laws that have included family member classifications, overtime and day of rest clarifications, and information on union participation. While many organizations have been at work summarizing and distributing these changes, this webinar will be a great opportunity for review! On Monday, August 17th at 11:30am Dr. Richard Stup of Cornell University Agricultural Workforce Development and Attorney Charles Palmer of the Michael Best Law Firm will be presenting virtual updates. More information and registration is available here. For more information as it pertains to your farm, contact Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Farm Business Management Specialist.

Hay Inventory Calculator Tool for Beef Producers
As we move into fall, it’s important to ensure that there are enough stored forages on the farm to get beef cattle through the winter. One of the more common stored forages is hay. Using this Excel spreadsheet calculator developed by Bill Halfman with the University of Wisconsin Extension, you can enter data from the farm to find the number of bales it will take to make it until the pastures green up again in the spring. The results you get here will also serve as an early indication as to whether or not additional hay needs to be purchased.

Southwest NY Field Crop Chronicle: Corn disease, bugs, and hemp – August 11, 2020
This week, Field Crops Specialist Josh Putman, monitors corn disease and insects being found in the Southwest NY region. In addition, the Cornell University Hemp Research Team will be presenting information on hemp genetics, breeding, crop management, and supply chain and regulations in NY. Register now for the Virtual Hemp Field Day on August 20th from 9AM – 12PM.

Reminder: Complete the COVID-19 Producer Action Survey by August 18th!
Cornell Ag Workforce Development is looking to collect information on how farmers have responded to prevent the spread of coronavirus on their farm. Farm owners and managers are invited to complete an anonymous and confidential survey that should take about 10 minutes to complete. The survey is available here and will work on a mobile device.

Dialing into Your Best Dairy Podcast Series – All Episodes Available!
The Dialing into Your Best Dairy Podcast Series is now available. This is podcast series from Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Dairy Specialists and Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY. This 8 episode series will discuss management decisions across the different life stages of a dairy cow. Access the podcasts and additional resources at: prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/events/podcasts. You can also contact Alycia Drwencke, for additional information.
USDA Announces Organic Certification Cost Share Program
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is administering a cost-share program for current organic producers to renew their certifications. Up to 50% of eligible certification costs have the potential to be reimbursed through the program, with a maximum of $500 per certification. More information can be found here: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/organic_certification_cost_share_program-fact_sheet.pdf

Upcoming Events
Our team has been keeping our events page on our website as up to date as possible. You’ll find SWNYDLFC generated programming and more. Several of our industry partners have been providing helpful webinars to help keep producers up-to-date while also addressing seasonal needs.

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_eVG2c8yOBtXaRgx

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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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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://instituteforfoodsafty.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)