- Winter is well under way as we prepare the February Ag Alert with steady snow! In case you have not thought about it recently you might consider checking your barn roofs for snow load. The December 2014 Ag Alert! has some Do’s and Don’ts for Snow Removal that are worth reviewing. Past copies of Ag Alert! are on our website. To view the December issue go to http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccecayuga click on the Agriculture tab on top and then click on the icon labeled “Ag Alert”.

- Be sure to check all the Upcoming Events on Page 2. We tried hard to list everything but new meeting dates arrive almost daily. You can see a more complete listing on our website by going to http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccecayuga and going to the Ag Calendar underneath the Agriculture tab.

- The New Farm Bill has Risk Management Options. Your county FSA office is the best source of information. Page 3 offers some information for commodity growers regarding Base Acres and Yields along with a relatively current graph for Dairy Production Margin.

- Also on Page 3 you will find information on the recently published Manure Application Cost Study which will enable dairy farms using tankers to apply manure to better understand the impact their manure system has on the farm.

- Are you a Fruit and/or Vegetable grower who is interested in accessing school meal programs? Page 5 has more information about a pilot project for the procurement of unprocessed fruits and vegetables.

- Tractor Safety Certification Course for Youth is again being offered; Page 5 provides more details. This is an excellent course for any youth who operate any type of machinery- even riding lawn mowers!

- Corn growers can learn more about the genetics related to resistance along with selecting varieties and control measures for Northern Corn Leaf Blight. This disease can significantly reduce yields! Registration for this meeting along with more information can be found on Page 6.

- Pesticide Certification Training Classes are now scheduled and registration information can be found on Page 7. Remember new applicators need to have “qualifying experience” as determined by the DEC.

- Cayuga County’s recently updated Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan calls for the “education of the general public about the economic, health and cultural importance of local food and local agriculture.” In response, CCE Cayuga County is revitalizing our Agriculture Promotion Council with Cayuga County Farm Bureau. Are you interested in serving on the Council? Contact Judy Wright (jlw24@cornell.edu) (315) 255-1183 (ext. 234) or Keith Severson (kvs3@cornell.edu) (315) 255-1183 (ext. 225) for more information.

Sincerely,

Keith Severson
Agriculture Resource Educator

Judy Wright
Agricultural Resource Educator

Beef Farm Account Book Available

The Cornell Beef Farm Account Book is once again available. The accounting record book is designed specifically for beef producers. A complete and accurate set of financial records helps producers develop accurate tax returns but as important gives them the data to analyze their business. Using this accounting record book the farm manager will have the data needed to complete the Beef Farm Business Summary. The Farm Business Summary is a confidential analysis of business records to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the beef enterprise. This allows for better decision making to increase farm profitability.

To purchase a copy of the Cornell Beef Farm Account Book contact Tom Gallagher (tig3@cornell.edu) at CCE Albany County 518-765-3500. To learn more about participating in the Beef Farm Business Summary, contact Mike Baker (mjb28@cornell.edu) Beef Extension Specialist, 114 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, 607-255-5923.
Upcoming Events

Below is a list of upcoming events that we thought might be important to you! If you ever have further questions or need to clarify any information, you can always check out our website http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccecayuga, go to the Ag Calendar under the Agriculture tab on top. We try our best to keep information as up-to-date as possible so that you have a quick, easy reference available 24/7. Of course, you can always call our office with any questions or concerns you might have at 315-255-1183.

MARCH

March 1—March 30 Cayuga County Agricultural District Annual Property Inclusion Period. Forms for inclusion are available by going to http://www.cayugacounty.us/Departments/PlanningandEconomicDevelopment/AgriculturalFarmlandProtection/AgriculturalDistricts.aspx.

March 1 Deadline for LEADNY LEAD New York, a program of seminars, workshops and field travel, is for committed individuals who wish to step up and make a difference in our food, agricultural, and natural resource industries. Alumni include growers, lenders, shippers, retailers, educators, marketers, consultants and others just like you. For more information or to apply go to www.leadny.org.

March 4 2015 Auburn Ag Products LLC Grower Meeting Held at Emerson Park Pavilion, 6914 East Lake Road, Auburn, NY 13021. From 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. DEC Recertification Credits applied for. Must register by calling Auburn Ag Products at 315-246-7642. More information can be found on Page 4 of this Ag Alert.

