



Update - Regional Ag Team Operations during COVID-19

To our North Country farmers, ag businesses, partners and friends,

Our CCE North Country Regional Ag Team has adapted to COVID-19 social distancing and NYS workplace mandates by equipping ourselves to work at or near normal levels from our home offices. We remain open during normal business hours for communications and requests, and are committed to you, and the whole of our agricultural industry. We will continue to do our best to be your agricultural information resource during this extremely challenging time.

Our primary goal is to remain healthy, avoid spreading the virus among our communities, and help achieve the most rapid and successful return to our normal business practices.

- Staff remain available to you by phone, email, text, web conference and, only if essential and agreeable, a pre-arranged farm or field visit. It is likely that we will use remote methods to help us troubleshoot problems. Person-to-person contact will be avoided to reduce risk of contracting and spreading the virus. We may ask for photos or other electronic records to help provide recommendations and guidance remotely. We can accomplish a lot using these means! Our mobile phone numbers and email addresses are listed at the end of this document.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension county offices in the North Country and across the state are now closed to the public following NYS workplace mandates. Please call to communicate needs or requests. County CCE office phone numbers are listed at the end of this document.
- In-person meetings and group programs are **cancelled indefinitely**. Please visit our website at <https://ncrat.cce.cornell.edu> for additional updates on programming or call any of our mobile phone numbers, listed below, with questions. It is likely that any programs and trainings offered in the near future will be provided using an online program called “**ZOOM**” which is free to download and use. Simply follow the link: <https://zoom.us/> and click “sign up” OR download the app from the app store. Detailed connection information will be provided for each individual program.
- Newsletters, bulletins, updates and other means of informational programming will continue as normal, but will be electronic versions. At this time we have little or no access to printers/copiers for mailings or hard copy communications. For the next several weeks, we are prioritizing the use of video, audio and written materials, shared and accessed electronically, to provide information on animal and crop management, production, marketing and other relevant topics. All of the information being developed will be uploaded to our website as it becomes available.

We will continue to send updated information electronically to inform you and your farm staff about resources that will help navigate the impact of COVID-19 on your farm and business.

This is an unprecedented situation for all of us, and no one is fully sure of what the next hours, days and weeks will bring. We are modifying our policies and approaches in an ongoing basis. Please call us with suggestions, requests, and comments or just to talk. Farmers are some of the most resilient and ingenious people on the planet, and we strive to serve the NNY ag industry as best we can during this time.

Need information? View the following Cornell CALS and CCE Resource Pages - Updated Regularly

Current COVID-19 response information:

General Questions & Links:

<https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/>

Employment & Agricultural Workforce Questions:

<http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources:

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/>

Food Production, Processing & Safety Questions:

<https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers:

<https://www.nyfarmnet.org/>

Cornell Farmworker Program

www.farmworker.cornell.edu and

www.trabajadores.cornell.edu (en Español)

Thank you for growing our food, and thanks for your continued support of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Please be safe!

CCE North Country Regional Ag Team

web: <https://ncrat.cce.cornell.edu>

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 North Country Regional Ag Team

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North Country CCE County Offices

CCE Jefferson County

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web: ccejefferson.org

CCE Lewis County

phone: (315) 376-5270

web: ccelewis.org

CCE St. Lawrence County

phone: (315) 379-9192

web: stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu

CCE Franklin County

phone: (518) 483-7403

web: franklin.cce.cornell.edu

CCE Clinton County

phone: (518) 561-7450

web: cceclinton.org

CCE Essex County

phone: (518) 962-4810

web: essex.cce.cornell.edu

Our Mission

“The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry.”

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associates, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.