



Remember to Enroll for 2014

In December, you should have received an ag enrollment form and letter. **Thanks to all who have enrolled for 2014!** With new CCE staff members focused on agriculture, we look forward to a productive year.

A copy of the enrollment is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have already enrolled, please share this with a neighbor who could benefit from CCE's resources.

As in 2013, CCE-Erie has invested to allow our growers to connect to two of Cornell's regional teams – the Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) and Lake Erie Regional Grape Program(LERGP). The teams provide, you the grower, with excellent resources – on-farm visits, local educational trainings and opportunities to participate in research.

The enrollment fee remains at \$65.00/year which includes participation in up to one team. If you wish to enroll in both the LERGP and CVP, the enrollment fee is \$115.00. Those planning to enroll in aTeam should enroll with CCE-Erie prior to March 31st.

When you enroll in CCE, you become part of a network linked directly into Cornell University bringing together local experience and research based solutions. CCE is a publicly-assisted organization supported through participation fees, program attendance, community involvement and donations which further our mission of *"Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities."*

Build a Better Bottom Line with the Berry Farm

Business Summary

If you would like help understanding your berry farm operation's financial position, consider participating in the project "Building a Better Bottom Line for NYS Berry Growers," funded by New York Farm Viability Institute. Participating farm operations need to have been in business the past three years, had sales in the past year, and preferably produce at least two berry crops. We can work with many levels of record-keeping, but the project does rely on accurate financial and production data. As part of the project, Cornell is also requesting specific crop data information to create berry crop enterprise budgets. These budgets will provide valuable information to NYS berry growers about costs and returns on small fruit crops.

Contact us today to learn more!

Megan Burley, msb347@cornell.edu, 716-652-5400x138

Sharon Bachman sin2@cornell.edu, 716-652-5400x150



Photo Credit: Cathy Heidenreich

Diane Held	Sharon Bachman	Megan Burley	Cheryl Thayer
Executive Director	Agriculture Educator	Farm Business Mgmt Ed.	HarvestNY
dbh24@cornell.edu	Invasive Species outreach	msb347@cornell.edu	Ag Economic Development
716-652-5400x166	sin2@cornell.edu	716-652-5400	cbt32@cornell.edu
	716-652-5400x150		716-652-5400x134

#Felfies: Farmers can take ‘selfies,’ too

Angela Bowman, Staff Writer, DAIRYHERD network E-Newsletter, used with permission

Move over “selfies!” There’s a new fad that’s sweeping the Internet and giving consumers “a source of information as close to the dirt your food is grown in as you can get.”

The trend of taking photos of oneself has been transformed thanks to a contest hosted by the *Irish Farmers Journal*. The contest asked Irish farmers to take a “selfie on the farm” – that is, taking photos of themselves with their live-stock and/or farm equipment.

These “felfies” have now gone global after being hijacked by farmers in Canada, Finland and New Zealand.

It also made its way to the United States and proven to be the perfect tool to start a conversation with consumers.

“The felfie provides what many urban people are searching for: a view of where their food starts,” dairy farmer Carrie Mess, better known as blogger Dairy Carrie, wrote in an editorial featured in *The Guardian*. “My own felfie below comes from a night last week in our freestall dairy barn when it was a nippy -35F (-37C) in our part of Wisconsin...There are good conversations going on in the comments underneath photos or on Twitter with people getting answers to their food and farm questions straight from the source,” she wrote.

Ag blogger Ryan Goodman also applauded “felfies.” “It’s actually a pretty great way for farmers to mesh with a pop-culture movement and make a few connections that lead to a little advocacy. Adding a bit of personality to our messages helps build those relationships,” Goodman wrote on his blog.

As *Time* magazine reports, there are even websites devoted to “felfies,” including Felfies.com and FarmingSelfie.com.

Interested in participating? Take your own “felfie” and post it on via Twitter, Instram or Facebook using the hashtag #felfie.

What is a “selfie?”

