While we try to always look forward with Ag Alert, I feel it is appropriate to provide a follow up regarding the Countywide Forum on Manure in our Watersheds held October 29th at the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES. The event exceeded everyone’s expectations on attendance and preliminary indications are there were equal numbers of lakeshore residents and rural landowners in attendance. The comments shared indicated that everyone is concerned about water quality. Thank you to the many farmers who attended and especially to those who took time to prepare statements and present. It is not easy to stand in front of such a large crowd but it was critical that agriculture’s side of the story be presented. The recap for this meeting can be viewed at http://aubumpub.com/news/local/public-discusses-manure-runoff-into-owasco-lake/article_9f1472c0-39fd-53e5-8827-ccc3de3f062b.html

Maybe you have seen in the popular press reference to “Superweeds”. Page 3 has an article from the Weed Science Society of American dispelling several of the popular myths about the reported “Superweeds.”

Dairy farmers considering the Margin Protection Program (MPP) can find a snapshot of expected payments on the bottom of Page 3. The trend is down, enter your information using the MPP tool found at www.dairymarkets.org/mpp/tool.

Field crop producers can find more information on Page 4 about the changes fast approaching with the implementation of Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and two Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) options. Our reading is landowners and tenants need to have even clearer communication about how and what programs are selected. Check out the Press Release on Page 5.

If you are interested in EQIP funding the cutoff date is fast approaching, Page 4 has some more details.

Farm safety has been on everyone’s mind and many farms, especially dairy with the Local Emphasis Program recently introduced by OSHA, have taken significant efforts to make the work place safer for their employees and family. Page 6 provides information about reporting severe work injuries which go into effect on January 1, 2015.

Are you dealing with the pain of arthritis? Page 7 has some information about an upcoming webinar presented by AgrAbility.

Sincerely,

Keith Severson
Agriculture Resource Educator
Judy Wright
Agricultural Resource Educator

Farm Worker Safety Trainings
Are you interested?
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County received a grant from Agricultural Safety & Health Council of America (ASCHA) to provide a series of farm worker safety trainings primarily for small farms. Conducted by New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) and Nellie Brown, the Worker Institute at Cornell, these safety trainings will be held on Thursdays, starting in January and continuing through March. The trainings will focus on a different topic each week. A few of the topics that will be covered include:
- Manure Structures
- Animal Behavior Precautions
- Chemical and Pesticide Safety
- Gasses & Monitoring
- Skidsteer and Tractor Safety

We are in the process of pulling together a potential list of interested farms to participate. If you are interested in attending these FREE safety trainings, please email or call Judy Wright at (315)252-1183 ext. 234 (jlw24@cornell.edu) or Keith Severson at (315)252-1183 ext. 225 (kvs5@cornell.edu).
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/ceccayuga, 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.

- **2014 Cornell Agribusiness Strategic Marketing Conference**
  Tuesday, November 11 & Wednesday, November 12. Held at the Inn on the Lake, 770 South Main Street, Canandaigua, NY. For more information call Bob Weybright, Eastern New York Horticulture Program at 845-797-8878 or rw74@cornell.edu. For Conference Registration go to dyson.cornell.edu/outreach/strategic_marketing_conference.php

- **How can IPM Help us Save the Pollinators? Web Broadcast**
  Wednesday, November 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Presentations and a panel discussion will be streamed live online. Discussion will provide an update on current issues surrounding pollinator health. Panelists will share facts about pollinators and pollinator decline, and give some thought to the role that the integrated pest management community, as well as scientific experts, public officials, and citizens, should take to address it. Register for the live-streamed event by going to: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_d4lmVVJtZ4ebxgp.

