



### News From CCE

*By Barb Neal, CCE Tioga*

The rains of this past season (continuing today!) have really brought to the fore the need for a conscious effort to build flood-resistant communities. Climate change is upon us and we can expect a greater frequency of flooding effects as we endure more rainstorms with greater intensity levels and rainfall amounts. I reached out to our farmers and was dismayed at learning the level of damage some farms incurred.

It might be a good time to really think through steps you could take to make your home and property more disaster resilient. For example, you could make it a priority to fill your tub with water if you know a storm with damaging winds is expected. You can expect that we will have more power outages than in past years as the Emerald Ash Borer wreaks havoc with our ash trees. Infested trees die and will be at much higher risk of failure in the years to come. Already you can see patches of dead ash along the Route 17 corridor.

Here are two links to help you plan for disasters: <http://emergencypreparedness.cce.cornell.edu/disasters/Pages/Floods.aspx> and <https://eden.lsu.edu/>. Hopefully, you will put a plan in place and never have to use it.

We at CCE work every day to provide you with the information and resources you need — from agriculture to horticulture to pests in your home and homesteading. If you would like to help support your local CCE, consider donating to our Run for Funds fundraising drive. Here is a link to the fundraising drive for CCE Tioga: <http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/community/run-for-funds-derby>. You can also go to each association's website and on the main page at the top banner, press Donate. Thank you!

Finally, I spent some time today with Cub Frisbie, farmer and head of Tioga County Farm Bureau. He took the time to discuss the difficulties our dairy farmers are facing. Did you know that the farmers are paid differently for their milk based on how the milk is used by the processor? Bottom line: Dairy farmers are paid the highest price for fluid milk, that is, milk that you drink. They are paid less if their milk is used to make cheese or yogurt.

To help farmers, drink more whole milk. It is a healthy way to energize your body, and it helps your rural community as well!

### Inside this issue:

- Local wildlife photos
- Smell of autumn
- Hummingbirds help with SWD
- Strawberry varieties
- Leasing your land to a farmer
- And more!

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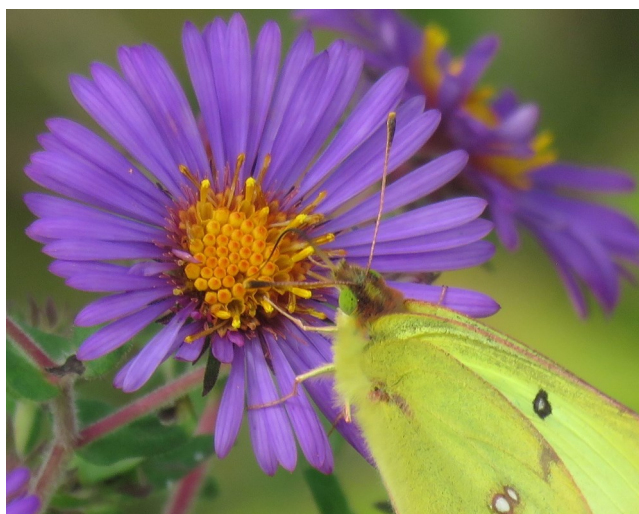
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Editor's Note: I have enjoyed the photography of local naturalist, Rick Bunting, all season long. I asked him if I could share this post he sent recently, and he agreed. If you would like to be on his list serve for wonderful photos and posts like this, contact Rick Bunting [rickbunting@roadsidenaturalist.com](mailto:rickbunting@roadsidenaturalist.com)

We humans spend enormous amounts of time and energy trying to figure out how we should be spending our time while most of Nature's other creatures have the luxury of living their lives never knowing what time is. Particularly in Autumn I find myself imposing the time construct that governs my existence on Nature's other creatures which means I think they all better hurry up! They, of course, live their lives "off the clock" so for this post and on this day I will try to allow some of them to just do what they do without the accompanying anxiety of the observer. Let the Sulphur enjoy the heart of the Aster.....



....without worrying if it will find enough to eat. Let the Cabbage White rest on a leaf without scolding it for not eating.



Let the Monarch enjoy the Clover without pointing out that much of it is dead and it should be looking for other food sources.



And does it really matter how long it takes a snail to cross a

#### Workshop: Putting Your Gardens to Bed

October 17, 2018; 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Preparing your flower garden, vegetable garden and lawns for winter can be overwhelming. In this hour long presentation, Chemung County Master Gardener, Peg Weidemann, will help you think through a checklist of items that should be focused on to best prepare for winter weather and for next year's gardens.

Speaker: Peg Weidemann, Chemung County Master Gardener

Place: Steele Memorial Library (IT room), 101 E Church Street, Elmira, NY

Workshop fee: Free, but a \$3 suggested donation helps support our Horticulture Program.

Please register with CCE Chemung at 607-734-4453, or [jy578@cornell.edu](mailto:jy578@cornell.edu).



For more specific information about the Chemung County Master Gardener program, please contact Jingjing Yin at 607-734-4453 or [jy578@cornell.edu](mailto:jy578@cornell.edu).