It was Oxford Dictionary's word of the year in 2013. They define it as “a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and up-loaded to a social media website.”



Felfie, Megan Burley, Erie County CCE Farm Business Management Educator

Dairy Acceleration Program

Governor Cuomo announces funding for New York Dairies

“Funding for the Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP) will be increased by \$850,000, which is in addition to the \$1 million announced by the Governor this past August. DAP is jointly funded by the Department of Agriculture and Markets and DEC. DAP is resonating very positively with dairy farmers across the state, most with herds under 300 cows. Combined with some funding still available under the current program, this new funding will serve at least 100 more dairy farms across New York.

Payments under DAP may include: up to \$5,000 per farm to write a business plan or develop a combination of a business and facility growth plan; and up to \$4,500 to update an existing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) or \$6,000 to develop a new one. Additional funds also will be available to design farm practices described in CNMPs. CNMPs are a conservation system for animal feeding operations designed to address soil erosion and water quality concerns. The CNMP encompasses the storage and handling of manure as well as using and applying manure nutrients on farm land. Through DAP, the state awarded dozens of projects already for farms with an average herd of about 140 cows.

Business planning may include financial analysis, farmstead development planning, facility planning and capital investment planning for increased milk production per cow. Environmental planning includes CNMP development and updates. Farms without an existing CNMP can hire a certified Nutrient Management planner to develop a new CNMP. To be eligible for DAP, a dairy cattle farm must have complete financial records. Preference will be given to farms with under 300 cows. DAP funding will cover up to 80 percent of a project’s cost.

To apply for DAP, visit http://ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy/dairy_acceleration/.”

Governor Cuomo Nominates Richard A. Ball as Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets

January 9, 2014. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the nomination of Richard A. Ball as Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

“Richard Ball is a lifelong farmer and advocate for sound farm policy who will bring fresh ideas and strong leadership to the Department of Agriculture and Markets,” Governor Cuomo said. “Agriculture is a vital sector of the state’s economy, providing thousands of jobs, food for people around the globe, and a way of life for generations of New Yorkers. Richard embodies the proud tradition of farming here in New York State and will be a superb addition to this Administration.”

A native New Yorker, Mr. Ball has made a living in agriculture his entire life. His inspiration to become a farmer came from his grandparents, who were lifelong dairy farmers. At 18 years old, Mr. Ball began his career in agriculture as a farm worker at a vegetable farm in Rhode Island. He later became operations manager of that same farm. After 20 years in Rhode Island, Mr. Ball moved back to the Empire State with an opportunity to become a farm owner. For the past 20 years, he has been the owner and operator of Schoharie Valley Farms in Schoharie, NY, which consists of 200 acres and produces a wide range of vegetable crops, small fruits and greenhouse crops. The farm serves both retail and wholesale consumers through an onsite farm market known as “The Carrot Barn” and ships to brokers and restaurants in the local area as well as New York City.

Mr. Ball has held a number of positions within agriculture and community organizations at the local, state and national level, including:

Vice President - New York State Vegetable Growers Association
Board of Directors, Member of Executive Committee, Member of Audit Committee, Chairman of Labor Committee – New York Farm Bureau
Member of Labor Committee (past Chairman) – American Farm Bureau
Representative for Schoharie County – Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council

Board of Directors (past President) – Schoharie County Farm Bureau
President – Schoharie Valley Association

Chairman – Schoharie Recovery, Inc., a non-profit formed to help the recovery effort from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee

Past President – Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ball, his wife Shirley, and his three children are actively engaged in farming with a growing number of future farmers among the grandchildren.

Dean Norton, President of New York Farm Bureau, said, “New York Farm Bureau could not be more pleased with the Governor’s outstanding selection of Richard Ball to be the next Commissioner for the Department of Agriculture and Markets. As a farmer, Richard understands the needs and challenges we all face on our farms. That knowledge and the respect he has among his peers will serve the state’s agricultural community well. We look forward to continuing Farm Bureau’s strong partnership with Richard and Governor Cuomo to support every farmer in New York.”

