Sometimes it is easier to convey a topic by referencing a well thought out, well written article, which leaves me to ask “do you do anything with the internet”?

In the last few days of February we received cold and high winds, so taking a lesson from Punxsutawney Phil, I spent more than my normal amount of time indoors and online. I discovered and am now sharing with you a few interesting tidbits related to agriculture that can be reached with a simple word search on your home computer. Links to the below mentioned internet webinars, videos and articles can also be found on our website at http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccexcayuga. Go to the Agriculture tab on top and click on “Resources”. Or, just do a word search in your browser with the bolded topics below.

- **New York Dairy Farmers: Pride & Progress** is a series of six different videos on YouTube featuring dairy farms in our area that were willing to share their introduction into dairy farming as well as their passion working on the land. Each is only a few minutes long and is very positive toward Dairy.

- **Towards a Successful Future for Farm Families** recording is good management tune up for folks who are interested in making improvement in their farm business

- **New Tool: Estimate Total Yield Profit Loss From Weeds** an excellent tool that helps you become aware of the damages weeds can cause to your revenue in the existing year.

- **Pro-Dairy Thursday Webinars** The beginning of each week, topics to be discussed are announced. On Thursdays, webinars take place and run for an hour after lunch between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. I was drawn to a topic on valuing agricultural land based upon the over the road distance from the major operation. There is also a Library of previous topics that one can view if you’ve missed any or are unable to join the webinar.

Sincerely,

Keith Severson  
Agriculture Resource Educator

Judy Wright  
Agriculture Resource Educator

---

**Save The Dates!**

2016 Cornell Tax Schools have been announced.

**In-Depth Tax Schools**
- Binghamton October 26 & 27
- Buffalo November 3 & 4
- Rochester November 9 & 10
- Saratoga Springs November 14 & 15

**In-Depth Tax School with Breakout Session for Ethics**
- Syracuse November 16 & 17

**Annual Income Tax Update**
- Rochester December 1 & 2
Below is a list of upcoming events that we thought might be important to you! If you 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, Judy Wright (Ext. 234) or Keith Severson (Ext. 225)—be sure and leave a message with your phone number.

April 1 & 2................. 2016 Finger Lakes Craft Beverage Conference Held at the Waterloo Holiday Inn, Waterloo, NY. For more information contact Cornell Cooperative Extension Seneca County at 315-5390-9251 or go to www.senecacountycee.org for more information.

April 5....................... Boost Yields & Cut Nitrogen Costs with Adapt-N Webinar From 11 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Free webinar is offered by The Partnership for Ag Resource Management. To register for the course go to https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/465319191389471489. Please send your questions, comments and feedback to jcarlson@ipminstitute.org.

April 8....................... Brewing & Science Workshop From 8 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. Held at the Jordan Hall Auditorium, NYS Ag Experiment Station, 630 W. North St., Geneva, NY 14456. Cost is $180 (includes meals, refreshments, and handouts). This short course includes information about barley and malt, hops, brewing water, adjuncts, brewhouse operations, brewing yeast and brewery fermentations, maturation, finishing and beer styles. It is designed to be appropriate for people who work in commercials breweries, are home brewers or simply interested in the brewing process. For assistance, contact Gemma Osborne (gro2@cornell.edu) at 315-787-2248.

April 9....................... Last Day for Pheasant Chick Orders Call CCE Cayuga County for more information at 315-255-1183 ext. 238.

April 14...................... Mushroom Cultivation Workshop Held at the Seneca Falls Community Center, 35 Water Street, Seneca Falls, NY from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Cost is $30 per person. Join Cornell Cooperative Extension Agroforestry Specialist Steve Gabriel for an evening presentation on successful cultivation of shitake, oyster, lions mane, and stropharia mushrooms for home or small-scale production. To register, call Seneca County CCE at 315-539-9251, email seneca@cornell.edu, or register online: www.senecacountycee.org.
Shopping

- Visit http://store.cornell.edu/c-875-cornell-coop-ext.aspx and click on the icon for either PMEP Manuals or PMEP Guidelines. (Another way to get to this page is to visit http://store.cornell.edu, put your cursor over “Books,” and click on “Cornell Coop Ext.”)

- Click on the title of the manual or Guideline to view the product description.
  ⇒ Most Guidelines titles are updated annually during the winter months. If the newest version of a Guidelines title is NOT yet available during those months, a red “ALERT” statement will appear at the top of the product description to let you know when the new version will be available. If you see the alert, do NOT buy the product unless you don’t need the latest version.

- For a Guideline title, select Print Copy, Online Access, or Bundle (both print and online access) from the drop-down box.
  ⇒ Note that online access to a Guidelines title will terminate when the next year’s version of that title becomes available, at which time you can buy online access to the newer version. The expected date that the next version will become available is listed in a “NOTE” paragraph in the product description. If you see an “alert” statement, you should wait until the new version comes out before you purchase online access.

- Change the Quantity if you would like more than one copy of the product.
  ⇒ You can purchase only one Online Access or Bundle product for any given Guidelines title. This is because the access code for a title is tied to your unique e-mail address.

- Click Add to Cart.

- You may continue shopping by clicking the Continue Shopping button in the Shopping Cart or by clicking on the categories in the navigation bar at top or on the left (i.e., Apparel, Gifts, etc).

Checking Out

- When you have added your last item to your shopping cart, click Checkout Now to start the checkout process. (You can also get to your shopping cart by clicking on “Shopping Cart” at the top of any page on the Cornell Store’s website.)

- New users will need to create an account on this screen and proceed with checkout.
- Existing users (those who have an existing account with The Cornell Store) should login to their account by clicking on the “Sign in” button above the registration fields. Log in to proceed with checkout.

Call The Cornell Store toll free at (844) 688-7620 if you have any problems with the ordering process.

USDA Expands Microloans to Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans will be especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

"Many producers, especially new and underserved farmers, tell us that access to land is one of the biggest challenges they face in establishing and growing their own farming operation," said Harden. "USDA is making it easier for new farmers to hit the ground running and get access to the land that they need to establish their farms or improve their property."

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary this week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over $373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to $50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, please visit http://offices.usda.gov.
There’s still time...

Pheasant Release Program

Each Year the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) makes available approximately 30,000 day old pheasant chicks for individuals to raise and release on public lands. The program known as the Cooperative Day-old Pheasant Chick Program (DOCP) was designed to assist in revitalizing the ring-necked pheasant population in the area.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County is a facilitator of the Day Old Pheasant Chick program and helps to order and distribute the day old chicks to participating individuals.

If you are interested in rearing pheasant chicks for release on public lands you can register on our website at http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccayuga or call Peggy Lillie (ext. 238) Cornell Cooperative Extension at 315-255-1183 extension 238. Order deadline is April 9 with chicks available for pick up at our office (248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY) in mid May.

The 2016 Cornell Recommends for Field Crops is now available. Directions for ordering can be found on Page 3.