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Subject: Minimum Wage Increased, Grazing Website, Utility Scale Solar, Snow Removal, Hay or Nay?
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1.21.2021 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Thank you to our sponsors for their support of this Weekly Update: American National, Country Crossroads Feed and Seed LLC., and Laing-Gro.

Reminder – NYS Minimum Wage Increased

As of 12am on December 31st, 2020 the NYS minimum wage has increased to \$12.50/hour in Upstate NY. Farm employers should double check that they've made those changes to their payroll ASAP! For more information about navigating employee pay rate decisions, contact [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#), Farm Business Management Specialist.

Cornell University Announces New Grazing Website

Cornell University has created a website to be used as a reference for livestock grazing. Key pages include current research, recorded webinars, publications, references, and tools for producers to help improve the production of their pastures and grazing stock. Most of the information currently available is focused on solar grazing, but more information and tools are being regularly added as the website continues to be developed. Visit the page at <https://blogs.cornell.edu/grazing/>.

Meet our New Faculty Member: Dr. Louis Longchamps

[Dr. Longchamps](#) is an assistant professor in the Soil and Crop Science section of the School of Integrative Plant Science. His academic focus is on precision agriculture, [digital agronomy](#), on-farm experimentation, and soil and crop improvement. He has a Ph.D. in weed science where he focused on weed distribution in corn fields in order to assess the best approach for weed spot spraying technologies. His postdoctoral studies worked to improve nutrient, water, and seed use efficiency by soil mapping and remote sensing. [Dr. Longchamps](#) experience will pair nicely with current and new faculty at Cornell University.

Utility Scale Solar – What You Should Know!

Timothy X. Terry, Farm Strategic Planning Specialist with Cornell Pro-Dairy, shares information for farms and landowners about the considerations of our State's many upcoming solar projects. Specifically, he goes in depth on the legal considerations with analyzing a lease that emphasize not rushing into things! Have you been approached by a company regarding solar arrays on your property? Let us know your experiences by contacting [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#).

Don't Forget – Do's and Don'ts for Barn Snow Removal

While it has been a somewhat mild winter so far, some parts of our region have gotten lots of lake effect snow over the past few days – and we're definitely due for more. Safely removing snow from farm buildings is important to reduce the risk of cave-ins, injuries, and potentially deadly situations. Remember to remove snow with a systematic, zone removal, approach and be on the lookout for any signs of barn failure (creaking, bowing of trusses, rafters, and headers).

Hay or Nay? Should you provide hay to pre-weaned dairy calves? by Casey Havekes

Regional Dairy Specialist, [Casey Havekes](#) with the [North Country Regional Ag Team](#) recently interviewed [Dr. Emily Miller-Cushon](#), a professor of Animal Science at the University of Florida. You can listen to that [conversation here](#), or Casey has also written [an article](#) to highlight some of the key concepts discussed. Specifically, Casey and Emily discuss the provision of hay for pre-weaned calves, which has increased in popularity for researcher and industry members over the last several years. Current research shows there are several benefits to providing hay to pre-weaned calves, and it can be provided as early as the first few days of life. For more information, read the [full article](#) or reach out to [Alycia Drwencke](#).

Troubleshooting Herd Health Issues on Your Dairy Podcast Series

This podcast series focuses on troubleshooting herd health issues on dairy farms. Episodes will discuss specific areas to look at when experiencing issues in different life stages of the dairy cow. Episodes focus on preweaned calves, transition through weaning, heifer phase, calving pen issues, metabolic disorders of the transition cow, specific fresh cow issues, lactating cow issues from mastitis, issues with reproduction, production, feeding behavior and facilities, hoof health and lameness, and problems during the dry period. Episodes 1 through 8 have been released so far and can be found [here](#), on Sound Cloud, or Spotify. For more information on troubleshooting at your dairy contact [Alycia Drwencke](#), Dairy Management Specialist.

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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)