



Welcome

What a busy month - the CCE Cortland Agricultural Team has been out-n-about, delivering sanitizer and masks, and alerting folks to the CFAP program and the NY Forward Farm & Business Reopening Safety Plan. When we do get the opportunity to interact with you, our farmers, we are always awed by just how much knowledge and history is stored in this community. Thank you to all of those who have taken the time to talk with Dana and show her around as she gets to know our community.

If you would like to receive sanitizer and/or masks or want more information about the CFAP program and/or the NY Forward Farm & Business Reopening Safety Plan please reach out to Dana Havas by email dmh353@cornell.edu or phone (607)391-2664

Livestock Law Update:

As many of you are aware a recently introduced Livestock Law proposal was approved by the Cortland County Agriculture, Energy, and Planning Committee and was to be presented at the Legislative Session on Thursday, August 27th. While the proposal has since been withdrawn interested parties are still encouraged to share their thoughts by emailing the County clerk, Eric Mulvihill, at emulvihill@cortland-co.org. You can read the proposal starting on page 48 [here](#).

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Application Deadline Extended & Now Includes Maple Sap:

Applications for the CFAP program has been extended to Sept 11th. We encourage everyone to sign-up for this program which was designed to "provide direct relief to farmers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19". The list of commodities it covers is extensive, don't be deterred by the term commodity - small scale farms with a variety of products are easily eligible. It is worth checking out the list and filling out the application. Learn more at <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>.

NY Forward Farm & Business Reopening Safety Plan

The Cornell Agriculture Workforce Development has organized a really nice and [easy-to-use webpage](#) to help farmers develop their NY Forward Safety Plan. These plans are not only required for **all** NYS businesses they also help to ease concerns around running a business in these unprecedented times. These easy-to-use templates will walk you through all the items that need to be considered for reopening your business safely. The NY Forward Safety Plan will have you, your employees, and your customers feeling safe in knowing you have done your due diligence to ensure everyone stays safe & healthy.

NYS Forage Exchange Announced:

"Within New York State several regions have experienced drought conditions reducing the quality and quantity of forages produced for dairy and livestock production. To help

agricultural producers locate forage to purchase, or for producers that have forage to sell, Cornell Cooperative Extension announces the NYS Forage Exchange website, found at <http://nysforageexchange.com>

The NYS Forage Exchange provides a free system to match potential sellers and buyers of forage within New York State. Sellers can easily register within the system and then post the forage they have available to sell. Potential purchasers can browse the advertisements, and then contact the seller through email for additional information or to complete purchase arrangements.

A screencast on how to use the NYS Forage Exchange can be found at <https://youtu.be/GNPjSIPLrxM> The video is also available on the Forage Exchange website.

This is a moderated website, so all ad submissions are reviewed for appropriateness before publication on the forage exchange website. The information provided is general and educational in nature. Employees of Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension do not endorse or recommend any specific product or seller listed on this site."

Getting to Know You, Our Farmers



Cornell Cooperative Extension Cortland County



**Learning more about you,
our farmers.**

Your voice matters, your questions matter, your needs matter to us – we hope you will take a moment and fill out [this short questionnaire](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1TZJknz7EcwCYxT) & help us learn more about you, our Cortland County farmers so that we can develop education and programming that best serves our agricultural community.

Link to the questionnaire: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1TZJknz7EcwCYxT

Meet the Cortland County Ag Team

In the next few newsletters, we'll be introducing you to the Cortland County Ag Team. In this edition of the *CCE Cortland Ag Update*, we are introducing you to our veteran Horticulture Educator and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator Claudia Hitt.



Claudia Hitt
Horticulture Program Educator

Claudia Hitt has worked at the Cortland County's CCE office as the Horticulture Educator for 20 years and as the Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator for 10.