Kathryn Boor, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of Cornell University’s College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, said, “On behalf of the faculty and staff at CALS, I extend my congratulations to Richard Ball on this appointment. We look forward to working closely with Mr. Ball on key issues facing New York State’s farmers and producers. This is an exciting time for agriculture, and I am confident that his experiences and expertise will help New York State continue to lead the way.”

Mark Henry, President of the New York State Vegetable Growers Association, said, “The New York State Vegetable Growers Association is proud and excited to hear about fellow vegetable farmer, Rich Ball’s, nomination as Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets. Rich is first and foremost a farmer. He’s watched his land flood, worked through blizzards, and watched the first green tips push their heads above soil every spring in spite of all the challenges. With the nomination of Rich Ball as Commissioner of

Agriculture and Markets, the New York State Vegetable Growers Association feels that 2014 is starting out on a positive note.”



Diane Held, NY State Ag Society President (Executive Director of Erie County CCE) at the NY Agriculture Society Forum introducing Richard A Ball for the State of Agriculture Address.

Photo Credit K-P Ag Relations

Continued on the next page...



AGRICULTURE NEWS
New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

108 Airline Drive • Albany, New York 12235 • www.agriculture.ny.gov

Richard A Ball Continued...

GrowNYC Executive Director Marcel Van Ooyen said, “On behalf of GrowNYC, I’d like to congratulate Richard Ball on this well-deserved nomination as Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets. Richard Ball understands the importance of building relationships between upstate agriculture and downstate consumers, and we look forward to working with him to expand opportunities for New York agricultural producers across New York City in the future.”

Jim Trezise, President of the New York Wine and Grape Foundation, said, “Governor Cuomo’s selection of Richard Ball as Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets is a strong choice, and great news for the state’s vibrant wine and grape industry. Mr. Ball understands that pro-growth agricultural policies lead to a robust farm sector. We’ve seen it already with the growth of our farm-based beverage industry and in a number of other industries across the state. I look forward to working with Commissioner Ball on Taste NY and other state initiatives designed to promote New York products.”

Jim Allen, President of the New York Apple Association, said, “I’ve known Richard Ball for a number of years and have worked with him on many different initiatives, including the Pride of NY program. He has an astute knowledge of all aspects of agriculture. His operation in Schoharie is a destination for thousands every year and I think he is an absolutely wonderful choice as our state’s next Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.”

2014 Agricultural Literacy Week

March 17th–21st, 2014

WHAT IS NY AG LITERACY WEEK?

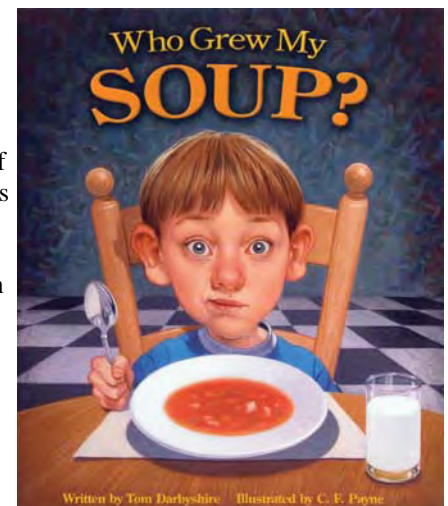
New York Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to announce NY Ag Literacy Week in support of its mission of fostering awareness, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture and the food and fiber system. During the week of March 17-21, 2014 (National Agriculture Week), volunteers throughout the state will go into classrooms to read a book with an agricultural theme, lead an activity based on the book and talk to students about agriculture. The book will be donated to the school library with a special bookplate recognizing the donor and the program.

THE BOOK:

The signature book for 2014 is *Who Grew My Soup?* written by Tom Darbyshire and illustrated by C.F. Payne. In this delightful book, Phineas Quinn questions the vegetable soup his mom serves for lunch. He refuses to slurp a single spoonful until he knows who grew each of the vegetables. Much to his surprise, a man in a flying tomato balloon shows up to answer his questions. Phinneas joins the magical Mr. Mattoo as they fly from farm to farm, learning about the amazing vegetables, and meeting the farmers who grow them.