For more information about the Tioga County Master Gardener program, please contact Barb Neal at 607-687-4020 or [ban1@cornell.edu](mailto:ban1@cornell.edu).



## The Smell of the Wild

*Paul Hetzler, Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County*

October is a time when leaf peepers looking for sights, as well as hunters looking through sights, are out and about in upstate New York's forest lands. Of the many sensory experiences to be had in the woods, a memorable one is the pungent odor of certain newly fallen leaves. The smell, which has been compared to that of a rank locker room or an overripe laundry hamper, may turn up anywhere but it's most often encountered near a wetland.

The culprit is one or more of the many native shrubs in the genus *Viburnum* such as wild raisin, arrow-wood and nannyberry. These humble plants are found throughout the state in fencerows, old pastures, forest edges, and especially on poorly drained ground or the margins of wetlands. *Viburnums* provide essential cover and nesting habitat for songbirds, and in late summer their sweet berries, relished by birds and outdoor enthusiasts alike, ripen.

As *viburnum* leaves start to break down they give off butyric acid, a noxious chemical that in its pure, lab-made form is listed by the EPA as a toxic substance. Aside from a few industrial uses, butyric acid is added to some carp-fishing bait and has occasionally made its way into homemade stink bombs deployed by pranksters. Incidentally, it's also an ingredient in rooting compounds used in the nursery trade to propagate woody plants.

The smell of butyric acid has been likened to rancid milk or stinky feet, although many people don't object to it. Some *viburnums*, most notably highbush cranberry, even have the stuff in its fruit. The berries from this bush, which is not a true cranberry, are an acquired taste, to put it mildly.

As a group, *viburnums* are thorn-free, non-invasive and don't cause rashes. Why these useful and otherwise amiable shrubs add this chemical agent to their tissue is a mystery. I excel at making wild guesses, most of which are off the mark, and I'm guessing butyric acid may repel herbivores and/or inhibit the

growth, or perhaps the germination, of competing plants.

Of all *viburnums*, the leaves of wild raisin (*V. cassinoides*) may be the most pungent. It's easy to forgive its funk because it has the sweetest fruit. From late August through autumn and even into December you can find sugary, dark purple 'raisins' in wetlands and on the edges of ponds. Relative to the size of the fruit, the seed is rather large, but flavor and sweetness make up for that. Sometimes the stinky-sock odor is what alerts me to the presence of wild raisin, and I've sniffed out some good wild food that way.

Anyone who spends much time outdoors would benefit from learning about wild raisins and their kin, whose semi-dry fruit make a welcome snack on a cold fall day. Hunters and hikers have an additional incentive to learn about this botanical clan—October's butyric acid-laced *viburnum* leaves make a perfect cover story to excuse one's actual stinky socks back at deer camp or in a cramped tent.



*Viburnum cassinoides* Photo from <https://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5497439#collapseseven>

## Hummingbirds may reduce Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)

Research in raspberries at Cornell AgriTech over the last four years has shown promise as an alternative tactic to reduce the impact of SWD on berries. As described in a previous blog posted in 2014, Hummingbirds, these birds may indeed enjoy eating SWD.

A trend of fewer SWD caught in traps in positions 1-4, where hummingbird feeders are located, compared to more being caught in positions 5-9, where there are no hummingbird feeders, in a transect along a raspberry planting.

Preliminary data analysis for 2018 shows that when SWD numbers are very low or very high, there is little to no difference in the number of SWD caught in Scentry traps placed in the area of the field with hummingbird feeders compared to those in the area of the field without feeders. However, when numbers are moderate, there was a difference. Along a transect down the length of the field, the trend was for there to be fewer SWD in the hummingbird feeder area compared to the no-feeder area, as shown in the chart.

The diet of an average hummingbird consists mostly of flower nectar and insects. Flower nectar provides sugar to support their high metabolic rate... even higher during flight due to their rapid wing flapping rates. The insects hummingbirds eat provide them with protein, amino acids, and necessary vitamins and minerals. The insects must be small enough to swallow whole during flight — watch out, SWD!

Two grower demonstrations were undertaken this year, as well. One in blueberry and one in raspberry. Both growers undertook cleaning the feeders and changing the sugar solution twice per week to keep the hummingbirds well fed and active within their plantings. At the workshop held in Salem,

NY last month, several of the tiny birds were seen dashing about.

Placing and maintaining 25 hummingbird feeders per acre, may be a bit too arduous for some growers. This is the number of feeders we've been using in our research and grower demonstration plots and the number used by the blackberry grower in Mississippi.

Other ways to attract hummingbirds to your berry planting that don't rely on the use of feeders, would involve allocating space for flowering plants that they prefer. Interplanting with rows of Monarda (bee balm), for instance, would be

one approach.