As the Horticulture Educator Claudia performs a variety of duties working directly with the community to help community members better understand their soils and gardens through PH testing, soil texture analysis, pest identification, and finding Cornell recommended solutions to horticulture and natural resource questions. She also is engaged in a number of community outreach initiatives aimed at both youth and adults. Over the years she has been able to introduce our Cortland County youth to gardening and horticulture by collaborating extensively with county schools, 4-H, and a number of other youth-related organizations as well as working with our beloved county fair. Being a horticulture expert Claudia has been regularly invited to present on any number of horticulture-related topics to garden clubs, church groups, senior centers, etc.

Teaching, showing, helping our community understand and grow our gardens is what Claudia excels at. With today's 'plugged-in world', studies show that it is increasingly important for everyone, youth and adults, to spend time connecting with nature. What better way than through a garden.

Do you have a question or two for Claudia? You can reach her via email at cwh7@cornell.edu or phone at (607)391-2668

Items of Interest and Other News

The Dr. Tree Fruit and Don Podcast is live

(reposted from Penn State Extension)

This podcast focuses on providing timely commercial tree fruit production advice for beginning industry professionals and seasoned growers. Educators from Penn State Extension and faculty from Penn State University's horticulture, entomology, and plant pathology departments drop in to give insights and observations about what is going on in the orchards.

Check it out
here: <https://extension.psu.edu/drtreefruit>

Cornell Small Farms Launching

Beef Ambassador Program Comes to the North East

(reposted from North East Beef Promotion Initiative)



Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers

The Beef Checkoff's Northeast Beef Promotion Initiative (NEBPI) unveils the new Junior Beef Ambassador program, which has roots at the [South Dakota Beef Industry Council](#) (SDBIC). The program gives youth within the Northeast region the opportunity to share their beef story. The program is an opportunity for youth ages 5 to

Online Course Seasons

(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)



The Cornell Small Farms Program is excited to announce that our upcoming online course season will begin live webinars this fall, and will feature new courses to offer even more learning opportunities. Our suite of online courses moved to a new, more user-friendly platform last year, which grants registrants permanent access to their course content. Also, courses have tiered pricing from \$199 – \$299, based on household size and income to make access to the courses more affordable and equitable for everyone.

New additions to our online course suite include a 4-week intensive in how [“Reading the Land”](#) can help you monitor its health, the addition of [“Beef Cattle Management”](#) in our growing livestock offerings, and a primer on [“Social Media & Online Marketing”](#) for your farm business.

Read more here: <https://www.morningagclips.com/cornell-small-farms-launching-online-course-season/>

18 to help share their excitement surrounding beef, as well as advocate on behalf of beef.

The NEBPI is excited to extend this program within our heavily populated region where consumers outnumber cattle 14-to-1. These young beef leaders' stories will highlight their own farms and what they do day in and day out, as well as young beef consumers sharing their favorite beef recipes and more.

Learn more here: <https://www.nebpi.org/about-us/junior-beef-ambassador-program>

2020 Changes to NY Farm Labor Laws: Defining Family Labor

(reposted from Cornell Ag Work Development)

New York's farm labor laws changed greatly with the 2019 Farm Laborer Fair Labor Practices Act (FLFLPA), the laws changed again this year when several amendments were included in the Budget Act in 2020. On August 17, 2020, Cornell Ag Workforce Development and Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA) recorded a webinar to help all farmers understand the changes. Find links to a PDF of the presentation with active links and a recording of “2020 Updates to New York Farm Labor Laws.”