- **2014 Tile Drainage School**
  Wednesday, November 12 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. At the Factory Eatery, 20 Prospect Street, Ballston Spa, NY. Registration deadline is November 7th. Cost is $40 per person and includes lunch. For more information contact CCE Herkimer County at 315-866-7920 or herkimer@cornell.edu. To register online go to: http://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=157

- **Love Your Land? Make a Plan!**
  Friday, November 14 from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 97 E. Genesee Street, Skaneateles, NY. Cost is $25 per family which includes lunch. Pre-register by going to https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/LoveYourLand_231. More information can be obtained by contacting Kristina Ferrare, CCE Onondaga kaf226@cornell.edu or 315.424.9485 extension 231.

- **Electronics Plus Recycling Event**
  Saturday, November 15 from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the entrance to the City of Auburn Landfill, 311 North Division Street, Auburn, NY. No registration needed. For more information contact Stefan Lutter at 315.255.1183 extension 229.

- **100th Anniversary Celebration & Fundraiser of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County**
  Thursday, November 20. To be held at the Springside Inn, Auburn NY. Come join us for an evening of remembrance and optimism as we set our sights on another hundred years. Speaker for the evening is Patrick Hooker, Deputy Secretary for Food and Agriculture. Sit-down family style dinner offered for $32 per person. For further details call the Cooperative Extension Office 315.255.1183.

- **Food Safety Systems for Artisan Food Processors Short Course**
  Tuesday, December 2 – Wednesday, December 3, 2014. Held at the NYS Ag & Markets office in Albany. The course is instructed by Dairy Extension staff and representatives from NYS Agriculture & Markets and Wegmans. To register on-line go to: http://dairyextension.foodscience.cornell.edu/content/food-safety-systems-artisan-food-processors-december-2-3-2014.

- **Cornell Hops Conference**
  Saturday, December 6, 2014. Held at the Morrisville State College from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Register before November 24 at https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=2014CornellHopsConference_225. Registration cost is $75 for NeHA Members or $85 for Non-Members. For more information about the conference contact Steve Miller at 315-684-3001 extension 127 or Alycia Schick at 315-684-3001 extension 108.

- **Local Flavor, Making it Farm to Table**
  Monday, December 8, 2014. Held at Ventosa Vineyards, 3440 New York 96A, Geneva, NY from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Price is $25 per person. To purchase a ticket online go to http://www.flc.org/?p=1633 or email info@flcb.org.
Weed Scientists Uproot Common “Superweed” Myths

From: Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)

Today the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) issued a new fact sheet to uproot common misconceptions about “superweeds”—a catchall term used by many to describe weeds resistant to herbicides. The paper explores the truth behind two widespread fallacies.

- **Fallacy 1: Superweeds are a product of rampant gene transfer from genetically modified field crops. The truth:**
  
  WSSA scientists say gene transfer from some crops to certain weed species can happen, but it has not been a factor in the development of herbicide resistance across large acreages. The true culprit, they say, is overreliance on a single class of herbicides, resulting in selection for weeds that can survive the products in that class.

  “Resistance to pesticides is not new or unique to weeds,” says Brad Hanson, Ph.D., a member of WSSA and Cooperative Extension weed specialist at the University of California at Davis. “Overuse of any compound class, whether antibiotic, antimicrobial, insecticide, fungicide or herbicide, has the potential to lead to reduced effectiveness. Although weeds resistant to herbicides were first reported more than a half century ago, integrated weed management strategies that included more tillage, more hand weeding and multiple herbicides kept them in check to a large degree. Today, however, it has become common in some cropping systems for farmers to repeatedly use a single class of herbicides to the exclusion of other weed control methods, and this has led to the growing problem with herbicide-resistant weeds.”

- **Fallacy 2: Superweeds have supercharged abilities to muscle out competing plants in new and more aggressive ways. The truth:**
  
  Many believe today’s herbicide-resistant superweeds exhibit properties unlike anything we’ve ever seen before. But WSSA scientists say bully-like weed behavior isn’t new. In the absence of herbicides, resistant weeds are no more competitive or ecologically damaging than their non-resistant relatives.

  All weeds – herbicide resistant or not – can out-compete other more desirable plants for water, nutrients, sunlight and space. They grow by leaps and bounds and can be prolific seed producers. A single Palmer amaranth plant, for example, can produce hundreds of thousands of seeds.