Of course, SWD is around a lot longer than hummingbirds, which have, at this point in time, likely flown off to the South on their journey to the Yucatan peninsula in Central America. Flying across the Gulf of Mexico or along Mexico's coast, they make their way to their overwintering grounds. And, as SWD populations explode in late summer, it is difficult to control SWD, let alone rely on a flying predator.



If you think hummingbirds don't eat small insects, then guess again! I've seen these contraptions showing up in stores this year — to feed hummingbirds. They are rearing capsules for fruit flies (vinegar flies, as entomologists call them). Perhaps someone should tell them we don't need more SWD? ...just more hummingbirds!



*A trend of fewer SWD caught in traps in positions 1-4, where hummingbird feeders are located, compared to more being caught in positions 5-9, where there are no hummingbird feeders, in a transect along a raspberry planting.*



*Female or young ruby-throated hummingbird on a feeder set above a blueberry planting. Photo: R. Parker*

ing with rows of Monarda (bee balm), for instance, would be



## New high-yield strawberry, raspberry varieties released

By Krisy Gashler, September 5, 2018

Reprinted from <https://cals.cornell.edu/news/new-high-yield-strawberry-raspberry-varieties-released/>.



Cornell's berry breeding program is releasing two new varieties, which will be available for planting in spring 2019: a strawberry, Dickens, and a raspberry, Crimson Treasure. These berries yield like the dickens.

Cornell's berry breeding program is releasing two new varieties, which will be available for planting in spring 2019: a strawberry, Dickens, and a raspberry, Crimson Treasure. Both varieties produce large fruits with vibrant colors that maintain peak flavor for longer than most heritage varieties.

The new berries are the handiwork of berry breeder Courtney Weber, associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences based at Cornell AgriTech in Geneva, New York.

Dickens is a traditional, June-bearing strawberry with high yields and bright red fruit that continues bearing late into the season. The berries are firm, so they hold well on the plant and in the container, Weber said, but not so firm that they have no flavor. Strawberries are the third-leading fruit crop in New York state, but most strawberries sold in supermarkets are from California.

"With New York-grown berries, because we don't have to ship so far, we can handle a softer fruit. And people notice the softer, sweeter, juicier fruit," Weber said. "Customers can get supermarket strawberries any day of the week; the reason people make the effort to come to the farm stand or farmers market and buy the local product is because it tastes so much better. Maintaining that flavor is paramount to what we do in our breeding program."

The Dickens strawberry was first discovered in Weber's breeding fields in 2002 and was originally noticed for the

plant's hardiness in surviving cold winters, making it especially suitable for New York and other cold-winter climates. Production trials throughout the region have shown Dickens to be an adaptable and consistent producer of high-quality fruit. Dickens has been tested in annual and perennial production systems, without soil fumigation, and found to be tolerant to root rot and other common diseases.

Weber has named his strawberry varieties after his favorite authors, including L'Amour, Clancy, Herriot, Walker and, most recently, Archer. Because this newest berry "yields like the dickens," Weber decided to name it after prolific English author Charles Dickens.

The new raspberry, Crimson Treasure, is also very high-yielding, with larger fruit than traditional varieties grown in the region. The well-known Heritage raspberry produces fruit of approximately 2.5 grams, while Crimson Treasure produces berries twice as large – averaging between 4 to 6 grams. That's typical of what you see with supermarket raspberries, Weber said.



*Crimson Treasure produces large fruit with vibrant colors and maintains peak flavor and texture for longer. Provided.*

Crimson Treasure is a fall-bearing raspberry with bright-red fruit that holds its color and texture well in storage.

"Color is a big deal. You need fruit that does not darken after you pick them," Weber said. "A lot of older varieties, after you pick them and put them in the cooler, they darken and then look overripe. This one doesn't; it holds its color and eating quality well."

Crimson Treasure was originally discovered in 2012. Weber has worked to speed the process of developing new raspberry varieties because the program has so many international collaborators interested in raspberries. These collaborators plant trial raspberries and collect data, giving Weber more information on disease resistance and other traits that can inform his breeding trials.

The name continues another Weber tradition. This is the third raspberry in the "Crimson" series. Two previously released raspberries were named Crimson Giant and Crimson Night.

Continued on the next page



*The new berries are the handiwork of berry breeder Courtney Weber, associate professor in CALS based at Cornell AgriTech. Photo by Justin Muir.*

Cornell's berry breeding program is the oldest in the country and is the only one in the Northeastern U.S. The university's berries are grown all over the world: Crimson Treasure has been planted in trials in New York, California, Mexico and the European Union. The berry program works with commercial partners across North America, in Morocco, Spain and Portugal. Heritage, the most commonly grown raspberry variety in Chile, was developed at Cornell, and two Cornell raspberry varieties, Crimson Night and Double Gold, are under license in Japan.

The Dickens strawberry will be available from Nourse Farms, a licensee in Whately, Massachusetts. More information can be found on their website or by calling (413) 665-2658.

