

From: [Alycia Marie Drwencke](#)
To: [SWNYDLFC-L](#)
Cc: [Alycia Marie Drwencke](#); [Amy Marie Barkley](#); [Joshua Adam Putman](#); [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#); [Craig Trowbridge](#)
Subject: Labor Road Show, Land Rental, Cover Crops, Dairy x Beef Survey, Sick Leave Requirement
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10.22.2020 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Labor Road Show IV – Virtual

Ag Workforce Development Council is hosting Labor Roadshow IV as a virtual event. A series of five one to two-hour webinars will be held online through Zoom at noon on November 18, 19, 20, 23, and 24. Cost is \$55 per person to attend all five webinars and to receive links to the webinar recordings. Register at tinyurl.com/LaborRoadshowIV. New York Labor Road Show IV is an opportunity to learn about regulation changes and how to best position your business for compliance and success. Several important changes to state regulations occurred in 2020 that farm employers need to understand, including which employees are covered by overtime and day-of-rest and which can be designated as family members or exempt employees.

Getting on the Land: Lease or Own – A conversation for Farmland Seekers and Owners

If just getting into farming, the biggest question is: “should I lease or own the land?” For established farms, leasing land can be an opportunity to keep land in production and provide supplemental income. Join CCE Erie for a facilitated conversation on Saturday, November 14th, 9:00am – 10:00am, to learn more about lease terms, lessons learned, and search strategies for infrastructure needs. Bring your questions for a live Q and A session. This event is for both aspiring land lessees/buyers, and current landowners. You can register [here](#) for this free event.

Interseeded Cover Crops Virtual Field Day – October 28th (11:30 am – 12:30 pm)

A well-managed cover crop can protect your soils, boost productivity, capture nutrients leftover from a main crop or from fall applied manure. Interseeding cover crops during the corn or soybean growing season can address some potential challenges. However, it is important to review and acknowledge some core weed science ideas due to the similarities between weeds and cover crops. Join [Mike Hunter](#), Field Crops Specialist with the North Country Ag Team, where he will discuss interseeded cover crops into corn and provide information on corn weed control. [Registration](#) is free and you will receive **1.0 DEC recertification credits in categories 1, 10, 21, or 23.**

Dairy x Beef Use in NY Survey

Do you use Dairy x Beef genetics? Do you work with a farm that does? CCE needs your help! The usage of beef on dairy has steadily grown over the last few years and we are working towards understanding the trends and markets of this strategy in NYS. Please consider filling out this survey: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4HHU14xa0XN4xg1. This will take approximately 15 minutes to take. The survey can also be started and accessed later for completion. For questions, please contact Margaret Quaassdorff (maq27@cornell.edu) or Betsy Hicks (bjh246@cornell.edu), Regional Dairy Specialists with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Ten Things You Should Know Before Leasing Land for Solar Development

Development of land for solar energy projects is becoming common across the state of New York. These large projects require land leases from landowners, which can extend 40-50 years. While leasing land for solar development can provide supplemental income to a landowner, there are some things to keep in mind before signing your name on the dotted line. [Daniel Brockett](#) of Penn State Extension and George Thompson of Wilson, Thompson, and Cisek, LLC, help bring some of these important considerations to light.

Questions Answered About New York Sick Leave Requirements

From Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development: New York State employment law changed in 2020 to require sick leave for most private sector employees, including farm employees. The state released guidance about the program yesterday through a [website](#) and [detailed FAQ document](#). A September 29, 2020 [post in the Ag Workforce Journal](#) described the basics of the new requirements based on the language in the new law. At that time there were several questions pertinent to farm employers that remained unanswered. We now have answers, at least in part, to some of those questions. Those questions and answers can be found [here](#).

Corn Diseases and Mycotoxin Contamination of Corn Grain in Southwest New York

Mycotoxin is a general term for *a poison produced by a fungus* and can be toxic when inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or consumed at very low concentration levels. Corn and small grain cereals are especially prone to mycotoxin accumulation in their seed tissue. In the past, it was believed that the fungus affected grain only during the postharvest stage, particularly when grain was stored under suboptimal conditions (hot and humid/moist). Although these factors can promote fungal growth in storage, this occurs during the growing season as well. In the field, mycotoxin outbreaks are seasonal, and will occur under favorable weather conditions for disease development. Bird and insect damage can also increase the risk for mycotoxin contamination. In addition to mycotoxin contamination of grain crops, mycotoxigenic fungi cause ear rots and stalk rots in corn. Some corn fields in SWNY are beginning to lodge due to stalk rots. Photos were sent to [Dr. Gary Bergstrom](#), Field Crops Plant Pathologist at Cornell University, and it was confirmed that we are experiencing stalk rot damage in corn fields throughout the state. "It is believed that drought stress was a likely contributor this year," says Bergstrom. To help reduce the risk of late-season corn disease and mycotoxin accumulation, here are a few practices to consider: plant locally adapted corn hybrids, avoid corn-after-corn rotations, apply appropriate amounts of fertilizer, and plan ahead. An [article](#) written by Dr. Bergstrom, provides detailed information about mycotoxins of corn in the Northeast. Contact [Josh Putman](#) if you are experiencing lodged corn.

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!

Alycia Drwencke

Dairy Management Specialist

Cornell Cooperative Extension

SWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops

Amd453@cornell.edu | swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu | 517.416.0386

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://institutefforfoodsafety.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)