Scientists say the key to keeping weeds from causing dramatic changes in crop production is to adopt effective management strategies.

According to Andrew Kniss, Ph.D., WSSA board member and University of Wyoming faculty member, “Nearly any weed species can be economically devastating if left uncontrolled. It is important to incorporate a variety of weed management practices and not rely exclusively on herbicides for weed control. Monitoring weed populations is also important. Early recognition of resistant populations and rapid intervention can help reduce the impact these weeds have.”

The full WSSA paper on superweeds is posted online at http://wssa.net/weed/wssa-fact-sheets. The same website contains a variety of best management practices recommended by WSSA to combat herbicide resistance— from proactive steps to reduce the number of weed seeds in the soil to the use of well-established cultural practices to suppress weeds through crop competition.

**About the Weed Science Society of America**

The Weed Science Society of America, a nonprofit scientific society, was founded in 1956 to encourage and promote the development of knowledge concerning weeds and their impact on the environment. The Society promotes research, education and extension outreach activities related to weeds, provides science-based information to the public and policy makers, fosters awareness of weeds and their impact on managed and natural ecosystems, and promotes cooperation among weed science organizations across the nation and around the world. For more information, visit www.wssa.net.

### Margin Protection Program (MPP)

Expecting margins (milk vs. feed) qualifying in the two month interval protected by the insurance levels in the Margin Protection Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Margins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September—October, 2015</td>
<td>$15.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November—December, 2014</td>
<td>$12.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January—February, 2015</td>
<td>$10.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Found on www.dairymarkets.org/mpp/tool. This particular website has lots of information on Margin Protection Program.
Signed into law in February, the Agricultural Act of 2014 eliminates direct payments and modifies the target price program, replacing the Counter-Cyclical Payment (CCP) program with Profit Loss Coverage (PLC). The bill also changes the revenue safety nets, replacing Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) with two Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) options – County ARC and Individual Farm ARC. Those who don’t make a decision will automatically be enrolled in PLC.

The point of involvement and negotiation between landlord and tenant farmer is critical. If you are in the position where one person owns the land and another grows crops on it, agreement about the program selected is not flexible into the near future, and will NOT change no matter who is farming it.

This section was taken from ARC or PLC: an example for wheat, and seemed to me the most direct and understandable explanation I had found at this time.

The Agricultural Act of 2014, the new Farm Bill, eliminates the familiar commodity support programs of the 2008 bill: direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, and ACRE. In their place, producers must choose between two new commodity programs, Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC). Presented here is a comparison of the benefits each program provides for wheat.

PLC is similar to the counter-cyclical payment program that pays on base acres if the national marketing year average price falls below the target price. In the language of the new farm bill, the old target price is called the reference price. The reference price for wheat in the 2014 farm bill is $5.50 per bushel.

ARC is more similar to the ACRE program. It pays on base acres if actual revenue falls below a guaranteed level of revenue. This benchmark is based on a five-year Olympic average (high and low values excluded) of county yields and national marketing year average prices.

During farm bill debate, ARC was referred to as a program protecting against shallow losses and PLC a program to protect against deep losses (Outlaw, 2014). The first payments for either program will not be made until after September 2015 for the 2014 crop.

Another factor which will impact the PLC versus ARC decision is that only PLC participants will be able to add the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) to their crop insurance coverage. SCO is a new crop insurance product that provides county level coverage for insured losses (yield or revenue depending on the underlying insurance product purchased) from 86% down to the coverage level of the underlying policy.

What commodities are considered “covered” for ARC and PLC program purposes? Covered commodities include wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed, dry peas, lentils, chickpeas and peanuts.

More information will follow providing websites you can open to develop a scenario to assist you in making the selection that follows in the track of where you believe prices will be in the future.

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

New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces November 21, 2014 as the application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for Fiscal Year 2015.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): offers financial assistance for practices which address soil erosion, water quality and habitat degradation. Practices implemented through EQIP includes strip cropping, grassed waterways and manure storage facilities. Focus areas within the EQIP program include soil health, livestock waste, habitat, forestry and grazing.

