



Ag Alert!

APRIL 2020

CCE Cayuga County Response to COVID-19

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Cayuga County has postponed or canceled all in-person meetings and programs until April 14, 2020, due to COVID-19/coronavirus. This date could be pushed further out dependent on guidance from federal, state, Extension and local authorities. The CCE office in Auburn will be closed to anyone not a paid staff person, including meeting rooms. It is unfortunate to postpone/cancel educational programs at this time, but we feel it is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our participants, our staff, and our communities.

This edition of Ag Alert! includes information on COVID-19 prevention and control for farms. Additional points include:

- At this time, there is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19 or that they might be a source of infection in the U.S. (CDC)
- Vendors (veterinarians, DHIA, feed dealers, route trucks, etc.) doing business with farms have put COVID-19 prevention controls for their employees in place.
- Agriculture and the food supply chain, including Farmers Markets, are essential industries and exceptions have been made to ensure our vital work can continue (see page 2). However, if you find situations of supply chain issues, labor or shortages of any kind, please reach out to CCE Cayuga County with questions and needs.

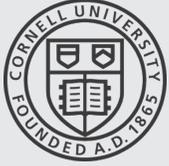
While we can make farm visits during this period, specific guidelines must be followed: see page 4. To keep up-to-date on COVID-19 news that may affect you, your farm family and employees, call, text or email your contact info. We will do our best to help you via email, phone, or video-conference. If you do not have internet access and would like information from any of the websites listed on page 8, please call us.

- *Dan Welch, Associate Director,*
607-342-2545, dlw56@cornell.edu

- *Ron Kuck, Agriculture Educator,*
315-704-8810, rak76@cornell.edu

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Agriculture is Critical Industry

CISA, a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has recognized the following (and other*) food and agriculture roles as critical:

- Farm workers to include those employed in animal food, feed, and ingredient production, packaging, and distribution. . .
- Farm workers and support service workers to include those who field crops. . .
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health. . . animal production operations. . .
- Animal agriculture workers employed in the transportation of live animals. . . in the transportation of deceased animals for disposal. . .
- Employees of companies engaged in the production of . . . pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution.

* *For a complete listing*, see <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>.

COVID-19 & Your Dairy Webinar & PDF Steps Dairy Managers Can Take To Protect Your Workforce, Business & Markets**

Cornell's Richard Stup, Ph.D, and Rob Lynch, DVM, cover: why prevention of COVID-19 is important, steps to protect employees, animal health considerations, what if service providers are unavailable, disaster contingency plans, cross-training employees, business resources for employers, pending federal/state legislation re: COVID-19 and employees. See agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/novel-coronavirus-covid-19.*

**** Need COVID-19 Information, But No Internet Access? CCE Cayuga will send printouts to your farm/business: call Ron: 315-704-8810 or Dan: 607-342-2545.**

CCE Cayuga County has been serving Cayuga County for more than 100 years!

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County publishes a monthly Ag Alert! for informational purposes.

If you have any special needs to be able to attend a program, please contact us at 315-255-1183 as far in advance as possible of program date. The listing of any entity in this publication is strictly for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by Cornell Cooperative Extension of any of the products or services that entity may offer.

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.

2020 Calendar of Events

Also see <https://blogs.cornell.edu/cccecayuga>

For details/directions/questions: 315-255-1183 or email rak76@cornell.edu

FREE WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES with CORNELL SMALL FARMS PROGRAM

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2020/03/offering-you-free-online-course-access/>

Free Online Course Access to More than 20 Courses: Opportunities to help build local food security during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond; improve technical & business skills; topics from mushroom growing to financial planning.

April 6-7, 2020 • HERD HEALTH & NUTRITION: *NOW A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE on APRIL 7, 2020*

Presented by PRO-DAIRY and Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

For details, contact Heather Darrow: 607-255-4478, dmconf@cornell.edu,

<https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/herd-health-nutrition/>

April 29, 2020 • 12:30 PM • MILK QUALITY PART II: Treatment Based on Mastitis Type WEBINAR in SPANISH

Paula Ospina, DVM, Ph.D., Quality Milk Production Services, will cover the differences in treatment and management practices based on mastitis type. More Info: <https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/webinars/>

2020 CCE CAYUGA COUNTY SPRING OUT-OF-THE-SHOP MEETINGS: Watch for Dates & Details

Estimating Corn and Soybean Emergence, Yield & Variability (late May/Early June)

IPM Scouting Calendars for Alfalfa, Field Corn & Wheat

- Scouting for herbicide-resistant weeds • Alfalfa & Field Corn Scouting Procedures
- Seedcorn Maggot and White Mold: see item on page 4

IPM - Managing Flies (and Other 6- or 8-legged Creatures) in Livestock

Bunk Silo and Drive-Over Pile Packing & Safety (Early August)

Novel Coronavirus Prevention & Control for Farms



Cornell Cooperative Extension

**AGRICULTURAL
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

The U.S. is confronting an outbreak of a novel coronavirus that causes serious respiratory disease and may be deadly for older people and those with weakened immune systems. The World Health Organization is calling the outbreak a global pandemic because it is affecting countries all over the world. People and organizations can fight coronavirus by taking steps to prevent transmission of the disease: the whole point of widespread cancellation of events is to create “social distancing” to lower the infection rate and prevent health care systems from being overwhelmed.

