9.24.2020 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Second Round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program for Farms Now Available
The USDA’s Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) recently opened the second round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for agricultural businesses. If you are an agricultural producer whose operation has been affected by COVID-19, you are likely eligible for this second round of support. FSA will accept applications from September 21 - December 11, 2020 from agricultural businesses for this support. A full list of eligible commodities can be found [here](#). For more information, or to apply, visit [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap) or contact your local FSA office. In the Southwest NY region, the county offices can be reached at: Allegany (585) 268-5133; Cattaraugus (716) 699-2375; Chautauqua (716) 664-2351; Erie (716) 652-1400; Steuben (607) 776-7398.

New Rules for Federal COVID-19 Paid Leave
Beginning September 16, 2020, new rules went into effect for the paid employee leave provisions in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). This is the federal program that made paid leave available for employees affected by COVID-19 and allowed employers to claim a tax deduction to reimburse the cost of the leave days. A federal court held that several parts of the original FFCRA needed to be revised.

The U.S. Department of Labor issued a press release on September 11, 2020 with these details. The new rules:

- Reaffirm and provide additional explanation for the requirement that employees may take FFCRA leave only if work would otherwise be available to them.
- Reaffirm and provide additional explanation for the requirement that an employee have employer approval to take FFCRA leave intermittently.
- Revise the definition of “healthcare provider” to include only employees who meet the definition of that term under the Family and Medical Leave Act regulations or who are employed to provide diagnostic services, preventative services, treatment services or other services that are integrated with and necessary to the provision of patient care which, if not provided, would adversely impact patient care.
- Clarify that employees must provide required documentation supporting their need for FFCRA leave to their employers as soon as practicable.
- Correct an inconsistency regarding when employees may be required to provide notice of a need to take expanded family and medical leave to their employers.

Read about this change in more detail in this [USDOL website](#) and in this [post from the Michael Best law firm](#).

Price Risk Management for Dairy Farmers
The Capital Area Agricultural & Horticultural Program is partnering with Cornell PRO-DAIRY and NY FarmNet to host a series of two webinars in November for dairy producers. The [first webinar will be](#)
on November 3 and will cover Dairy Margin Coverage, Forward Contracting, and Determining if Risk Management is Right for my Farm. The second webinar will be on November 10th and will talk about Dairy Revenue Protection, more on Forward Contracting, and Dairy Farmer Experience with Forward Contracting. The cost to attend is $10 per farm for both sessions, and the webinars will be from 7pm – 9pm each evening. Register here. Price Risk Management is becoming an increasingly important topic, especially as we reflect on the many ups and downs of 2020 so far.

Local Frost Advisories - What it Could Mean for Corn Producers in Southwest New York
Frost can mean yield loss for crop producers, although the severity of damage varies based on crop maturity, topographical features and local climate conditions. A corn-killing freeze occurs when temperatures fall to 32 F for several hours or 28 F for a few minutes. Late-season frost damage can affect grain quality and yield and is directly proportional to the stage of maturity and leaf tissue killed. Severe impacts on grain quality can occur at mid-dough, while moderate impacts are seen at the dent stage. By the time the kernel has reached half milk line, only minor impacts will occur to grain quality. Yield losses are negligible if frost occurs when grain moisture is below 35 percent. Differences among hybrids, overall plant vigor at the time of frost, and subsequent temperatures will all affect final grain quality and yield. Frost damage can be difficult to identify late in the season as it is easily confused with common fungal leaf diseases such as northern corn leaf blight. If you have questions regarding the condition of your corn crop or if you don’t have access to an electronic version of the “Assessing Hail Damage to Corn” guide, contact Josh Putman. For more information on corn maturity and frost, visit https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/GrainFill.html.

‘Tis the Season for Deer Worm, written by Dr. tatiana Stanton
The wind is becoming crisp. Leaves are falling. The world is getting ready to go to sleep, and most small ruminant producers can breathe a sigh of relief as most of the internal parasites that plague their stock also retire for the winter. However, there is one parasite that ramps up this time of year: meningeal worm, also known as deer worm. This parasite is transferred through the accidental ingestion of snails, slugs, and their slime, where it then migrates into small ruminants’ spinal cords. Here, it has the potential to cause damage to the animals’ central nervous systems. In this article, Dr. Stanton reviews the typical signs of a deer worm infection and potential treatments to discuss with your veterinarian.

National Milk Producers Federation CFAP2 Dairy Farm Toolbox
The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) has released a toolbox for dairy farms looking to apply for the second round of CFAP. The toolbox includes a breakdown of what the latest Coronavirus Food Assistance Program includes for dairy, as well as a link to relevant application resources. Farms seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. Although, it is recommended to first contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Don't Forget to Complete the 2020 Census! September 30th is the final day.
Have you completed the 2020 Census? Completing the 2020 Census will determine where over $675 billion in federal funding is spent in states and communities for the next ten years. When filling out the Census, your personal information is kept confidential by law. Whether it’s funding in
communities across your state or helping determine the number of seats your state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives - every count makes an equal impact. Be sure you are counted and visit 2020Census.Gov for more information.

**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.

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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://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
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