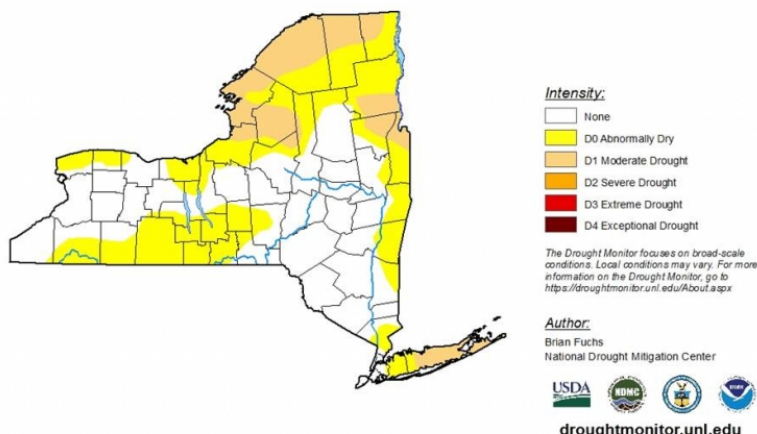
Read more and watch the presentation here: <http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/2020/08/19/2020-changes-to-new-york-farm-labor-laws-recording-presentation/>

Using Cool-Season Annual Forages to Boost Feed Availability On Farm

(reposted from Morning Ag Clips)

**U.S. Drought Monitor
New York**

August 11, 2020
(Released Thursday, Aug. 13, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Cornell Cooperative Extension's Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program (SWNYDLFC) is committed to providing farms with timely, research-based information to promote their success.

This past growing season has been abnormal, to say the least. The slow temperature warm up and wet spring made fields difficult to prepare and plant early in the season. A dry spell followed, which much of the region continues to experience. These conditions decreased the volume of hay that farms were able to harvest throughout this summer. Hay is an essential food source for animals on a farm throughout the year. Pastures offer an additional feed source for livestock during the spring and summer. Although, pastures haven't fared much better in terms of production. Most of the grasses, clovers, and other plants that grow in SWNY pastures are best suited for cooler weather with a good amount of rain. The summer temperatures have been tolerable, but the rain required for optimal pasture growth just hasn't come.

Continue reading here: <https://www.morningagclips.com/using-cool-season-annual-forages-to-boost-feed-availability-on-farm/>

Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans

(an excerpt from the FSA August 202 Newsletter)

- written by Claudia Hitt Horticulture Program Educator -

Farmers and ranchers can use the Farm Loan Discovery Tool on farmers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help. SDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

How the Tool Works:

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the Farm Loan Discovery Tool by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

Read more here: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/State-Offices/New-York/newsletters/36000202008.pdf>

Upcoming Workshops

[Safe Harvest 2020:](#)
[COVID-19 Office Hours for Agricultural Producers and Packers](#)
(re-posted from Cornell Ag Workforce Development)
Tuesdays at 4 pm through September
Online

"Cornell CALS and Cornell Cooperative Extension will host office hours for farmers and packers to answer any questions they might have about managing and responding to protect the farm workforce during COVID-19. Office hours will be held each Tuesday at 4 PM EDT, beginning August 25 and running through September."

[Fall Pasture Management Webinar](#)
(re-posted from CCE SWNY Dairy, Livestock, & Field Crops)
Sept. 3rd, 10th, & 17th
Online

Topics include Last seasons pasture weed ID & management; soil sampling preparation, and submission; and interpreting your soil test report and adjusting fertility.

[Exploring the Small Farm Dream: Is Farming Right for You?](#)
(re-posted from CCE Broome County)
Sept. 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th
Online

During this four-part online series participants will begin to think through small scale farming as a business (rather than a hobby), learn what it takes to start and manage a farm business and decide whether that is something they want to pursue. Through a weekly online zoom meeting, peer support and self-study participants will finish the series being to answer whether farming is for them, and move onto working through a business plan.

[Rural Resilience: Farm Stress Training](#)
(re-posted from DL2 Open Courses)
At your own pace through July 2021
Online

"In this course, you will learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of stress and suicide, ways to effectively communicate with people under stress, and how to reduce stigma related to mental health concerns. What you learn in this course can help your friends, family, neighbors and community during stressful times.

Recognizing the high levels of stress affecting America's farmers and ranchers, USDA's Cooperative Extension System, Farm Credit, American Farm Bureau Federation and National Farmers Union have worked together to bring this course online for the public."

We'd greatly appreciate any feedback. Feel free to contact us at any time
(607)391-2664



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