The New York State Department of Health has a coronavirus website: <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/> with English- and Spanish-language posters for preventing coronavirus infection. If you do not have internet access or you need prints of posters and information listed here, contact Ron Kuck, CCE Cayuga County, 315-704-8810, rak76@cornell.edu.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides clear guidance in English and Spanish about preventing infection and provides printable fact sheets and posters in English and Spanish suitable for use in the workplace: see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>.

See Employer Action Steps and NYS Department of Health Coronavirus Prevention Tips on page 5.

Guidelines for CCE Cayuga County Farm Visits During COVID-19

- Any site visit needs to be pre-arranged by calling CCE Cayuga Agriculture Educator Ron Kuck at 315-704-8810. The reason for visit and the location will be confirmed.
- CCE Cayuga will make a determination if a farm visit is necessary for that particular issue.
- While on the farm, CCE staff will adhere to strict guidelines for social distancing, including not having direct contact with anyone on the farm during the visit.
- Follow up will occur by phone, email, or video conference after the visit.

Help Validate Sporecaster for Soybean White Mold in the Northeast

A note from Gary C. Bergstrom, Ph.D., Professor Plant Pathology, Cornell University

Dr. Damon Smith of the University of Wisconsin will introduce his Sporecaster system for prediction of white mold in soybean on April 2, 2020. Dr. Paul Esker of Penn State University, contacted me about his graduate student Tyler Mcfeaters' research to validate Sporecaster for conditions in the Northeast. He is coordinating with Dr. Smith, working field crop educators who oversee soybean sentinel plots in PA, and would like to expand his study into NY in areas with a history of white mold in soybean.

Tyler's work is of value to New York soybean producers. Please contact Tyler at sm31@psu.edu if you would be willing to provide him the following soybean crop data in 2020:

- Your Name Phone/Email
- Location coordinates: Latitude/Longitude
- History of White mold (Y/N) (Comment on Severity)
- White mold present in 2020 (Y/N)
- Planting date
- Flowering date (at R1)
- Variety
- Irrigation (Y/N)
- Row-spacing (30", 15", etc)



Jaime Cummings/Cornell University

Report Seedcorn Maggot and Wireworm Damage: WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Given the recent controversy surrounding proposed legislative bans on some pesticides in NY, to provide necessary data on the efficacy, usefulness and perceived need for these products in our agricultural systems, Cornell researchers and extension specialists **need assistance from farmers, crop consultants, agribusiness associates, and crop insurance claim adjusters with identifying, documenting and quantifying losses to early season pests, such as seedcorn maggot and wireworm, in corn and soybean fields across New York.**



Jaime Cummings/Cornell University

NYS Integrated Pest Management and Cornell Cooperative Extension field crop specialists are monitoring and documenting losses to pests that neonic seed treatments are intended to protect against. Sporadic distribution of damage by seedcorn maggot and wireworm make it challenging to quantify losses to these pests in research plots.

Your valuable input would require nothing more than a phone call or email to CCE Agriculture Program Educator Ron Kuck at 315-704-8810, rak76@cornell.edu to report the specific location of damage soon after planting, while pests are still active and can be confirmed (by V2 stage). Ron will visit the field to confirm pest activity, and may conduct plant stand counts to estimate potential yield losses. Location and farm identity will remain anonymous, as project leaders are only interested in quantifying losses across the state, not where they occur. Whether you grow corn for silage or grain (or even sweet corn), soybean or dry beans, conventionally or organically, **we need to hear from you this spring.**

Novel Coronavirus Prevention & Control for Farms *(continued from page 3)*

Employer Actions Steps

Your farm workforce is not immune to coronavirus, please take steps to protect yourself and your employees:

1. Talk with your employees about coronavirus, how it spreads, and how to prevent getting infected.
2. Print and post CDC fact sheets and posters in your workplace and employee housing facilities. See pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter to clip and post.
3. Provide guidance to help employees clean and disinfect employer-provided housing. Set up a daily-and-weekly schedule for cleaning. Manage the process and followup with employees to be sure this occurs. Find CDC guidance for cleaning homes: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html>.
4. Clean and disinfect your workplace. Employee break room and bathroom are common places for virus transmission. Clean and disinfect any areas where employees congregate or routinely touch items such as doorknobs and computer keyboards. Set up daily and weekly cleaning schedules.
5. Provide cleaning supplies (cleaning solutions, buckets, mops, brushes, etc.) for cleaning at work and for those living in employer-provided housing. For CDC approved antimicrobial cleaning products: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list_03-03-2020.pdf.
6. Review your sick leave policy. The first advice for people who are sick is to stay home except to get medical care. Do you provide paid sick leave for your employees? If not, will employees feel financially obligated to come to work even if they are sick?
7. Communicate with employees that they should stay home if they are sick. Employees sometimes come to work believing they will face punishment or firing if they miss work. Be sure your employees understand that their health and that of their co-workers comes first. Make and communicate a plan to cover for sick employees. Post CDC posters in English and Spanish of novel coronavirus symptoms.
8. Prepare a disaster contingency plan. What will you do if 50% of your employees become sick and unable to work? Are there neighboring farms that might be able to share resources in an emergency? Who will manage for a few weeks if you or another key manager are unable to leave your house or are hospitalized?