Crimson Treasure raspberry will be available from North American Plants, a licensee in McMinnville, Oregon. More information can be found on their website or by calling (877) NAP-INFO (627-4636)

For information on licensing opportunities, contact Jess Lyga at the Center for Technology Licensing at Cornell University (CTL) at JML73@cornell.edu

## Cover Crop Workshop

Please join us on **October 30, 2018** for our *Annual Cover Crop and Soil Health Workshop and Tour*, with registration starting at **9:30am @ The BIG FLATS COMMUNITY BUILDING-TOWN OF BIG FLATS MUNICIPAL CAMPUS (476 Maple Street Big Flats, NY 14814).**

PLEASE NOTE THE STARTING LOCATION . **Presentations will start @ 10 a.m.**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/eventdetail/plantmaterials/newsroom/events/?cid=NRCSEPRD1421823>

### PRESENTERS ARE:

**Quirine Ketterings-** Cornell University Dept. of Animal Science, Professor, Nutrient Management Spear Program; *"Making Use of Corn Yield Data to Develop Management Zones that Reflect Soil Biological Buffering Capacity; Research Update"*.

**Dave DeGolyer-** Western New York Crop Management Association, Executive Consultant; *"Soil Fertility Management in Cover Crop and Strip Tillage Systems: Nutrient Availability of Cover Crops and Fertilizer Management for High Crop and Cover Crop Residues"*

**John Tooker-** Penn. State University Dept. of Entomology, Associate Professor of Entomology; *"Insect and Slug Management in Reduced Tillage and Cover Crop Production Systems: Plant-Insect Interactions in Agriculture Systems"*.

**Shawwna Clark-** Big Flats Plant Materials Center Manager and **Paul Salon -** USDA-NRCS- and NE Region Soil Health Specialist. *Tour of cover crop demo plots at USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center: Includes a planting demo (species, varieties & mixes); some seeded at several seeding dates.*

### To REGISTER,

**Email:** [shawwna.clark@ny.usda.gov](mailto:shawwna.clark@ny.usda.gov) with the following info in your reply:

- **NAME ATTENDEE(s), if responding for more than yourself;**
- **AFFILIATION(s);**
- **PURCHASING LUNCH? Yes or No**

### EMAIL of EACH ATTENDEE(s), if applicable.

For example: Shawwna Clark, USDA NRCS Big Flats PMC, yes, [Shawwna.clark@ny.usda.gov](mailto:Shawwna.clark@ny.usda.gov)

### Other Info:

- Please bring \$10.00 to cover the cost of your lunch, exact change is appreciated.
- Certified Crop Advisor and NY DEC pesticide credits applied for.
- Please let us know of any dietary restrictions and/or special accommodations for the afternoon portion which is a walking field tour.

### Rain or Shine

## **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

*Folks—the rains and flooding of the past month has impacted many farmers in our region. Here is a program that may provide some relief to farmers whose fields have been impacted.—B. Neal*

### **OVERVIEW**

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

### **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

ECP is administered by FSA state and county committees and county offices. Producers should inquire with their local FSA county office regarding ECP enrollment periods and eligibility.

### **LAND ELIGIBILITY**

FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type and extent of damage. Eligible land includes land used for:

- Commercial farming, ranching and orchard operations;
- Growing nursery stock and Christmas tree plantations;
- Grazing for commercial livestock production; and
- Conservation structures; such as, waterways, terraces, diversions and windbreaks.

Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are ineligible for ECP assistance.

### **COST-SHARE PAYMENTS**

Cost-share payments are:

- Up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved restoration practices;
- Up to 90 percent if limited resource producers; and
- Limited to \$200,000 per person or legal entity per disaster.

### **ELIGIBLE FARMLAND RESTORATION PRACTICES**

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP participants may implement emergency conservation practices, such as:

- Debris removal from farmland (cleanup of woody material, sand, rock and trash on cropland or pastureland);
- Grading, shaping or leveling land (filling gullies, releveling irrigated farmland and incorporating sand and silt);
- Restoring fences (livestock cross fences, boundary fences, cattle gates or wildlife exclusion fence from agricultural land);
- Restoring conservation structures (waterways, diversion ditches, buried irrigation mainlines and permanently installed ditching system); and
- Providing emergency water during periods of severe drought (grazing and confined livestock and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards).

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements may apply. More information on ECP is available at FSA offices, local USDA service centers and on FSA's website at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

# PRICING RENTAL FARM- LAND IN NEW YORK

It can be difficult to find the “right price” for your rented farmland: rents can vary depending on dozens of factors related to the agricultural potential of the land, the expectations of the owner, and the needs of potential renters. However, there are a few simple approaches and resources that can help in setting a fair rental rate.