March 4 Vegetable & Small Fruit Webinar “Using Sanitizers in Wash Water” Fourth in the series of vegetable and small fruit production webinars. Cost is $10 for the session. For more information go to our website http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccecayuga. Go to the Agriculture tab and click on Ag News or to register by phone call 724-627-3745.

March 4 Berry Pest Workshop Held at the Clarion Hotel, 8250 Park Road, Batavia, NY. Growers of fall raspberries, mid-season blueberries, and day-neutral strawberries can learn how to manage spotted Wing Drosophilia (SWD) at the upcoming workshop offered by the NYS Berry Growers Association. To register by February 25th go to: http://www.hort.cornell.edu/grower/nybga/.

March 6 Pesticide Certification Training (CORE) Class Part one of a two part class held at the Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY 13021. Second class date is March 13. Both classes are from 12:30 until 3:30 p.m. and you must contact Keith Severson (kvs5@cornell.edu) 315-255-1183 ext. 225 to determine class eligibility and materials necessary. Cost is $25 for both classes. Study materials are extra. More information can be found on Page 7 of this Ag Alert.

March 7 Beginning Hops Class Held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY from 9 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Cost is $25 per person which includes lunch. To register call Nancy at 585-394-9775 ext. 427.

March 11 Winter Dairy Management School to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 74 State Street, Auburn. From 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is $35 per person includes morning coffee break and lunch. For more information call or email Judy Wright at 315-255-1183 ext. 234 (jlw24@cornell.edu) or Keith Severson at 315-255-1183 ext. 225 (kvs5@cornell.edu). Register online! Go to http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccecayuga and click on the registration tab.

March 11 Beginner and Backyard Grape Production Workshop to be held at Vince’s Park (intersection of Rte. 318 and Rte 5 & 20) Seneca Falls, NY from 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Cost is $15 per family/farm. Register online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/growinggrapes-2_245 or contact Derek Simmonds at 315-539-9251 or dcs285@cornell.edu.

March 13 Pesticide Certification Training (CORE) Class Part two of a two part class held at the Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY 13021. First class date is March 6. Both classes are from 12:30 until 3:30 p.m. and you must contact Keith Severson (kvs5@cornell.edu) 315-255-1183 ext. 225 to determine class eligibility and materials necessary. Cost is $25 for both classes. Study materials are extra.

March 16 2015 Tractor Safety Certification Course for Youth Class is designed for youth between the ages of 14 to 16 who must have at least 24 hours of tractor safety and maintenance instruction in order to drive a tractor on a farm other than that owned by their parents. Classes are Mondays from 6—9 p.m. and held at various locations throughout the county. You must be pre-registered for this class. Cost is $35 per person. You can register online by going to https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/TractorSafetyCertification-3_205. More information can be found on page 5 of this Ag Alert.

March 25 Vegetable & Small Fruit Webinar “Tomato Nutrition in High Tunnels” Cost is $10 for the session or $35 for the series. Fifth in the series of vegetable and small fruit production webinars. Cost is $10 for the session. For more information go to our website http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccecayuga. Go to the Agriculture tab and click on Ag News or to register by phone call 724-627-3745.

March 31 Northern Corn Leaf Blight: Genetics Related to Resistance, Selecting Varieties and Control Measures Course. Held at the Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY from 1-3 p.m. DEC Recertification Points are anticipated. Cost is $10.00. Make your reservation by calling Peggy Lillie (psb4@cornell.edu) at 315-255-1183 ext. 238 or register online by going to http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccecayuga and clicking on the Registration Tab.
New Farm Bill Risk Management Options
By: Keith Severson
Agricultural Resource Educator

If you have attended a session explaining what the new Farm Bill will be providing as options for you to consider as a risk management tool against reduced yields, price and/or total revenue it may have been a lot of information to sort out. There will be a number of opportunities to review this information before the time comes to make a choice. Determining what will be best for your farm can be postponed, but the place to begin is a visit to the FSA office to determine that your past cropping efforts with commodity crops are maximized for your benefit.

Base Acres: what are the totals on each farm for Commodities grown from 2009 to 2012, and should they be “reallocated”.