NYS Department of Health Coronavirus Prevention Tips

At minimum, share the following New York State Department of Health Prevention Tips with employees and family. While there is currently no vaccine to prevent this virus, these simple steps can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses:

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.**
If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Stay home when you are sick.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**



SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

FEVER



COUGH



*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH



Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms

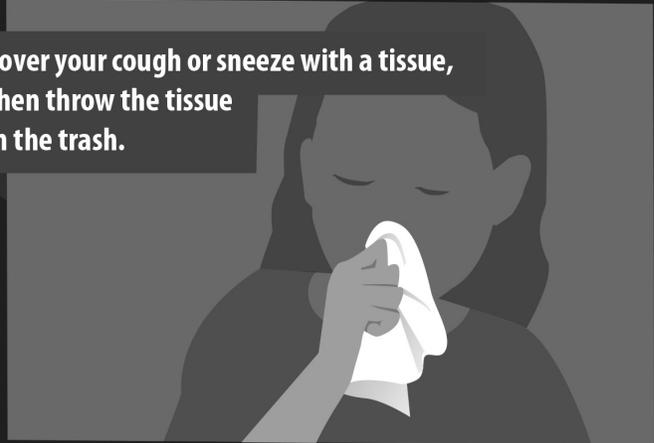
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

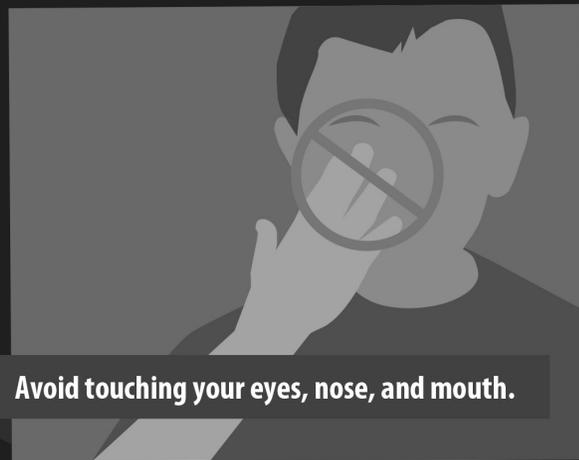
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



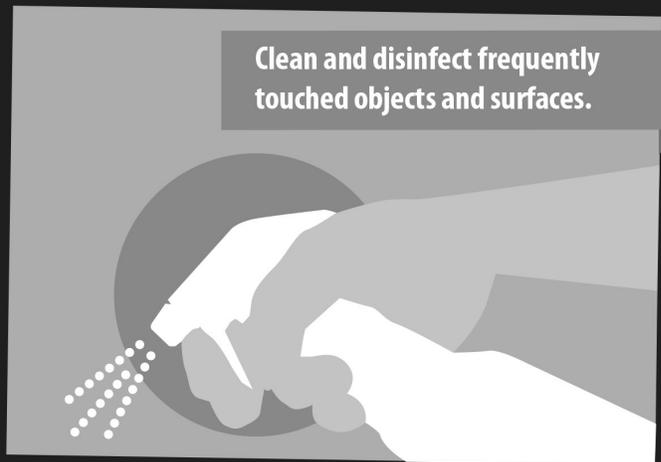
Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



cdc.gov/COVID19

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Important Phone Numbers & Websites for Your Farm Business & Family

- **Ag Workforce Resources:** <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu>
- **Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources:** <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience>
- **COVID-19 & Your Dairy Webinar: Steps Dairy Managers Can Take To Protect Your Workforce, Business & Markets:** agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/novel-coronavirus-covid-19
- **Institute for Food Safety:** <https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19>
- **Financial Resources for Farmers:** www.nyfarmnet.org
- **New York State Agriculture & Markets COVID-19:** <https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus>
 - <https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/interimguidanceforanimalcareoperations.pdf>
- **New York Extension Disaster Education Network:** <https://eden.cce.cornell.edu>
- **NY Farm Bureau COVID-19 Updates:** <https://www.nyfb.org>; see news tab
- **NY FarmNet Hotline & Mental Health Resources:** 1-800-547-3276, www.nyfarmnet.org
- **Paid Sick Leave for COVID-19:**
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/paid-sick-leave-covid-19-impacted-new-yorkers>
- **Spanish Language Educational Video on COVID-19 (2 min)** <https://www.trabajadores.cornell.edu>
- **USDA COVID-19:** <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus> • <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a>