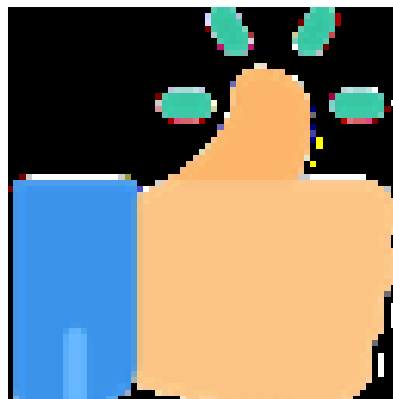
**Market rate:** The market rate is set by supply and demand: how much land is available, how many farmers are competing for farmland, and the potential profitability of the land. As a landowner, it is useful to know rents charged for nearby parcels of farmland.

To determine the market rental rate in your area, ask a neighbor, check rental listings online or in agricultural newspapers, or contact your local cooperative extension office. The USDA also tracks average county cropland and pasture rental rates (<http://bit.ly/coCashRents>).

**Rule of thumb:** Many farmland owners charge 2-3% of the land’s value each year. Not sure of your land value? Check the appraisal from your original purchase, arrange an independent appraisal, review records of your and comparable land at your county clerk’s office (many counties provide this information online as well), or look up county-level farmland sales prices and other statistics at: <http://www.farmland.dyson.cornell.edu>. USDA estimates of average county farm real estate values, published every 5 years, may be useful as well: <http://bit.ly/nyAgLand>.

**Covering ownership costs:** Many farmland owners’ primary interest is that rental payments cover all costs (or a substantial portion) of land ownership. Landownership costs include:

- **Property taxes** on land and some buildings. Note that an agricultural assessment (<http://bit.ly/agassess>) can also lower your property taxes.
- **Insurance expenses**
- **Mortgage interest**





**Non-financial objectives:** If you wish to support a beginning farmer, consider how much the tenant can afford to pay in the first years of his/her operation. If the farmer is just starting out, they may still be paying off one-time "startup" costs. Depending on the commodity, it may also take several seasons for farms to reach their production potential.



If you have a vision of how the land should look and how it should be farmed, make sure to discuss your vision with your prospective tenant and incorporate key requirements in the lease. Consider that such restrictions may impose substantial costs or time constraints on your tenant and adjust rental rates accordingly.

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**Factors that cause rental rates to vary include:**

- **Potential productivity** of the land, influenced by:
  - *Soil type and quality*, including fertility, pH, and organic matter level,
  - *Field conditions*, including weeds, pests, protection from erosion, and drainage,
  - *Field size, shape, and slope*,
  - *Length of growing season*,
  - *Hours of normal sunlight*;
- **Location** relative to potential tenants, markets, farm resources, other agricultural infrastructure, and services;
- **Organic or other certifications**;
- **Infrastructure** such as barns, irrigation, or fencing (also consider who will bear responsibility for infrastructure improvements);
- **Surroundings**: will production practices of nearby farmers affect the tenant? Is your land affected by local ordinances on farmers' rights and responsibilities?



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**Make it official:** After you and your tenant have agreed on the price and terms, finalize the rental with a written lease agreement. A formal lease ensures that both parties understand their obligations, and protects you from unforeseen events.

If you would like to draw up the lease yourself, several organizations provide sample farmland lease templates online (<http://bit.ly/sampleLease>) that can be used after being modified for your situation. Have a lawyer review the agreement before you sign it. Once you and the tenant have signed, register the lease with your county clerk.

# Cornell Cooperative Extension

South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Program

Mary Kate Wheeler  
CCE Tioga County  
56 Main Street  
Owego, NY 13827  
607-687-4020

## Basic Legal Agreements for Farm Business Management



**WHO:** Farm business operators and managers

**WHAT:** Workshop with Anna Richards from PRO-DAIRY

**WHEN:** 1:00—3:00 pm on Tuesday, November 27, 2018

**WHERE:** CCE Tioga County, 56 Main St, Owego NY 13827

**WHY:** Legal agreements can strengthen your business!

Whether large or small, all farm businesses face a variety of risks. What happens if a key person gets sick or injured, or decides to switch jobs? What happens if a visitor is hurt, or a consumer gets sick from your product? If a flood or drought impacts production, how will you pay all your bills? If the farm has a great production year, how much of your earnings will go to the IRS?

These are just a few of the questions that farm managers must consider when developing a strategy to manage risk. Legal agreements can help a farm business plan ahead, minimize risk, and respond to adverse events. Farmers have access to a wide range of legal tools to address specific concerns. These include lease agreements, buy-sell agreements, promissory notes, operating agreements, wills, and even prenuptial agreements.

Farmers interested in learning how legal agreements can strengthen their businesses are invited to attend a free workshop on *Basic Legal Agreements for Farm Business Management*. We are excited to host speaker Anna Richards from the Cornell University PRO-DAIRY program. Attendees will learn about different legal agreements that are commonly used in farm business management, with an emphasis on Operating Agreements for LLCs.

