

From: bounce-125455137-85609580@list.cornell.edu on behalf of [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#)
To: [SWNYDLFC-L](#)
Cc: [Alycia Marie Drwencke](#); [Amy Marie Barkley](#); [Joshua Adam Putman](#); [Kelly Lynn Bourne](#)
Subject: Seed Packet Update, Cow Cooling, Cost of Production, Flock Talks
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3.12.2021 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Thank you **American National, Country Crossroads Feed and Seed LLC, and Laing-Gro** for sponsoring this Weekly Update.

Remember those packets of Chinese seeds from last year?

-Prepared by Cecilia Sequeira, USDA- APHIS (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) has found **no evidence** that someone was intentionally trying to harm U.S. agriculture with these shipments. In fact, there is no correlation between where the seeds were sent and U.S. critical agriculture infrastructure. APHIS officials believe the unsolicited packages are part of an internet "brushing scam." [APHIS has updated their website](#) with some new rules.

It's Not Too Early to Consider Cow Cooling

While warmer weather still seems so far away (although this week's bump in temps was a great preview), preparing to prevent heat stresses in dairy cows *now* can prevent losses in milk production *later*. You should provide adequate cooling to all animals on the farm, including calves, heifers, and dry cows. Recent work out of the University of Florida has emphasized the importance of providing heat abatement to non-lactating animals on the farm. As farms prepare for the warmer months ahead, take the time to check all cooling equipment is functioning properly for each age and class of animal on the farm. For more information contact [Alycia Drwencke](#), Dairy Management Specialist.

What's Your Cost of Production?

How much does it cost you to make a cwt of milk? Grow a finished steer? Produce a load of corn silage? Knowing your cost of production can help you look at different areas of your farm (and their opportunities), set breakeven prices, and monitor success. Cost of production looks at all of the expenses and incomes for a certain product by a unit or weight. This calculation is different for every farm and [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#), our Farm Business Management Specialist, can help you determine yours.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Flock Talks Begin on 3/24

Join CCE specialists, Cornell faculty, and industry experts as they discuss timely poultry topics inspired by community requests, ranging from beginning to advanced content. Meetings will be hosted on the 4th Wednesday of every month from [12pm – 1pm](#) and from [7pm – 8pm](#). A short presentation will be shared, followed by ample time for questions and discussion. The talks are free to attend, and pre-registration is required.

The Handy Bt-Trait Table for U.S. Corn Production

Bt corn hybrids can reduce corn borer and reduce insecticide use. 2021 marks the 25th year of commercialization of Bt corn in the United States. Bt hybrids are now planted on greater than 80% of U.S. corn acres. You might be reviewing seed catalogs to purchase the best corn hybrids for your

operation. Some acres in the region are in continuous corn rotations and would benefit from protection against certain pests such as corn rootworm. This [PDF document](#) provides information about the trade names, primary insect targets, and herbicide tolerances for each product. If you have questions about corn traits or hybrid placement on your farm, contact [Josh Putman](#).

New! Self-Paced Online Poultry Processing Course

This Cornell Small Farms course offers detailed videos and lessons on food safety, processing and humane techniques for dispatching birds. Successfully completing this course will earn a Certificate of Completion. This certificate may be an acceptable option for farm insurance providers that request a training before underwriting a policy for your poultry processing operation.

Agricultural Supervisory Leadership Online Course: Register Now!

Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development has opened registration for two, six-week courses in the new Supervisory Leadership Certificate program. Offered again, because of high demand, “Transitioning to Supervisor” course materials release March 19, 2021, with the first live Zoom class meeting on March 25. “Organizing Work for High Quality Results” materials will release June 12, 2021, with the first class the following week. Each six-week course costs \$275 and spaces in the course are limited. Courses are applicable to all commodities. Registration is available [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time
Pasture Prep: Virtual Ruminations for your 2021 Grazing Program	March 16, 23, 30, & April 6th	Noon EST
Reproductive Management Online Courses	March 12 -April 20	On Your Own Schedule!
Empire Sheep Producers Association Meeting	March 15	6pm
Farm Disaster Preparation Certificate Training	March 16 & March 18	6:30pm - 9pm
Advanced Hay and Pasture School	March 18	7pm - 9pm
<i>*For additional events, visit our website.</i>		

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George E. Haffenden
Agent, LUTCF, LACP
716-386-5393

ghaffenden@american-national.com



Darleen Krisher-Meehan
Andover, NY
607-478-8858

countrycrossroadsfeedandseeds.com



Brendan Knoll
Eden, NY
716-992-3830

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Katelyn Walley-Stoll

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Business Management Specialist and Team Leader

Cornell University

Cooperative Extension

SWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops

CCE-Chautauqua @ JCC-Carnahan Center

525 Falconer Street, PO Box 20

(GPS use 241 James Avenue)

Jamestown, NY 14702-0020

kaw249@cornell.edu | swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu | [Facebook](#)

716.640.0522

[Cornell Cooperative Extension: Helping New Yorkers Thrive \(VIDEO\)](#)

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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)