As this issue of Ag Alert! is prepared we are still in the grips of winter weather. With the promise of warmer temperatures in the forecast concerns about snow melt and potential flooding come to mind. Please take a few minutes to consider your emergency plans as you also prepare for what will hopefully be a smooth spring planting season.

The busy Winter Meeting season is winding down with a few upcoming events noted on Page 2 in the Calendar of Events. As always our website may have events that did not make the publication in time so be sure to check it periodically! Our website can be viewed by going to: http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccayuga. Any updated calendar information would be located in the Ag Calendar which is in the Agriculture tab on top.

Dairy Farms are invited to apply to become a Dairy of Distinction so as the snow melts and before you hit the fields consider working towards this opportunity for recognition by your peers. More information can be found on Page 2.

Corn growers can learn more about the genetics related to resistance along with selecting varieties and control measures for Northern Corn Leaf Blight at a workshop scheduled for March 31st. This disease can significantly reduce yields! Registration information along with an agenda can be found on Page 3.

Have you ever wondered how a LLC (Limited Liability Company) might work to transfer ownership of your farm? Your opportunity to learn more is scheduled for Friday, April 10th with more information found on Page 4.

Still need a Cornell Guidelines? Page 4 has the information on how to obtain one for 2015!

Sincerely,

Keith Severson
Agriculture Resource Educator

Judy Wright
Agriculture Resource Educator

FREE Radon Test Kits Available Until April 1st

Did you know?

♦ The New York State Department of Health has designated Cayuga County as a high risk county due to the high levels of radon seen in homes that have been tested.

♦ Radon is responsible for approximately 1000 lung cancer deaths in New York State each year.

♦ Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. For smokers, exposure to both smoking and radon greatly increases the risk of lung cancer.

♦ Since you cannot see, smell, or taste radon, you may have elevated levels of radon in your home without knowing it.

FREE RADON TEST KITS are available until April 1, 2015 to all residents of Cayuga County to help determine if their home has elevated levels of radon. Test kits can be picked up at the following participating sites:

Auburn
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County, Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue
- Cayuga County Department of Health, 8 Dill Street
- Seymour Public Library, 176 Genesee Street
- Aurelius Town Hall, 1241 W. Genesee Street Road

Aurora
- Aurora Free Library, 370 Main Street

Cato
- Stewart B. Lang Memorial Library, 2577 E. Main St.

Cayuga
- Springport Town Hall, 859 St. Rt. 326
- Springport Free Library, 171 Cayuga Street

Moravia
- Moravia Village Office, 22 Central Street

Port Byron
- Port Byron Public Library, 12 Sponable Drive

Red Creek
- Victory Town Hall, 1323 Town Barn Road

Sterling
- Sterling Town Hall, 1290 Rt. 104A

Union Springs
- Springport Free Library, 171 Cayuga Street

Weedsport
- Brutus Town Hall, 9021 N. Seneca Street
Calendar of 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 27 & 28 2015 Finger Lakes Craft Beverage Conference. To be held at the Waterloo Holiday Inn, Waterloo, NY. If you manage or are interested in opening a brewery, cidery or distillery—this conference may be for you. For more information go to: http://senecacountycce.org or call Derek Simmonds (dcs285@cornell.edu) at 315-539-9251.

March 31 Northern Corn Leaf Blight: Genetics Related to Resistance, Selecting Varieties and Control Measures Workshop. Held at the Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY from 1-3 p.m. Two (2) DEC Recertification Points are available for any of these categories: 10, 1a, 21, 23. 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. More information along with the agenda can be seen on Page 3 of this Ag Alert!

APRIL

April 7—9 Farm to Institution Summit is a first-year conference that will bring together hundreds of leaders from the Northeast who are working to get more local and regional food into schools, colleges, health care and other institutions. For more information or to register go to: http://farmtoinstitution.org/summit.

April 10 Limited Liability Company (LLC) as a Mechanism to Provide Transfer Ownership of an Agricultural Enterprise Workshop held at the CCE Cayuga Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY. Begins at 1 p.m. Agenda for this Workshop is located on Page 4 of this newsletter.

