4.15.2021 Updates from the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

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

Armyworm Now Present in Western NY
Western NY Crop Management recently confirmed armyworm larvae in Western NY. Field that may be impacted this early in the season can be wheat, grass cover crop fields, and spring seeded oats or barley. Traps have been set in SWNY to monitor moth flights for black cutworm and armyworm.

Farm Business Foundations – Quick, Useful, and Free!
Farms of all shapes and sizes can benefit from helpful tune-ups. Equipment maintenance, herd health checks, and milk house deep cleaning are all things we do to keep things running smoothly. But – when was the last time you checked in on your Farm Business Management know how? Katelyn Walley-Stoll is going to offer a series of webinars from 7pm – 8pm on Thursdays in May for beginning and transitioning farms, or for those that just need a tune-up.

Selection for Calving Ease
One way to manage dystocias in a beef herd is to use genetic prediction to select for bulls that have good scores around calving ease. In this article, Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension Beef Cattle Breeding Specialist, discusses how to interpret EPDs for success in the next calving season.

Be on the Lookout for Seed Imbibition (Cold Chill) in your Fields
Imbibition refers to the initial uptake of water by seed during the first 24-48 hours. This causes the seed to swell and the germination process can begin. However, cold soils can cause severe damage to the seed and as a result, decreased stands and yield. Purdue University describes “Cold Chill” in this article.

Farm Employee Pay: Do you know the market?
Good information about compensation can be hard to find. Good managers know that they must stay “in the ballpark” and pay competitive overall compensation, otherwise the revolving door of turnover will begin to spin. You still have time to participate in the 2020 Farm Employee Compensation Benchmark to gain the information you need to compare your compensation to other farm businesses and make better compensation plans.

Beef Series Webinar Records Available for Review
Cornell's Livestock Program Work Team has completed its three-webinar series on the three major beef operations: "Insights to the Cow/Calf Enterprise", "Introduction to Stocker Cattle", and "Beef Finishing Programs". If you missed any of these three webinars, you can watch them for free. Click here to learn more!

Managing Forage Digestibility to Combat High Commodity Prices by Joe Lawrence
The recent rise in commodity feed cost on dairies is no secret. Joe Lawrence, with Cornell’s PRO-DAIRY Program has put together an article on capture forage fiber digestibility to help combat high feed cost. While striving for forage quality should always be the goal, the current price dynamics offer an added incentive to optimize forage quality and specifically fiber digestibility entering 2021.

Visit Our Website to see a list of upcoming events
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 15th</td>
<td>7pm - 8pm</td>
<td>Women's Tractor &amp; Equipment Operation Safety Class</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 17th</td>
<td>11am - 2pm</td>
<td>*Pips to Peeps: Introduction to Incubation</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 22nd</td>
<td>6pm - 8pm</td>
<td>Small Ruminant Parasite Control</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 28th</td>
<td>12pm - 1pm or 7 pm - 8pm</td>
<td>CCE Flock Talks - Brooding and Rearing Basics: Raising Chickens for Meat</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 6th</td>
<td>6pm - 8pm</td>
<td>Chicken Health Symposium</td>
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COVID-19 response:  
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https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/  
Employment & Agricultural Workforce Questions:  
http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/  
Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources:  
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Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers:  
https://www.nyfarmnet.org/  
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