**This is a free event, and pre-registration is requested. For questions or to register please contact Mary Kate Wheeler at [mkw87@cornell.edu](mailto:mkw87@cornell.edu) or 607-687-4020 x 309.**



# Cornell Cooperative Extension

South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Program

Mary Kate Wheeler  
CCE Tioga County  
56 Main Street  
Owego, NY 13827  
607-687-4020

## Holistic Management Discussion Group

Thinking about making changes on the farm? In this 6-month series, farm managers will:

- ♦ Learn and practice principles of Holistic Management.
- ♦ Articulate a Farm Family Goal that reflects your guiding values.
- ♦ Learn a holistic framework for decision-making on the farm.
- ♦ Connect with other farmers in a supportive environment.
- ♦ And so much more!

Sessions run from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm one Wednesday per month from October 2018 to March 2019. Located at the Tioga County CCE office in Owego, NY.

Lunch is provided! \$60 per person for the series. Enrollment limited to 5 farms, so sign up now! Email [mkw87@cornell.edu](mailto:mkw87@cornell.edu) or call 607-687-4020.



### OUTLINE

October 10: Overview of Holistic Management.

November 7: Developing a Farm Family Goal.

December 5: Testing decisions using a holistic framework.

January 9: Developing a monitoring plan for ongoing evaluation.

February 6: Mapping your future landscape.

March 6: Guest presentation by a Holistic Management practitioner.



## Local Loan Opportunities

*By Zack Baker, Tioga County Economic Development & Planning*

Interested in a low-interest loan for a project on the farm? There are several local loan programs offering lower interest rates than traditional banks:

### Rural Initiative Re-Investment Fund

The purpose of the Rural Initiative Program is to provide loans to expand the Southern Tier agricultural industry. The funding is available as a fixed rate loan that provides a maximum of 40% of the total project cost, up to \$250,000. Projects and activities must be related to the growing, storage, processing, purchasing, promotion, and distribution of agricultural and forest-based goods. Funding may also be used to support intergenerational farm transfer and new farm establishment, as well as renewable energy related projects.

### NYS Job Development Authority (JDA) Agricultural Loan Fund

The JDA Agricultural Loan Program is used to support the growing, storage, processing, purchasing, promotion, and distribution of agricultural and forest-based goods. Funding may also be used to support intergenerational farm transfer and new farm establishment, as well as renewable energy-related projects. Loans can provide between \$50,000 and \$200,000 for up to 80% of total project cost.

### Tioga County IDA Revolving Loan Program

IDA loans support the purchase of capital equipment, real estate acquisition and/or new construction, renovations and/or additions to facilities, inventory and working capital. Loans can provide up to 45% of total project cost, up to \$100,000. Only value-added agricultural projects are eligible, and one new FTE job must be created for every \$40,000 loaned.

For more information on any of these programs, contact Zack Baker, Tioga County Agricultural Development Specialist at (607) 687-8263 or [bakerz@co.tioga.ny.us](mailto:bakerz@co.tioga.ny.us).



## NRCS-NY Announces Application Cutoff Dates for NRCS Conservation Programs

*Waverly, N. Y., September 25, 2018* – New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces **November 2, 2018** as the application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 – signup 1.

Through the EQIP program, NRCS offers financial and technical assistance to participants to implement practices which address priority resource concerns, including soil erosion, water quality and habitat degradation. Focus areas within the EQIP program include the farmstead, soil management, habitat, forestry and grazing. Examples of practices implemented through EQIP include: strip cropping, grassed waterways, forest stand improvement and manure storage facilities.

Applications for Conservation Activity Plans, High Tunnels, and practices to address On-Farm Energy resource concerns will be considered during signup 1. Applications to address activities other than those listed will be considered during signup 2.

Applicants applying to implement practices to address On-Farm Energy resource concerns must submit their Agricultural Energy Management Plan to the NRCS field office by November 2, 2018, to be eligible for consideration in this signup.

Applications accepted after November 2, 2018 will be considered in the next signup. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

As part of application process, all landowners will need to complete USDA eligibility requirements. To find information on EQIP Eligibility please visit: [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs144p2\\_027069](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs144p2_027069).

If you are interested in applying for an NRCS conservation program please visit the NRCS web site for information at: [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/?cid=nrcs144p2\\_027058](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/?cid=nrcs144p2_027058).

New Farmers—are you thinking of starting a commercial farm? The first place to go is to your Ag Educator at CCE—Barb Neal in Tioga County and Shona Ort in Chemung County. We will be happy to work with you as you begin your small farm journey. See page one for contact information.

## IPA/Navigator Program to Help Farmers Find Health Insurance

Did you know? Farmers, growers, seasonal agricultural workers and their families may be eligible for low- or no-cost health insurance through NY State of Health. AIM Independent Living Center and Southern Tier Independence Center have certified health insurance navigators in Chemung and Tioga Counties to help individuals and families apply for coverage on the NY State of Health marketplace. Enrollment in Medicaid, the Essential Plan and Child Health Plus is year round, with eligibility based on income and household size. To complete an application with a navigator, please bring:

### Identification

- U.S. citizens: Driver's license or other form of ID; Social Security numbers and dates of birth for all household members.
- Non-US Citizens: Passport, green card, birth certificate, nonimmigrant visa, approval letter from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Social Security numbers and dates of birth for all household members (if applicable).