Yields: Can you provide the yield for each of your commodity crops grown on that farm in the years 2008 through 2012? If there seems to be some missing information, FSA may be able to assist filling in some minor blanks.

There will be opportunities to review the specifics on the selection of PLC versus ARC. However, all parties that are advising are saying be sure to get Base Acres and Yields straight with the FSA office first and as soon as possible.

Actual and Forecast Dairy Production Margin

As you can see the milk margin is predicted to slip into declining levels soon.
Taken from http://dairy.wisc.edu/Tools

Manure Application Cost Study Completed
Submitted by: Judy Wright
Agricultural Resource Educator

The collection, storage, and application of liquid manure are important activities taking place on farms every year. These activities require ever increasing levels of investment and management. Increasing farm size, bedding availability, environmental regulations, and nutrient management plans have led more farms to utilize liquid manure systems. The manner in which these activities are structured and managed can impact the profitability of the dairy farm through many different avenues. One important aspect of the manure management system is the cost to apply manure.

Betsey Howland, Dairy Farm Business Specialist with the Cornell PRO-DAIRY Program and Jason Karszes, Senior Extension Associate with Cornell’s Animal Science Department have completed a cost of manure application study. The purpose of this study was to identify the costs associated with using tankers to transport and apply liquid manure, while developing a template that can be used to collect, summarize, and analyze costs for any manure application system. By knowing the costs associated with application of liquid manure through transporting and spreading with tankers, one can better understand the impact that the total manure system has on the farm.

Go to http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/business-management click on the resources tab and scroll down to “Manure Application Cost Study 2012” for a printable copy.
New York State is pleased to announce that it has been chosen to participate in a USDA Pilot Project for Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables. The goal of the Pilot Project is to develop additional opportunities for schools to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables with USDA funding, and develop new relationships with farmers, growers, produce wholesalers, and distributors. The USDA pilot program encourages the use of locally-grown foods in National School Lunch Programs by allowing locally-grown foods to be purchased with the USDA funds annually allocated to schools.

- This is a great opportunity for vendors such as farmers, growers, aggregators, food hubs and the like to grow and expand their local customer base.
- Vendors of all sizes - both large and small - have the opportunity to tap into an existing and expanding market.
- Over 800 New York State School Districts currently in the National School Lunch Program have USDA funding to procure commodities through this pilot program.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables, minimally processed items such as apple slices, as well as IQF frozen locally sourced produce, are all eligible under this program for year-round purchasing.
- As soon as a vendor is placed on the USDA Approved Vendor list, they can begin to do business under the pilot program.
- The pilot is effective immediately and will continue through the 2015 – 2016 school year. Our goal is to have this program available statewide within the next two years. Success of the pilot will help to ensure that USDA makes this a permanent program.

For further information regarding New York State’s Pilot Program or for more information, vendor eligibility or applications go to:

Or contact:
⇒ Annemarie Garceau, Director, Food Distribution and Warehouse, NYS Office of General Services 518-474-5122.
⇒ Diane Green, Food Distribution and Warehouse, NYS Office of General Services 518-473-9386.

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**2015 Auburn Ag Products Grower Meeting Announced**

**Wednesday, March 4th, 2015**

At Emerson Park Pavilion 6914 East Lake Road, Auburn, NY 13021

You must pre-register for this event by calling 315-246-7642

Pesticide Recertification credits applied for

- 9:30-10:00 Registration
- 10:00-10:30 Wayne Oosterhoff (Nachurs Alpine Solutions) Crop Fertilizer Using the 4R Concept.
- 10:30-11:30 Jeffery Philips (Monsanto) Update Herbicide Resistance and Resistant Weed Management Strategy in RR Cropping Systems
- 11:30-12:00 Joe Rickard (Winfield Solutions) Tissue Sampling Alfalfa: Using tissue samples to not only increase yield but also plant health and digestibility resulting in better resistance to fungus and inspect pests such as potato leaf hopper.
- 12:00-12:50 LUNCH
- 12:50-1:00 Kate Wheeler (BASF) Introduce Xanthion
- 1:00-1:15 Kate Wheeler (BASF) Headline on Alfalfa
- 1:15-1:45 Kate Wheeler (BASF) Seed Treatments (Vault HP)
- 1:45-2:15 David Huffman (Cover Crop Solutions) Cover Crop Benefits: Using cover crops to build soil health, decrease erosion, reduce pesticide use and ultimately increase crop production.
- 2:00-3:00 Jeffery Philips (Monsanto) Pesticide Handling Training Review