If you are interested in applying for an NRCS conservation program please visit their web site for information at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/program/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs144p2_027058. You may also apply by visiting the local NRCS field office located at 7413 County House Road, Auburn, NY or contact Katie Schor at 315-252-5832 extension 115.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 2, 2014 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing key dates for farm owners and producers to keep in mind regarding the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

“The ARC and PLC programs are a significant reform in the farm safety net,” said Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini. “FSA wants to keep producers well informed on all steps in the process. We will continue our outreach efforts and maintain resources online to help them understand the new programs before they come in to make decisions for their operations.”

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015: Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

USDA leaders will visit with producers across the country to share information and answer questions on the ARC and PLC programs.

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time. USDA provided $3 million to the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri and the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M (co-leads for the National Association of Agricultural and Food Policy), along with the University of Illinois (lead for the National Coalition for Producer Education) to develop these online tools.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

Today's announcement was made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.
On September 11, 2014, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a final rule requiring employers to notify OSHA when an employee is killed on the job or a single employee suffers a work-related hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye. The rule will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2015, for workplaces under federal OSHA jurisdiction. Under this revised rule, employers will be required to notify OSHA of work-related fatalities within 8 hours, and work-related in-patient hospitalizations, amputations or losses of an eye within 24 hours. Previously, OSHA's regulations required an employer to report only work-related deaths and/or incidents requiring hospitalizations of three or more employees. Reporting single cases of hospitalizations, amputations or loss of an eye was not required under the previous rule.

All employers covered by OSHA, and even those who are exempt from maintaining injury and illness records (small farms with 10 or less employees and/or no temporary labor camp), are required to comply with OSHA's new severe injury and illness reporting requirements. For more information on OSHA's record keeping regulation, visit: [http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014/records.html](http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014/records.html)

To assist employers in fulfilling these requirements, OSHA is developing a web portal for employers to report incidents electronically, in addition to the phone reporting options.

There are three options available for reporting these unfortunate incidents:

1. By telephone to the 24-hour OSHA hotline (1-800-321-OSHA or 1-800-321-6742).
2. By telephone to the OSHA Area Office nearest to the site of the work-related incident.
3. Electronically, using the event reporting application that will be located on OSHA’s website.

The Appropriations Act exempts small farming operations from the enforcement of all rules, regulations, standards or orders under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. A farming operation is exempt from all OSHA enforcement and inspection activities if it:

- Employs **10 or fewer employees** currently and at all times during the last 12 months (One part-time employee equals one full-time employee, immediate family members are not considered to be employees); and

  - Has not had an active temporary labor camp during the preceding 12 months.
  - To be considered a temporary labor camp, housing maintained by a farm must be provided:
    1. As a required condition of employment, and;
    2. for a discrete, temporary period of time (i.e. for seasonal or temporary employment).
  - if a small farm does not meet both of these requirements, they would not be considered to have a temporary labor camp and would not be subject to any OSHA inspection or enforcement activities.

However, it is very important to note that small farms are not actually exempt from OSHA regulations because:

- Legally OSHA regulations still covers all farms, even though OSHA cannot inspect or cite farms with 10 or fewer employees. The Appropriations Act prevents OSHA from inspecting or citing small farms, but for legal purposes, the regulations still apply.
- In a court of law, OSHA rules and regulations may be used to identify safe and unsafe conditions on the farm.
- There are state OSHA programs - Individual states may have more stringent regulations if they have an OSHA approved state program. There are 25 states that have a state approved program. These state OSHA program regulations can exceed the federal OSHA regulations and be more protective. New York has an approved state program for public employees only; private sector employees are covered by Federal OSHA.