### Income verification:

- Farm owners should bring their most recent filed tax return.
- Farm workers and seasonal workers should bring their four most recent paystubs (or two for bi-weekly pay).

To schedule a free appointment with an AIM Navigator, call (607) 962-8225 or (888) 962-8244. Days, evenings and Saturdays available. To schedule an appointment with a STIC Navigator, call (607) 724-2111 ext. 352.

## DEC and DAM Announce Confirmed Finding of Spotted Lanternfly in Albany and Yates Counties

State Agencies Encourage Public to Report Findings of Invasive Pest. The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Agriculture and Markets (DAM) today confirmed that spotted lanternfly (SLF), an invasive pest from Asia, has been found in Albany and Yates counties. A single adult insect was discovered in a vehicle in the Capital District. In addition, a single adult insect was reported on a private Keuka Lake property in Penn Yan, Yates County.

“DEC and our partners at the Department of Agriculture and Markets are closely tracking the spotted lanternfly, a destructive invasive pest, as part of our ongoing efforts to prevent its establishment and spread in New York. This pest has the potential to severely impact our state's agricul-

tural and tourism industries,” DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. “We are encouraging the public to send us information to bolster our efforts—they are our eyes on the ground.”

Following both reported cases, DEC and DAM immediately began extensive surveys throughout the area. At this time, no additional insects have been found. DEC and DAM urge New Yorkers to report potential sightings to [spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov).

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, “It’s critical that we monitor for and control this invasive species, which can weaken plants and have a devastating impact on our farm crops and agricultural production, especially apples, grapes and hops. Since our farmers are among those facing the greatest potential impact, we ask them to join us in helping to watch for the spotted lanternfly, and signs of infestation, and report any sightings immediately.”

SLF (photo attached) is a destructive pest that feeds on more than 70 plant species including tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), maples, apple trees, grapevine, and hops. SLF feedings can stress plants, making them vulnerable to disease and attacks from other insects. SLF also excretes large amounts of sticky “honeydew,” which attracts sooty molds that interfere with plant photosynthesis, negatively affecting the growth and fruit yield of plants. SLF also has the potential to significantly hinder quality of life due to the honeydew and the swarms of insects it attracts.

SLF was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and have since been found in New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia. Given the proximity to the Pennsylvania and New Jersey infestations, New York State is at high risk for infestation. While these insects can jump and fly short distances, they spread primarily through human activity. SLF lay their eggs on any number of surfaces such as vehicles, stone, rusty metal, outdoor furniture and firewood. Therefore, the insects can hitch rides on any outdoor item and be easily transported into and throughout New York.

Jennifer Grant, Ph.D., Cornell University Director New York State IPM Program said, “Knowing that this pest was likely to arrive, we have been working with our State partner agencies to develop integrated strategies to get the word



Photo from NYS DEC

out and manage SLF in grapes, hops, apples and other susceptible crops. It's imperative that the public help slow the invasion and spread by reporting possible sightings and acting responsibly when traveling in quarantine areas."

Adult SLF are active from July to December. They are approximately one-inch long and half an inch wide at rest, with eye-catching wings. Adults begin laying eggs in October. Signs of an SLF infestation may include:

- Sap oozing or weeping from open wounds on tree trunks, which appear wet and give off fermented odors.
- One-inch-long egg masses that are brownish-gray, waxy and mud-like when new.

## Old

- egg masses are brown and scaly.
- Massive honeydew build-up under plants, sometimes with black sooty mold developing.

Anyone that suspects they have found SLF is encouraged to send a photo to [spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov). Please note the location of where the insect was found, egg masses, and/or infestation signs. DEC and DAM also encourage the public to inspect outdoor items such as vehicles, furniture, and firewood for egg masses. Anyone that visits the Pennsylvania or New Jersey Quarantine Areas should thoroughly inspect their vehicle, luggage and gear for SLF and egg masses before leaving and scrape off all egg masses.

A Smartphone application is also available to help citizens and conservation professionals quickly and easily report new invasive species sightings directly to New York's invasive species database from their phones. For more information, visit <http://www.nyimainvasives.org/> (leaves DEC website).

DEC, DAM, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the US Department of Agriculture will continue to survey throughout the Capital District and the Finger Lakes focusing on travel corridors and high-risk areas. Extensive surveys will continue to be conducted in high-risk areas throughout the state as well as inspections of nursery stock, stone shipments, commercial transports, etc., from Pennsylvania. DEC and DAM will also continue its efforts to educate the public as well as industry personnel.

For more information on SLF, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html).