New York State Mesonet Weather Observing Network

The New York State (NYS) Mesonet Early Warning Weather Detection System is an advanced, statewide weather station network. This network will be the first of its kind in New York and will consist of up to 125 surface weather stations that will detect weather phenomena across the entire state. This system will provide federal, state, and local communities with access to high-resolution, real-time data, and more robust predictive models.

Each of the Mesonet’s 125 weather stations will measure surface temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation, solar radiation, atmospheric pressure, and soil moisture and temperature at three depths. All data will be transmitted in real-time to a central location, and then disseminated to a variety of users. Upon completion, real-time data along with graphical products/models will be available to the public via a website.

The NYS Mesonet promises a new generation of local weather observations that will support more accurate, more precise decision-making in agriculture. The NYS Mesonet is now beginning the search for permanent site locations. Each site consists of a 33 ft tower centered within a 33 ft x 33 ft plot of land. To ensure the highest quality of data each station must be at least 300 feet from the nearest obstacle (tall trees, buildings, etc.) or potential heat sources (pavement). If you would be interested in hosting a Mesonet site, please contact Dr. Jerald Brotzge at jbrotzge@albany.edu. If you would like to learn more about the NYS Mesonet, please visit our website at http://nysmesonet.org.

Dairy of Distinction Applications Being Accepted

The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program wants to remind all dairy farmers in New York that it is time to be thinking about sprucing up those barns and fences and apply for the Dairy of Distinction Award.

All active dairy farms are eligible to apply for the Dairy of Distinction award by going to http://dairyofdistinction.com/html/ny_dod_.html and printing off an application. Winning farms receive the special Dairy of Distinction roadside sign for their farmstead.

To apply for the award, an application must be submitted by April 15th to:

Nancy Putman
80 Chipman Corners Road
Lisbon, NY 13658
(315) 322-5493
dairyofdistinction@gmail.com

Roadside farm judging takes place in May and is based on the condition of the farm and livestock.

Farms that are awarded the Dairy of Distinction honor are notified in late May or June.

Winners are re-judged every year to ensure they maintain the high standards of the award.
Northern Corn Leaf Blight Workshop
Genetics related to Resistance, Selecting Varieties and Control Measures
TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST from 1—3 pm.
At Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County
Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn

2.0 DEC Recertification Credits for any of these categories: 10, 1a, 21, 23

Agenda:

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

2—2:45 p.m. Kate Wheeler will be explaining the nature and potential for reduced yields from this disease, identification and scouting procedures, timing of application 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, discuss the presentations, and then focus on plans to impact the disease for 2015.

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/cceceayuga and click on the Registration Link!

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

Registration Form

Northern Corn Leaf Blight Workshop
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

2.0 DEC Recertification Credits for any of these categories: 10, 1a, 21, 23

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE ($10 per person): CCE Cayuga County

Name(s) attending:________________________________________________________
Address:________________________________________________________________
City:__________________State:____Zip:______Telephone:_________________________
E-mail ___________________________________________________________(in case of cancellation)

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

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

Register online!
Go to: http://blogs.cornell.edu/ cceceayuga
and click on the Registration Link

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

Limited Liability Company (LLC) as a Mechanism
To Provide Transfer of Ownership of an Agricultural Enterprise
Friday, April 10th 2015
1:00 PM
Workshop will be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County
Education Center, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY.

♦ Steven Walker, of Scolaro, Fetter, Grizanti, McGough & King, P.C. Attorneys and Counselors at Law will address some of the characteristics of the LLC, and how this could assist with sharing ownership of the business or an enterprise within the business.
♦ Farmer panel of young professionals that have acquired equity on LLC farms will address such topics as: How did it begin? Where does it seem to be going? And what are their expectations and goals?
♦ Greg Mc Connell, Business Consultant with Farm Credit East. Greg’s insight on increasing equity from the farms where he has served as an advisor.

If you need Cornell Guidelines
The deadline has passed for ordering your 2015 Cornell Guidelines through our office. If you still need to place an order, you can order directly from Cornell. Go to: http://store.cornell.edu/c-873-cornell-coop-ext.aspx or call 607-255-4111

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.