Auburn Ag Products, LLC personnel will be responsible for the course certificates. Course certificates will not be available until the meeting is dismissed.
2015 Tractor Safety Certification Course
For Youth Offered

The Hazardous Occupation in Agricultural Law requires that youth **ages 14 to 16** must have at least 24 hours of tractor safety and maintenance instruction in order to drive a tractor on a farm other than that owned by their parents.

**Dates:**
- Mondays: March 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 13th, 20th
- Saturday, April 25th Written/Skill & Driving Tests

**Times:**
Monday classes are from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and locations vary.
Saturday, April 25th testing begins at 12:30 p.m.

**Location:**
Varies with classes, call for complete schedule.

**Cost:**
$35.00 for ALL Youth (includes a student manual)

**Deadline to Register:**
March 7, 2015

**Register:**
Call Peggy Lillie 315-255-1183 extension 238 to register.

This tractor safety course is open to all youth; not just 4-H members.

This is the only course to be held in Cayuga County for 2015 to certify youth

Attendance is required at all classes in order for students to become certified.

NRCS-NY Announces Application Cutoff Dates for the 2015 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and 2011 CSP Renewal Applications

New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Gregory A. Kist announces **February 27, 2015** as the application cutoff date for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) general signup for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 and **March 31, 2015** as the cutoff date for CSP 2011 contract renewal applications. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on their overall benefit to the environment.

"The CSP program is a key part of NRCS’ suite of conservation programs," said Kist. "After participants address key resource concerns through our other programs, they can then utilize CSP to maintain their previous conservation performance and implement conservation enhancements to better protect our natural resources."

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities and maintaining existing conservation activities.

Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, plants, animals and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include privately owned cropland, grassland, improved pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land on which participants can address resource concerns related to agricultural production.

If you are interested in applying for an NRCS conservation program please visit our web site for information on applying at: [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs144p2_027058](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs144p2_027058).

You may apply by visiting your local NRCS field office, which can be located using the web site: [http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=NY](http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=NY).
Northern Corn Leaf Blight Course
Genetics related to Resistance, Selecting Varieties and Control Measures
TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST from 1—3 p.m.
DEC Recertification Credits are anticipated

Date: Tuesday, March 31st
Time: 1—3 p.m.
Cost: $10 per person
Location: Auditorium @ Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY

Register: Email Peggy Lillie at psb4@cornell.edu or call 315-255-1183 ext. 238. Register online! Go to: http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccecayuga and click on the registration link!

Questions: Call Keith Severson (kvs5@cornell.edu) at 315-255-1183 ext. 225.

Agenda

1—2 p.m. Judith Kolkman will discuss the current effort being conducted to increase corn plant resistance to NCLB including research results on impact.

2—2:45 p.m. Kate Wheeler will be explaining the nature and potential for reduced yields of this disease, identification and scouting procedures, timing to improve the reduction of yield from damage, and the life cycle that allows it to regenerate and spread year after year.

2:45—3 p.m. Keith Severson will answer questions and discuss the presentations and the plans to impact the disease for 2015.

Registration Form

Northern Corn Leaf Blight Course
Genetics related to Resistance, Selecting Varieties and Control Measures
Tuesday, March 31, 2015 from 1—3 p.m.
at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY 13021

DEC Recertification Credits are anticipated

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: CCE Cayuga County

SEND by March 27th to: Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cayuga County
Attn: Peggy Lillie
248 Grant Avenue
Auburn, New York 13021 1495

Name(s) attending:________________________________________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________ City:_________________________ State:____   Zip:___________
Telephone:_________________ (in case of cancellation)   E-mail _____________________________________
Number Attending:_______ Total Amt. Enclosed ($10 per person for class): ____________

Questions regarding registration? Call Peggy @ 315-255-1183 ext. 238 or email: psb4@cornell.edu

If you are a person planning to participate in this program with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations, please contact us at least two weeks prior to the class.

