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Subject: Insects, Risk Management, Dry Cows, Poultry Processing and more!
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5.14.2026 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 **Kevin Fath from [Lactalis](#)**, **Don Wild from [Wild Acres Family Farm](#)** and **Amelia Parseghian from [NY FarmNet](#)** for sponsoring this Weekly Update.*

What’s the Sweep on Insects this Season?

This winter was a "classic NY winter", but was it cold enough to actually impact insect populations? While we can't predict pest pressure with any greater accuracy than long-term weather forecasts, we can evaluate historic insect populations, weather, and biology to give us a better idea of what we could see this growing season.

USDA Releases Risk Management Report

USDA’s Economic Research Service recently released *Risk Management Practices on U.S. Farms and Ranches, 1996–2020*, summarizing how farms used risk management strategies. The report found that across all farms, the most used strategies are maintaining savings, working off the farm, and purchasing non–Federal Crop Insurance policies. Find the full report and a summary [here](#).

Dry Cow Decisions: Is Selective Therapy the Right Fit?

With margins tight across the dairy industry, many farms are looking for practical ways to cut costs without sacrificing milk quality or herd health. Farms can consider selective dry cow therapy as a way to achieve those goals.

The Ins and Outs of Processing, Labeling, and Handling Poultry for Sale

Chicks are on the ground, the weather is warming, and in a few short weeks, the first batches of pasture raised chickens will be processed. For many, this means processing in preparation for sales direct from the farm or at farmer's markets. With that in mind, there are requirements that producers must follow to ensure food safety and legal packaging/labeling of that poultry for sale, which are outlined in this article.

Upcoming Events			
<i>For more information and to register, click on the title hyperlinks.</i>			
Title	Date(s)	Location	Time

FAMACHA Training Jamestown, NY*	May 23	Jamestown	9am-12pm
Artificial Insemination Training For Cattle Producers	June 5 & 6	Arkport (Steuben)	
2026 Multi-Species Pasture Walk at the Vanstrom Homestead*	June 20	Kennedy (Chautauqua)	11am-2pm
<i>*Denotes that the event is hosted by, or includes speakers from, SWNYDLFC.</i>			

Thank you **Lactalis**, **Wild Acres Family Farm** and **NY FarmNet** for sponsoring this Weekly Update.



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SWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops

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