

From: bounce-124696393-85609580@list.cornell.edu on behalf of [Katelyn Walley-Stoll](#)
To: [SWNYDLFC-L](#)
Cc: [Joshua Adam Putman](#); [Alycia Marie Drwencke](#); [Amy Marie Barkley](#); [Kelly Lynn Bourne](#)
Subject: Health Screenings, Field Crop Update, Dairy Podcasts, and Market Readiness
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6.11.2020 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

One More Reminder, because it's REALLY IMPORTANT, Farm Safety Plan is REQUIRED

In order to protect the health and safety of your employees & farm, and from a legal risk management/liability perspective, be sure to complete your Farm [Safety Plan](#) ASAP. I know the sun is shining, the cows need to be milked, and sitting in front of a computer is the last thing you want to do right now - BUT this is a requirement regardless of your farm's size, employee numbers, production area, etc.

- While you don't have to submit the plan to any agency, you do have to have it available for review at a moment's notice AND need to be following all of the protocols and steps you outline in your plan regularly. DOCUMENT EVERYTHING! TRAIN EVERYONE! COMPLETE YOUR PLAN!
- Recently, there was a [webinar presentation](#) of Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crop farm specific guidance/resources from Cornell Cooperative Extension, for which the [recording has been posted](#).
- Additional farm specific guidance/verbiage is available for you to [download and edit here](#). NYS Ag and Markets also released their [Interim Guidance specific for farms](#).
- If you have questions, need guidance, or want help accessing any of the resources, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 716-640-0522 or email kaw249@cornell.edu.

A note on reducing your farm's business risk and the potential of a lawsuit: We're already seeing lawsuits pop up across the country from business customers, vendors, and employees related to COVID-19 exposure. To protect your farm, be sure to get your safety plan in place and follow it. You should also check in with your farm's liability insurance coverage provider to have clarification on what will and won't be covered.

A note on employee health screenings: Businesses are required to do health screenings of all employees. If your local health department provides specific guidance, you should follow and implement that. Otherwise, the CDC/NYS Ag and Markets guidelines are requiring:

- A screening at the beginning of every employee's shift and another if the shift goes past 12 hours.
- Asking 3 questions (Experiencing COVID symptoms, positive COVID-19 test, contact with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case).
- Temperature check – cut off is over 100.0 degrees F (BUT employers may ask employees to self-check at home if needed).

You don't need to document specific answers/temperatures from these health screenings based on NYS/CDC guidance. You could only note if the employee passed/failed, and any actions taken. If you do provide a written self-certification, or keep screening data, you may need to consider that checking employee temperatures qualifies as a medical exam, which changes how records need to be kept. More information is available on the resources linked above.

How Are Corn and Soybean Crops Progressing in Southwest New York?

Check out this [YouTube](#) video of Field Crops Specialist, [Josh Putman](#), giving a live update from the field describing the current status of our corn and soybean crop growth. Crops throughout the region are looking great and we will continue to monitor their growth and scout for damaging pests. Tune into our [SWNYDLFC Website](#) or our [Facebook page](#) for live updates and current information!

Coming Soon: New Podcast from CCE Dairy Educators and PRO-DAIRY

A new podcast series from CCE Dairy Educators and PRO-DAIRY titled "Dialing into Your Best Dairy" will be available soon! This 8 episode series will discuss management decisions across the different life stages of a dairy cow. The podcast will be available soon on the PRO-DAIRY website (<https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/events/podcasts/>) where you can find each episode along with additional resources and speaker contact information. For additional resources, reach out to Dairy Management Specialist, [Alycia Drwencke](#).

Characteristics of Determining Market Readiness of Finished Cattle

Regardless of how beef animals are finished, either by grass, grain, or a combination, market weight animals that are sent to the auction or processor should be finished properly. Finishing is the process where an animal is fed a high energy diet to help them put on intramuscular fat, resulting in desirable marbling, which leads to a juicier, more tender, and more flavorful cuts. These desirable quality characteristics result in higher prices at market and a better experience for consumers. Finishing looks different on a purebred steer vs a dairy cross or a heifer vs a steer, but regardless of an animal's genetic background, these animals all have characteristics which show that they are ready to go to market. This article reviews the characteristics of finishing as described in the Cornell Small Farms video, "Determining Market Readiness of Finished Cattle", narrated by [Dr. Mike Baker](#), found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrF5aCEAI-0&feature=emb_title

EPA Provides Clarity to Farmers on Use of Dicamba Stocks

From [NY Farm Bureau](#): The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an order providing farmers with needed clarity following the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' June 3, 2020 vacatur of three dicamba registrations. EPA's **cancellation order** outlines limited and specific circumstances under which existing stocks of the three affected dicamba products can be used for a limited period of time. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has vacated the registrations of three dicamba herbicides: Bayer's Xtendimax, BASF's Engenia and Corteva's FeXapan, meaning they can no longer be used. The court's decision does not address Tavium, Syngenta's dicamba herbicide. **However, EPA has allowed existing stocks of dicamba purchased before June 3, 2020, may be used until July 31, 2020. Such use must be consistent with the product's previously-approved label, and may not continue after July 31, 2020.** NYFB has reached out to New York Department of Environmental Conservation for further guidance and clarity regarding use of existing dicamba stock by New York farmers and commercial applicators. NYFB will provide updates as information is available.

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 to a bi-weekly service. 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!

Katelyn Walley-Stoll

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 español)