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Subject: Cover Crops and Water in Fields, Dairy of Distinction and more!
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026 9:59:06 AM
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3.19.2026 Updates from Cornell Cooperative Extension's SWNY Dairy, Livestock & 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 **Patrick Coates from Farm Credit East, Daniel Pavlock from Pavlock and Son's Construction** and **Amelia Parseghian from NY FarmNet** for sponsoring this Weekly Update.*

[Conclusions of CCE Pastured Broiler Study Finds Ways to Improve Production and Profitability](#)
Raising chickens for meat on pasture is popular among SWNY farmers. From 2022-2025, a team from CCE followed the production and financial inputs and outcomes of 36 broiler farmers across the state. From this, we now have an accurate series of averages for production and pricing across the state as well as conclusions to help improve the success of small-scale broiler enterprises.

[Lean Management for Dairy](#)

I participated in Cornell Workforce Development's Lean Management for Dairy workshop. Lean Management, often referred to simply as "Lean", is a methodology frequently used in the business world to add value, maximize efficiency, and trim waste. How can applying principles of Lean Management work for the dairy industry in southwestern New York, and what could taking a Lean approach mean for your business?

[How Cover Crops Change Water Movement in Your Fields](#)

As last year has certainly shown most of us, water is one of the biggest drivers of success or stress in a cropping system. While water is a crucial factor to crop production, our management strategies for it during moisture extremes can help or hurt us. Check out [this article](#) from John as he dives into how cover crops and water interact in the field relating to these challenges.

[New York Application for Dairy of Distinction](#)

Applications are due April 15th for the Dairy of Distinction award. Attractive dairy farms give the consumer greater confidence in the wholesomeness of milk and stimulate milk sales which encourages public support of the dairy industry. The award gives recognition to the dairy farmer for maintaining a well-kept farmstead. All Northeast dairy farms producing milk for sale are invited to submit an application for the award. Applicant farms must receive a score of 90 or higher to receive an 18"x24" Dairy of Distinction sign. The sign is to be displayed in front of the farm. Winners need not reapply but will be rejudged each year.

Upcoming Events			
<i>For more information and to register, click on the title hyperlinks.</i>			
Title	Date(s)	Location	Time
<u>Quality Wool Workshop</u>	March 21	Alfred <i>(Allegany County)</i>	10am-4pm
<u>Farm Disaster Preparation online Certificate Training</u>	March 24 & 25	Zoom	6pm-9pm
<u>NY Beef Producer's Association Region 4 Annual Meeting</u>	April 4	Alfred <i>(Allegany County)</i>	12:30pm
<u>Dairy of Distinction</u>	April 15 <i>(deadline)</i>	New York State	
<i>*Denotes that the event is hosted by, or includes speakers from, SWNYDLFC.</i>			

Thank you **Farm Credit East**, **Pavlock and Son's Construction** and **NY FarmNet** for sponsoring this Weekly Update.



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SWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops

A partnership between Cornell University and the five Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben Counties.

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

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