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Subject: Pasture Prep, Dairy Survey, Ag Value Assessment, Small Ruminant Blood Draw, Grain Safety, Pesticide Regulation
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2.4.2021 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.

Pasture Prep: Virtual Ruminations for your 2021 Grazing Program

CCE SWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops and SCNY Dairy and Field Crops teams are excited to offer a grazing series with an emphasis on dairy herds, but all grazers are welcome! Join us VIRTUALLY for a 6 week series on unique topics around grazing. This series will be offered every Tuesday starting March 2, 2021 at Noon EST. Our last session on April 6, 2021 will be a panel discussion at 7pm with our series presenters. Topics will include: Considerations for 2021 Spring Green Up, Nutrition & Grazing Through the Season, Incorporating Annual Forages to the Grazing Plan, Examining Lameness on Grazing Dairies, Maximizing Pasture Investment, and an Expert Panel Discussion with Series Speakers. There is a \$25 registration fee which gives you access to all 6 sessions and presentation files ahead of the meetings and recordings to be shared after. Registration is [available here](#).

Brief survey on the use of caustic paste for dairy calves

Do you use caustic paste on your dairy? We want to hear from you! Please consider filling out [this brief survey](#), which should take about 5 minutes. All responses are completely anonymous and will be used to better understand how dairy producers are using caustic paste to prevent horn growth in their calves. An article will be created to allow producers to bench mark their current practices to other responses. Survey responses will also be used to develop research projects that will inform best management practices for the use of caustic paste. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Alycia Drwencke, Dairy Management Specialist with the Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops program at 517-416-0386 or amd453@cornell.edu.
https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3NQNijWHI07Cu6q

Ag Value Assessment Reminder

The [agricultural value assessment](#) is a program offered to eligible farms that can reduce the property taxes on land that is used for farming. The program has to be [applied for annually](#) by **March 1st**. To learn more about the program, its qualifications, and how to apply visit the [NYS Dept of Taxation website](#) or contact [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#). New for this year – farms that will not meet the \$10,000 minimum in gross sales due to COVID related losses, but have in the past, are [eligible for an exemption](#).

Drawing Blood on Small Ruminants

Blood draws on goats and sheep are common. While most of us leave drawing blood to the herd or flock veterinarian, there are some instances where it can make sense for farmers to draw blood themselves. Blood can be used to test for pregnancy, genetic markers, or diseases. This [article](#) by Purdue University Extension shares step-by-step instructions for gathering equipment, safe restraint,

and different methods for preparing the site, drawing blood, and considerations for handling and storing the samples.

Grain Handling and Storage Safety

Grain facilities are locations that receive, handle, store, process, and ship bulk agricultural commodities like corn, soybeans, wheat, and oats. In New York, these facilities can be quite large and can handle large quantities of grain products. Additionally, many agricultural producers have their own grain facilities for on-farm storage. The grain handling industry is hazardous because workers can be exposed to serious and life-threatening dangers. These include suffocation from engulfment and entrapment in grain bins, falls from heights and crushing injuries, fires and explosions from grain dust accumulations, grain dust/gas inhalation or lack of oxygen in confined spaces, and amputations from grain handling equipment. Suffocation is the number one cause of death in grain storage bins. There are things that can be done to reduce these hazards. Information and resources can be found on the [United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) website](#).

Invitation to Participate in Agriculture Listening Tour

Newly appointed Senate Ag Committee Chair, [State Senator Michelle Hinchey](#), will be hosting a [virtual listening tour](#) during the weeks of February 15 and February 22. If you're interested in participating, [visit this site to fill out an interest form](#) by Monday 2/8. This is an opportunity to share your perspective of various issues facing NYS ag on a first-registered, first-served basis.

NY Department of Environmental Conservation Releases Proposed Regulation to Prohibit Pesticides containing Chlorpyrifos

This proposed regulation will add chlorpyrifos to the list of prohibited pesticides in 6 NYCRR 326.2(c) of New York's pesticide registration regulations. Scientific research has shown that chlorpyrifos can harm the development of the nervous systems of infants and young children. Prenatal exposure to organophosphates can result in diminished cognitive ability, delays in motor development, and Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Additional information about Chlorpyrifos can be found on the [NYS DEC website](#).

Sheep 2023 Needs Assessment Survey Available to Producers

The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducts national studies of various livestock sectors. In preparation for the upcoming national sheep study in 2023, they are looking for your input on the most important health issues facing the U.S. sheep industry. Your responses will be used to determine which issue areas should be the focus of the study and be used to identify and prioritize the objectives of the study. The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete and can be found at this link: https://aphisvs.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kYOfAAYRI3saou?Q_CHL=email

Recognizing and Diagnosing Disease in Pre-weaned Calves

CCE Regional Dairy Specialists Alycia Drwencke and Casey Havekes share a written summary of the key concepts discussed in the first session of our 7-week series titled "Critical Calf Care". You can access the recording of the session [here](#), which focused on recognizing and diagnosing disease in pre-weaned calves. A critical component to determining the success of sick calves is recognizing signs of disease, from both a physiological and a behavioral standpoint early on. The full article is

[available here](#). In summary, monitoring behavioral and physiological indicators of disease can help you identify issues early on, which will ultimately improve the outcome of treatment and likely decrease costs. Observing calves is a very cost-effective strategy that can improve calf success throughout the vulnerable pre-weaning period. Lastly, implementing a scoring system and keeping detailed behavior records as part of your daily routine can be very beneficial in early disease intervention. If you have questions, or would like to implement a scoring system on your farm, reach out to Alycia Drwencke at 517-416-0386 or amd453@cornell.edu.

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time
<u>Annie's Project: Risk Management for Farm Women</u>	Feb 1 - March 11	7-8:30pm EST
<u>Getting Your Genetics Right: Converting Performance Records Into Decision-Making Tools</u>	Feb 9 - 11	8-10pm EST
<u>Farmer's Markets - Identifying and Overcoming Consumer Obstacles</u>	Feb 10	10-11am EST
<u>Raising Pigs for Market</u>	Feb 16	8-10pm EST
<u>Starting a Livestock Farm Workshop Series</u>	Feb 24 - March 10	7-8:30pm EST
<u>Pasture Prep: Virtual Ruminations for your 2021 Grazing Program</u>	March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, & April 6th	Noon EST
<i>*For more relevant events, visit our website.</i>		

 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

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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://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)