Register online!
Go to: http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccecayuga and click on the Registration Link
2015 PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION TRAINING CLASS
Fridays - March 6 and March 13 from 12:30 – 3:30pm.
At the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County
Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY
Cost: $25 per person
This is a training to assist those people who are preparing to pass the Pesticide CORE and Category exams as required by NYS DEC to obtain a license.

Day 1 Friday March 6th from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Session will include a review of the key items in the CORE Training Manual that are likely to be on the test.

Day 2 Friday March 13th from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Session will include additional training, information and a greater opportunity to focus beyond the basic. It will be an elaboration to the first day’s information and also provide opportunities for clarification and review.

♦ We recommend that those wanting to prepare for the test attend both days.
♦ This CORE training is NOT to provide RECERTIFICATION CREDIT, as may have been in the past.
♦ Prior to registering for these training classes, call the DEC at 1-800-388-8244 ext. 232 to review your qualifying experience and determine if you are eligible to receive the packet of registration materials to be able to take the CORE and Category test.
♦ CORE and Category tests are conducted in Syracuse or Cortland by the NYS DEC. The NYS DEC fee to take the CORE test and one Category test is $100 on that given day.
♦ Call Keith Severson @ 315-255-1183 ext. 225 for additional details or clarification about the materials needed.

CORE Training Manual Essentials:
⇒ To follow and participate in this training you must have a Core Training Manual (3rd Edition blue and white cover) to work with in class. We are urging you to call DEC 1-800-388-8244 ext. 232 and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County 315-255-1183 ext. 225 (Keith) in advance to set things up for the training and the testing.
⇒ CORE Training Manuals and Category Manuals need to be ordered in advance of the first class. The deadline for placing an order through our office is February 25th.
⇒ The CORE Training Manual is $51.00; Category Manuals (various prices) are ordered based on topic and type of license you are pursuing.
⇒ Please call ahead 315-255-1183 to register (maximum 20 in this class) and declare which Manuals you will need.

REGISTRATION for 2015 PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION TRAINING
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: CCE Cayuga County
SEND by February 25th to: Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cayuga County
Attn: Peggy Lillie
248 Grant Avenue
Auburn, New York 13021 1495

Name(s) attending: ________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________ City: __________________________ State: ____ Zip: ________

Telephone: __________________ Number Attending: _______

Total Amt. Enclosed ($25 per person for class): ________________

Questions regarding registration? Call Peggy @ 315-255-1183 ext. 238 or email: psb4@cornell.edu

If you are a person planning to participate in this program with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations, please contact us at least two weeks prior to the class.
Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities

Manure Handling Workshop
Thursday, February 26th
Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County
Education Center
248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY
9:30 a.m.—12 p.m.
Free and open to all

- Tips for evaluation of your manure handling and transfer systems to reduce risk of spills
- Some regulatory requirements
- Spreading Issues
- Preparing for and handling spills
- DEC perspective on handling spills
- Meet the training requirements for manure handling for ECL & CAFO Farms.

Contact Valerie Horning (vhorning@cayugaswcd.org) or Jason Cuddeback (jcuddeback@cayugaswcd.org) at the Cayuga SWCD office for more information. You can also call their office 315-252-4171 ext. 3 to register.

Presented by: Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District, NYS DEC, Pro-Dairy and Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County.

Dry Bean Meeting
Wednesday, March 18th
LeRoy Country Club, LeRoy
7759 E. Main Rd./Rt. 5—1 mile east of LeRoy
9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
DEC credits and CCA credits available

Topics to be included are:
- the performance and development of new varieties and breeding lines; weed management update; white mold management recommendations; Western bean cutworm risk and control;
- the effects of tillage, cover crops and rotation on dry bean yields. Bean dishes at lunch! The NYS Dry Bean Committee will meet right after the meeting.

Cost: $20/CVP enrollee; $30 non-CVP enrollee, if preregistered by March 10. $5 more at the door.

Registration forms can be obtained online by going to: http://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=324
For questions contact Angela Parr at 585-394-3977 ext. 426 or aep63@cornell.edu.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-to-date pesticide recommendations. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are possible. Any recommendations herein are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying.