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Subject: Dairy Margin Coverage, Beef Market, Lime Application, Dairy Culture Coach
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10.15.2020 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Dairy Margin Coverage Program Enrollment for 2021 Began Oct. 13

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began accepting applications for the [Dairy Margin Coverage \(DMC\)](#) program on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 for 2021 enrollment. Signup runs through Dec. 11, 2020. DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. DMC payments triggered for seven months in 2019 and three months so far in 2020. For more information, visit [farmers.gov DMC webpage](#), or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](#). 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.

Beef Market Report: Prices for Feeder Calves Expected to be Equal to or Slightly Higher than 2019

The most recent beef market report indicates that strong consumer demand for beef is continuing to support stable beef prices for NYS farmers. Unfortunately, a local major packer had to temporarily close earlier in the month, resulting in reduced prices for cull cows, which exceeds the typical seasonal decline in price. Prices for finished cattle are slightly lower than this time last year. Feeder prices are promising, with projections indicating that 550 lbs feeders will trade either at or above last year's prices. Bull calf values continue to improve on average, with premiums for beef cross bull calves bringing in \$69/head more than Holstein bull calves. More can be read in [Dr. Mike Baker's Livestock Report](#), here: <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/3/3955/files/2020/10/LivestockUpdateOct-2-2020.pdf>.

Fall Lime Applications Can Improve Soils for the 2021 Growing Season

Soil pH is an indication of how acidic or basic your soils are. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14 with pH 7 being the neutral point. Many of the crops grown in Southwest NY prefer a soil pH of 6.0-7.0, however pH values less than 6.0 are often observed in agricultural fields. Grass crops, such as corn and wheat, can tolerate acidic soils better than our leguminous crops like alfalfa and clover species. As the soil becomes more acidic, nutrients like phosphorus become less available for plant use. Other elements, like aluminum and iron, can become more available to the plant and may actually become toxic, reducing crop yields. Applying lime to increase the pH of acidic soils can be economically advantageous when proper management guidelines are followed. For information about liming materials, check out this [Fact Sheet](#) p If you have questions about soil test reports or liming field crops, contact [Josh Putman](#) at jap473@cornell.edu or 716-490-5572. Livestock and Beginning Farm Specialist, [Amy Barkley](#), can be reached at amb544@cornell.edu or 716-640-0844 if you have questions about pasture health and management.

Dairy Culture Coach Fall 2020

The Fall issue of the Dairy Culture Coach is [now available](#). This publication is put together by [Libby Eiholzer](#), Bilingual Dairy Specialist with the [Northwest Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program](#). Included in this issue is information on COVID-19 updates, Flu Season, and Keeping Somatic Cell Count Low, with resources in English and Spanish.

Commissioner Ball Shares Reminder to Agribusinesses on NY Forward Guidance

Commissioner Ball is reminding agritourism businesses of the importance of following NY-Forward Guidance, including those which offer pick-your-own fruits and vegetables, hayrides, corn mazes, and other fall activities. Strict enforcement of the facial covering, social distancing, and reduced capacity mandates is being implemented across all industries in NY. **State and local health departments have been checking for compliance.** Best practices for low-risk outdoor activities can be reviewed here: <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/best-management-practices-for-agritourism-covid/>

Dialing Into Your Best Dairy: Reproduction, Gestation, and the Dry Period

Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Dairy Management Specialists, [Alycia Drwencke](#), [Casey Havekes](#), and [Lindsay Ferlito](#) have put together some considerations for managing your herd. Dialing into your best dairy and reaching your herd's genetic potential includes focusing on reproduction, gestation, and the dry period. For tricks on managing these life stages, check out the [full article](#) or reach out to [Alycia Drwencke](#).

Racial Equity Tool Kit for Farmers Available

The [National Young Farmers Coalition](#) has recently compiled a [Racial Equity Tool Kit](#) designed to be a starting point for agricultural communities across the country. It aims to orient and incite members (and those in the broader agricultural industry) toward preliminary awareness and direct action. This is a great initial resource for folks to look though, and offers thoughtful ideas around partnering with BIPOC-led organizations and groups, creating a network for resource sharing, and actively practicing allyship.

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_eVG2c8y0BtXaRgx

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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Pronouns: She/her/hers

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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

www.farmworkers.cornell.edu

www.trabajadores.cornell.edu (en espanol)