Continued on Page 7 . . .
Coping with pain can be the hardest part of having arthritis or a related condition. Just as there are different types of arthritis, there are also different types of pain. Pain is the body’s natural alarm system, and arthritis-related pain is often chronic (long-term), causing treatment plans to vary drastically based on symptoms and conditions. The two most common causes of arthritis-related pain are inflammation and joint damage/injury; however, stress and fatigue can also add to the level of arthritis pain.

The goal of this one-hour webinar is to outline methods of managing arthritis pain, the impacts arthritis has on quality of life, essential concepts about pain, and options for pain management techniques. Note: pain affects individuals differently, so the topics covered in this session will be broad and designed to provide a sound foundation to understanding pain management, thus empowering individuals to work with their health care provider to determine the best course of action for their individual limitations and pain.

Topics include:

- Sources of acute and chronic pain from arthritis and related diseases, and common limitations caused by such pain
- Control of arthritis pain through natural, medical, and over-the-counter methods to decrease limitations
- Assistive technologies to assist in managing arthritis pain in agricultural work

- Resources for additional information from leading arthritis research organizations

**Our Presenter:**
Amber D. Wolfe, B.S., joined the National AgrAbility project team in 2009 as the AgrAbility project coordinator for the Arthritis Foundation. Her work on the arthritis and agriculture project covers both state and national levels and is focused on rural audiences of all ages and experiences. She serves as a resource for rural arthritis issues. Amber provides training to professionals and consumers via rural arthritis workshops and also assists in developing resources related to rural arthritis. Amber has brought her experiences with 4-H and FFA youth into the AgrAbility area by working with rural youth to prevent the early-onset of osteoarthritis in their generation.

A question & answer period will follow the presentation.

To participate in this free webinar go to: https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_bjtXIKVD5r7X3hz by Friday, November 14. Instructions for accessing the session will be sent to registrants by Monday, November 17. Contact AgrAbility at 800-825-4264 or email agrability@agrability.org if you have questions.

**Hosted by:**

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**New OSHA Requirement Continued from Page 6 . . .**

As always, NYCAMH is available to assist farms with safety programming and planning. We are a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of injury and illness that may occur to agricultural workers. We fulfill this mission by offering the on-farm safety program, which consists of farm safety surveys and farm safety training sessions for farms in New York. Our on-farm safety surveys identify potential farm hazards around the farm. Our training programs are farm specific and can be provided in Spanish. These services are available through a grant from the New York State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board. We also have a farm emergency response program offering training in CPR, first aid, fire safety and what to do in an emergency. Contact me at 800-343-7527 extension 2216 or email jcarrabba@nycamh.com to schedule these programs or for more information about our services. NYCAMH, a program of Bassett Healthcare Network is enhancing agricultural and rural health by preventing and treating occupational injury and illness.
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.

2014 Feed Dealer Seminar
Thursday, November 13, 2014
The Feed Dealer Seminars are specifically targeted for nutritionists, veterinarians, other consultants, extension educators, and dairy producers with specific interest in nutrition-oriented topics. They are designed to blend the latest concepts in feeding and other management aspects of dairies with field level application.

Held at 6 sites throughout New York, the meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014 will take place at the NYS Grange, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY.

To register for the Cortland site call Sharon VanDeuson at (607)753-5078. To see the other dates and locations please go to our website at blogs.cornell.edu/ceceayuga and click on the Agriculture Calendar under the Agriculture tab.

Calf & Heifer Congress 2014
Birth to Breeding
December 10—11, 2014
To be held on Wednesday, December 10 & Thursday, December 11, 2014. Presented by Cornell University Cooperative Extension and the Cornell Pro-Dairy Program. Held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center outside of Rochester, NY located off Exit 46 of the NYS Thruway.

The conference will go beyond the management of the young calf this year. The timeline will extend from the calving event to breeding age. A pre-conference evening dinner/presentation/panel discussion dedicated to automated or robotic calf feeder systems on December 10th will be followed by a full day of presentations and discussions on the 11th.

To encourage student participation, The Calf & Heifer Congress is offering deeply discounted registration fees for regional colleges with dairy programming. To register go to: http://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=141.

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.