Who Grew My Soup? as the Agricultural Literacy Week book for 2014 will allow students an opportunity to meet and connect students to the farmers in their backyard. As the nation’s conversation is focused on healthy living and eating nutritious foods, it is the perfect time to help our students build the knowledge that nutrition starts on the farm. After listening to the story, the students will participate in an activity featuring MyPlate, eating at least 5 servings of vegetables, and introducing actual farmers that grow their favorite vegetables.

All lessons, activities, and extensions are aligned to New York State and Common Core Learning Standards.



Date	Event	Location
February		
6,7,8	Western NY Farm Show http://www.wnyfarmshow.com/Home.php	Erie County Fair Grounds
10	Growing Small Fruit in Western NY DEC credits Available	Brant Town Hall Erie County
12	Farm Disaster Preparation Certification Training Contact Lisa Kempisty 716-664-9502 Ext. 203	Randolph Fire Hall, 70 Main Street, Randolph, New York 14772
15	Regional Small Farms Conference– Farm Business Essentials For More info and to register visit: : https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/FarmingConference_244	Schuyler County Human Services Complex, 323 Owego St, Montour Falls, NY
24	Southwestern New York Pasture Expo Contact Lisa Kempisty 716-664-9502 Ext. 203	Randolph Fire Hall, 70 Main Street Randolph, NY 14772
24	WNY Food Hub Feasibility Study: Grower/Buyer Survey Results and Panel Discussion Information: Field and Fork Website: http://fieldandforknetwork.com/	To be determined
25	Step it up in 2014 Winter Grazing Contact Joan Petzen 585-786-2251 Ext. 122	CCE-Orleans County, Trolley Building, 12690 NYS Route 31, Albion, NY 14411
28	Best Management Practice (BMP) Workshop Applied for DEC credits For information Contact Sharon Bachman, 716-652-5400x150	Erie County CCE Auditorium
MARCH		
1	22nd Annual Rural Landowners Workshop Contact CCE Allegheny/Cattaraugus 716-664-9502	Pioneer Central School, County Line Road in Yorkshire, NY
5	Field Crop Update Contact Lisa Kempisty 716-664-9502 Ext. 203	South Dayton Activity Hall, 1 Maple Street South Dayton, New York 14138
11	“CORE” pesticide training and Pesticide Applicators License Exam Allegheny/Cattaraugus County Contact Lisa Kempisty 716-664-9502 Ext.203	Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory (CLEREL) 6592 West Main Road Portland, NY 14769
15	Winter Dairy Management Program 2014 Contact Lisa Kempisty 716-664-9502 Ext.203	Randolph Fire Hall, 70 Main Street Randolph, N.Y. 14772
17-21	Ag Literacy Week- “Who Grew My Soup” Contact: Tammi Kron 716-652-5400 x132 or tlk6@cornell.edu	Local School Districts
20	“CORE” Pesticide Training and Pesticide Applicators License Exam Contact Sharon Bachman 716-652-5400 Ext.150	Erie County CCE Auditorium
25	“CORE” Pesticide Training and Pesticide Applicators License Exam Contact Donald Gasiewicz 585-786-2251	Warsaw CCE Office
28	Mortality Composting Contact Megan Burley 716-652-5400 Ext. 138	Erie County Highway Department