## News, Notes and Workshops for Tioga and Chemung County Farmers and Gardeners

### *"Silvopasture: Managing Pasture Animals, Forage Crops and Trees in a Temperate Farm Ecosystem"*

Wednesday, October 3, 6:00-8:00pm

**CCE-Tompkins Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca NY**

### **With Steve Gabriel, author of *"Silvopasture: Managing Pasture Animals, Forage Crops and Trees in a Temperate Farm Ecosystem"***

Silvopasture systems integrate trees, animals and forages in a whole system approach that offers a number of benefits to the farmer and the environment. Such a system not only offers the promise of ecological regeneration of the land, but also an economical livelihood and even the ability to farm extensively while battling a changing climate. Author and farmer Steve Gabriel will discuss how to integrate silvopasture principles into your homestead and farm and how we can use silvopasture to make agriculture more sustainable by incorporating climate smart solutions.

Fee: \$7-\$10/person, self-determined sliding scale, pay what you can afford.

Preregistration is required to reserve your place in this workshop.

Register/pay online at: <http://db.ccetompkins.org/programs/civCRM/event/info?id=1517&reset=1>

Questions? Contact Jennie Cramer, Horticulture Program Manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, at [jrc10@cornell.edu](mailto:jrc10@cornell.edu) or (607) 272-2292 ext. 146.

### **Pawpaw 101: The Story of America's Forgotten Fruit**

Oct 13th Plant Science Building room TBD and Cornell Orchard Lansing, workshop fee is \$30. What is a pawpaw, and why have most people never heard of it before? Andrew Moore offers a brief history of the pawpaw, the largest edible fruit native to the United States, and offers some explanations as to why it has been overlooked in modern times. He also provides an overview of the growers and producers working to raise the fruit's profile, and how the fruit tree can be reintegrated into our diets and culture. Andrew Moore grew up in Lake Wales, Florida, just south of the pawpaw's native range. A writer and gardener, he now lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the news editor and a feature writer for Pop City, a weekly news e-magazine in Pittsburgh, and his stories have been published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, The Daily Yonder, and the Biscayne Times. Pawpaw--a 2016 James Beard Foundation Award nominee in the Writing & Literature category--is his first book. Stay tuned for details, email Roger Ort with questions [rlo28@cornell.edu](mailto:rlo28@cornell.edu)



# 2018 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium

October 12<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

<http://www.sheep.cornell.edu> (click on 2018 Sheep & Goat Symposium)

**Hands-on Activities and Lectures on Friday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 2 pm – 6:00 pm**

**2018 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium Saturday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 7:45 am – 5:30 pm**

**National Sheep Improvement Genetic Program & Parasite Workshops w/FAMACHA certification on Sunday Oct 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 (GPS address: 507 Tower Rd. Ithaca, NY)**

On Friday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> the symposium starts off with hands on activities for new and experienced goat and sheep raisers starting at 2 pm. Registration will take place in the lobby of Morrison Hall followed by short walks to the Live-stock Pavilion for newbies and the Teaching Barn for experienced farmers. Farmers at the pavilion will rotate through four structured stations practicing important livestock skills under the guidance of trained professionals. Meanwhile, Dr. Mary Smith, DVM will teach a hands-on field necropsy workshop at the Teaching Barn aimed at more experienced goat and sheep raisers. Participation in the field necropsy workshop is limited to one member per farm. Advance sign up is required and space is limited. We will then return to Morrison Hall or the Cornell Vet School for three workshop options from 4 to 6 pm. Some walking may be required to get to these activities. Therefore, please notify us in advance if you will require transportation.

Saturday's lineup also includes both hands-on events and formal presentations. The hands-on events for new farmers will be a repeat of Friday's activities but with less structure and with Cornell students assisting. A short description of each workshop and activity is available online. Hands-on activities that require prior sign up to insure a space are noted in the Symposium Schedule and registration forms.

A Goat & Sheep Integrated Parasite Management workshop will be held on Sunday that includes FAMACHA certification. Other Sunday workshops include a hands-on workshop to learn how to identify and count the different parasite eggs in feces and a workshop on enrolling a herd or flock in the National Sheep Improvement Program's Genetic Evaluations.

**Parking:** Parking is free at Cornell in most lots on Saturday and Sunday. However, parking is not free until after 5 pm on Friday. Therefore, you will need to pay for parking if attending on Friday. If you have a smart phone, you can download ParkMobile app ([www.parkmobile.com](http://www.parkmobile.com)) to park either in the C/G/SC lot (PM Zone 4122) at the east entrance of Morrison Hall (for \$1.50/hr. or \$10/day) or in the TRB lot (PM Zone 4108) next to the Teaching Barn on Campus Rd (for \$0.75/hr or \$6/day). Another option is to purchase a 4-hr flex pass for \$6.00 (credit cards only) at the parking booth at 360 Tower Rd for the "South Morrison" parking lot (east side of Judd Falls Rd near the intersection with Campus Rd). More information about parking at Cornell can be found at <https://www.cornell.edu/visit/parking/>.

Go to <http://www.sheep.cornell.edu> (click on 2018 Symposium) to obtain the complete program and registration information. Please contact Barbara Jones, 607-255-7712 or [bjj6@cornell.edu](mailto:bjj6@cornell.edu) with any questions.



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