12.23.2020 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Holiday Hours
Our team would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season! Specialists will be out of the office and away from phone and email from December 24th – January 3rd. We will return any missed calls and emails as quickly as possible upon our return January 4th. We appreciate your patience during this time and look forward to meeting the needs of our farming community in 2021.

What Now?! Creative Slaughterhouse Workarounds
Many slaughterhouses report being completely booked up for 2021. What’s a livestock farmer to do? In this interactive discussion, we aim to help livestock producers regain some sense of control over how, when, and where they get their livestock processed, and how they sell meat to customers. You’ll hear from Shannon Hayes of Sap Bush Hollow Farm, who found opportunity and benefit in the midst of 2020’s livestock processing crisis. You’ll also hear from Heather Sandford, who will share the depth and breadth of her experience working with meat processors to help you brainstorm redundancy plans for butchering your animals. You can register for this free event here. This webinar is sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Livestock Program Work Team.

Southwest New York Field Crop Series Set For January 2021
Join Field Crops Specialist, Josh Putman, for a virtual program we recently received 3.0 DEC recertification credits for. The “Southwest New York Field Crop Series” will provide growers an opportunity to learn about problematic weeds, diseases, and insects of SWNY and best management practices. This virtual learning opportunity will be offered on January 19th, January 20th and January 21st, from 11am – 12pm of each day. The cost of registration is $45 per person and your registration fee covers all 3 classes. DEC credits will be given at the conclusion of each day. Credits were awarded in categories 1a, 10, 21, and 23 for this series. Registration can be done by selecting the following link: https://tinyurl.com/ycul2s3o

Dairy Market Watch – December 2020
Dairy Market Watch is an educational newsletter to keep producers informed of changing market factors affecting the dairy industry. Dairy Market Watch is published on the last Tuesday of every month, funded in part by Cornell Pro-Dairy, and is compiled by Alycia Drwencke, Dairy Management Specialist with the Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program. For more information, reach out to Alycia. A PDF is also available here.

Quick Dairy Grazing Survey
Does your dairy farm utilize grazing? We want to hear from you! We are looking to host a dairy
grazing series in 2021 in collaboration with the South Central NY Dairy & Field Crops Team and
would like your feedback. Please fill out a quick 2 minute survey to help us better cover topics you
value. The survey will close January 16th.

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Jv26vA2Maba92R

**Someone at the Farm Tested Positive for COVID-19 — Now What? By Joan Sinclair Petzen and Libby Eiholzer**

Bilingual Dairy and Farm Business Management Specialists with the NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program outline some key action items for a farm if they or an employee test positive for COVID-19. Even though hope is on the horizon with vaccines approved for use in the U.S., there is currently a rise in the number of cases and a time gap before all farms and their employees will be eligible to receive a vaccine. Be sure to check out this article to be better prepared for someone testing positive on your farm.

**Flu Vaccine Posters for Farm Workforce**

Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development recently shared: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is strongly encouraging everyone to get flu vaccinations this year. Some farms are making arrangements to have groups of employees vaccinated at the worksite. This is a great opportunity to protect your employees and practice for an eventual COVID-19 vaccine. CDC recently released flu vaccine promotional posters in English and Spanish, see links below.

- English: [https://www.fda.gov/media/143736/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/143736/download)
- Spanish: [https://www.fda.gov/media/143765/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/143765/download)

**Erie County Farm Businesses: COVID Impact Loan Program Available through ECIDA**

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency has announced a low-interest loan program for businesses in Erie County needing working capital to take advantage of economic opportunities created by the pandemic. For qualified applicants, the Regional Development Corporation is offering loans from $25,000 - $250,000 at a 1% interest rate. Loans can be used for working capital, accounts receivable/payable, payroll, rent, insurance, and utilities. For more information, call (716) 856-6525 ext 219. For application information, visit [www.ecidany.com](http://www.ecidany.com).

**Don’t forget! Critical Calf Care: Urgent Decision Making for Dairy Calf Health**

Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Regional Dairy Specialists would like to invite dairy producers, employees, and agribusiness professionals across the state to join a series of 7 webinars focused on Critical Calf Care: Urgent Decision Making for Dairy Calf Health. This virtual learning opportunity will be offered every Tuesday beginning at 12:30pm for 7 consecutive weeks January 5th – February 16th, 2021. One time registration is required by visiting [https://tinyurl.com/calfcare](https://tinyurl.com/calfcare). Registration is good for the entire series. Thanks to generous sponsors, registration fees have been covered. The first 6 sessions will be 30 minute presentations and discussions, while the final session will be a one hour panel with industry experts! For more information, contact Alycia Drwencke, Dairy Management Specialist, at 517-416-0386 or amd453@cornell.edu

**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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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/