In Memory of Dr. Robert Sweet

From the Ithaca Journal

Dr Robert Sweet died Thursday night, January 30, 2014, at his residence in Jacksonville, NY. Bob and Virginia, his wife of 62 years, had resided on Slaterville Road for most of their 70 years in Ithaca. Bob touched the lives of many folks in the community. Bob was known for telling stories and having a sense of humor. His stories often began with his passion - sharing a lifetime of experiences growing vegetables in NYS. As an emeritus of Cornell Horticulture Department, Bob went to the office weekly. He looked forward to checking in with colleagues, and picking up professional journals and papers with new scientific information. In particular, Bob was enthusiastic about research to support sustainable agriculture. Bob credits his lifelong learning and thoughtful approach to issues to his parents, who operated a farm in northern Ohio. As a member of the Kiwanis Club of Ithaca for over 50 years, Bob participated in fundraising projects to support the Kiwanis community projects. Bob's long tenure with the club provided a sense of local history as well as an incentive to keep current with local club goals and projects. Bob always had stories for his family. His daughters and grandchildren alike remember stories of Bob's and Virginia's fishing trips to Florida, and their visits to vegetable production regions of other countries. Often Bob would share details of his annual building projects at the Slaterville Rd. home. Bob enjoyed growing and sharing bouquets from his extensive gladiolus plantings. To the end, Bob remained fond of his homemade blackberry jam at breakfast while he watched the fields for animals and birds. He always read nature's morning edition before starting his day. Bob was loved by his daughters, Charlotte and Christina; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He has left family and friends a treasure trove of memories. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, February 5, at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Ithaca, Rev. Eunice Tabor officiating.



"BEEF UP YOUR BOTTOM LINE" CORNELL BEEF FARM BUSINESS SUMMARY

Cornell Cooperative Extension will be offering a new educational opportunity for beef operations in 2014, and is looking for producers to participate beginning in January.

As the number and size of beef operations grow across New York State, tools are needed for beef producers to better understand their farm's profitability and financial position. Mike Baker, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist of Cornell University, and more than a dozen CCE offices are working together to make **FINPACK**, a respected farm business analytical tool, available across the state. Further, the data that is generated from the project can be confidentially aggregated for New York State to create benchmarks for the industry. Our livestock operations are very different from other parts of the country, so benchmarks for our specific region are important.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING:

VALUABLE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

FINPACK will prepare financial statements and documents, including: Balance Sheets Cash Flow Statements; Income Statements; and Budgets

BENCHMARKS

Compare your farm to other similar operations in New York State

IMPROVE YOUR RECORDS

Keep better financial records

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS OVER TIME

Compare your production and financial results from year to year
For information on how to participate contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office (<http://ansci.cornell.edu/wp/beefcattle/field-staff/>) or Mike Baker, Beef Extension Specialist, 607-255-5923, mjb28@cornell.edu.



Photo by: Andrew Dufresne

OSHA Dairy Inspections

From the ProDairy News written by Curt Gooch and Karl Czymmek

OSHA is planning to target New York State Dairy Farms with random, unannounced inspections. OSHA can inspect certain businesses based on four priorities:

1. Imminent danger
2. Catastrophes and fatal accidents
3. Complaints and referrals
4. Programmed inspections

While regulated farms can be inspected under any one of these OSHA priorities, the upcoming focus on NYS dairy farms is related to item 4: Programmed inspections.

Farms that are subject to a Programmed inspection have:

- had more than 10 employees, not including immediate family members, at any time in the past 12 months preceding the day an inspector shows up (a part time employee counts as “1”); and/or
- provided housing to temporary labor (employees hired for a specific period of time and are not full-time, permanent staff) at any time in the past 12 months preceding the day an inspector shows up, even if the housing was only for just one person. There are several tests for this provision and producers should evaluate further.

Though safety should be a priority at any farm operation, farms that do not fall into the above categories are not subject to OSHA activities. We understand that the first task of an OSHA inspector during a visit is to determine if the farm is eligible for inspection activity. If the farm is exempt, inspectors depart the farm immediately. Therefore, it is important for a dairy producer and staff to know if the farm meets the OSHA exemption. This is likely to generate some questions, and there will be regional meetings this fall to help sort out these issues. OSHA has also been very clear that inspectors will NOT be asking about employee immigration status. There are a few areas that non-exempt farms can work on right away as part of preparing for an OSHA inspection by implementing the following items:

- PTO drive units and shafts are properly shielded and protected (same for belts, chains and rotating shafts on other equipment and machinery around the operation);
 - Slow moving vehicle emblems are clean, bright and not faded and equipment safety lighting is in good working order;
 - Farm tractors manufactured after October 25, 1976 are equipped with a Roll Over Protection Structure (ROPS) and a seat belt in good working order (there are two exceptions: low profile tractors and tractors when used with mounted equipment that is not compatible with ROPS);
 - Develop an inventory list of all chemicals, create a file with MSDSs (in Spanish where appropriate) for each chemical and make sure all chemical containers are labeled. MSDSs can be obtained directly from the manufacturer.
- ◆ SHARPS program, The On-site Consultation Program's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) recognizes small business employers who operate an exemplary injury and illness prevention program. Acceptance of your worksite into SHARP from OSHA is an achievement of status that singles you out among your business peers as a model for worksite safety and health. Upon receiving SHARP recognition, **OSHA exempts your worksite from OSHA programmed inspections during the period that your SHARP certification is valid.** For more information visit: <https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/sharp.html>



CCE Erie County Ag Staff Updates...

On January 20th, CCE hosted a discussion of resources available from Cornell and UB for communities and producers considering using the fertilizer byproduct that will be one of the outputs from the biodigester built in West Seneca. CCE will continue to work within our networks to determine next steps and how we might further research the agricultural use of biodigestion products in our area.

CCE-Erie will be part of a project in the city of Buffalo in 2014 to collect paired soil and vegetable/fruit tissue samples which will be tested for uptake of key heavy metals. As part of a NYS DEC Environmental Justice Community Impact or Green Gems grant, in collaboration with Seneca Street Development Corp. in the Seneca-Babcock neighborhood, this two-year project will collect samples from urban farms and gardens in underserved areas of the city.

In the calendar section be sure to note upcoming programs with ECSWD, some containing pesticide re-certification credits. We appreciate this opportunity to continue to provide educational opportunities with ECSWD.

Sharon Bachman, *Community Educator for Agriculture and NY Invasive Species (IS) Outreach Program*, continues to be active with the WNY EAB Taskforce and working with our partners to minimize impacts. Education is key to understanding that being pro-active will save money in the long run depending on your situation. Informed area residents have a role to play in identifying new areas of emerald ash borer infestation, thus expanding our known infestation area and allowing our communities and land-owners to plan accordingly.

In her role with the NYIS Outreach Program, Sharon is working on a number of tasks including a factsheet on wild parsnip, presentations at winter meetings (from forest owners to dairy) on invasives and programs for school and 4-H groups.

Megan Burley, the *Farm Business Management Educator* for Erie County CCE has been working on several projects. On February 10th the Green Shoots for New American's refugee classes begin. Megan will be teaching 20 refugees from several different countries (Burma, Nepal, Iraq) how to farm in the United States. Many of the refugees have never experienced climate like Buffalo before. The classes will go over several different things important to agriculture in Erie County: fertilizer, composting, and seasons to name a few. This summer the class will be working on Journey's end Refugee Services urban farm on Brewster Street in Buffalo. The farm is 1/3 of an acre that will have several raised beds as well as a 36ft long high tunnel. Along with this project, Megan is exploring ideas for workforce development as well as working with dairy farms in Erie County and other business related workshops.

Cheryl Thayer, *Agricultural Economic Development Specialist*, is back from maternity leave after having her little baby girl. Cheryl is working on the buyer/producer survey for the Food Hub Feasibility Study. The survey closes on February 6th with a follow up meeting and discussion on February 24th. Survey results will be shared and there will be a producer and wholesale buyer panel discussion. The meeting will be held from 10-3 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Erie County Office, 21 South Grove St, East Aurora NY, 14052. To RSVP, please visit www.fieldandforknetwork.com or call 716-465-5704.

Visit us on the web at www.cce.cornell.edu/erie



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Erie County

21 South Grove Street

East Aurora, NY 14052

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Erie County provides equal program and employment opportunities.