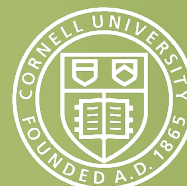


Erie County Ag News



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- Mental Health Support in WNY
- Are you Monitoring SWD on Your Farm?
- CCE Erie's Pilot Product Development and Marketing Workshop
- Management Practices for High Organic Matter Soils
- Agritourism in Western NY and Niagara Region



AG STAFF



Sharon Bachman sin2@cornell.edu
Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator,
CCE Erie



John Whitney jrw44@cornell.edu
Agriculture Educator, CCE Erie
(Marketing, Taste NY)



Kathleen McCormick km864@cornell.edu
Agriculture Educator, CCE Erie
(Regional Navigator, Farmland for a New
Generation)



Elizabeth Buck emb273@cornell.edu
Regional Vegetable Specialist,
Cornell Vegetable Program



Amy Barkley amb55@cornell.edu
Livestock and Small Farms, SWNYDLFC



Becky O'Connor rao84@cornell.edu
Farm to Institution Coordinator, Harvest NY



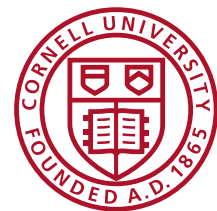
Mallory Hohl mdh286@cornell.edu
Urban Garden Specialist, Harvest NY



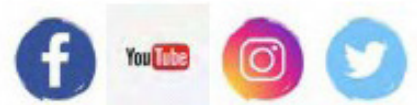
Jolie Hibit jah663@cornell.edu
Agriculture Administrative Assistant

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Follow CCE Erie on social media to receive up to date news and announcements!



Cover photo Pixabay



UPCOMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

“Hands-On” Animal Care Dairy Training Program at R&D Adams Dairy Farms, LLC

March 20, 2024 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

R&D Adams Dairy Farms, LLC

Randolph, NY

Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell PRO-DAIRY are excited to invite you to our upcoming Hands-On Animal Care Dairy Training Program.

More details: <https://swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2342>

2024 NYS Dry Bean Meeting and Cutting Event

March 22, 2024

Geneva, NY



The NYS Dry Bean Meeting will be paired with the annual Dry Bean Cutting Event again this year! 1.5 DEC credits will be available in categories 10, 1a, 21, 23. CCA credits will be available too.

Register at: <https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1907>

NY Pork Producers 2024 Annual Meeting

March 23, 2024 8am

The Lux Hotel

Waterloo, NY

Pork Producers interested in current swine production and youth interested in swine showmanship are invited and encouraged to attend. Pre-registration is encouraged by March 9th.

More details: <https://swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2354>

2024 DEC Special Permit Training -- Orleans County

April 10, 2024

English and Spanish: 8:00 am check-in, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

CCE Orleans County, Albion, NY

Special Permits (SP) will relieve the certified pesticide applicator from “on-site within voice contact” supervision of non-certified pesticide applicators when they are handling federally-restricted-use pesticides for which they hold a Special Permit.

Register at: <https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1904>

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Training Program for Meat & Poultry Processing

April 17 - April 18, 2024

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

The course is taught by Penn State University instructors Martin Bucknavage, Senior Extension Program Specialist, and Jonathan Campbell, Associate Professor and Extension Meat Specialist. The training course covers the fundamentals of HACCP for meat and poultry processing operations. It provides participants with hands-on experience in developing a HACCP plan.

Register at: <https://swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2355>

Mental Health Support in WNY

John Whitney, Agriculture Educator, CCE Erie County

Why is it so hard to talk about mental health? Why the stigma? Why the secrecy? We don't and generally can't hide our broken arms or even our bouts of flu or chicken pox. Yet when it comes to brain health, even at the crisis level, we often struggle in silence. We often avoid seeking help or acknowledging the challenges we are facing, even with friends and loved ones.

The farming community in New York State is fortunate to have services and support which is not available in many other states. [New York FarmNet](#), the "always free, always confidential" service has been operating since 1986. FarmNet's 24/7 number is 1-800-547-3276. While not meant to replace nationwide crisis prevention hotlines, NY FarmNet is a place to start a dialogue with trained and experienced professionals who have a unique understanding of the challenges of working in agriculture. Based on the Cornell University Campus, FarmNet also has important connections with Cooperative Extension and the Dyson JC Johnson College of Business along with the vast resources of Cornell.

The [Erie County Department of Mental Health](#) maintains a robust web portal with links for many different services and references. Many materials are also available in Spanish and other languages commonly spoken in Erie County. Example: [newslettermentalhealthspanish.pdf \(erie.gov\)](#)

- Erie County's own 24/7 [Crisis Services Hotline](#) is: 716-834-3131.
- Erie County's 24-hour [Addiction Hotline](#) is 716-831-7007.

- The [Spectrum C.A.R.E.S Team](#) helps families and children in crisis: 716-882-4357.
- The **Erie County Department of Mental Health** provides a long list of mental health support and crisis intervention services at [Programs & Services | Mental Health \(erie.gov\)](#)
- [The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE \(7233\); TTY 1-800-787-3224](#); Chat & Text are also available. Text "START" to 88788.
- [Veterans Crisis Line](#): Dial 988 then press 1. Chat and Text are also available. Text 838255.
- [Farm Aid](#) provides support services to farm families in crisis, including mental health, business support and more. They are available Monday through Friday, 9am – 10pm EST. 1-800-FARMAID.
- **Rural Minds** (based in Chautauqua County serving WNY and beyond): <https://www.ruralminds.org/> (800) 226-8113.

Rural Minds provides information and resources to help confront the mental health emergency in rural America and the stigma that surrounds mental illness. The [Rural Minds website](#) has web pages that serve as a portal with free resources on [mental health crisis information](#), [mental health resources by topic](#), and [from A to Z](#).

Publicly available free services sometimes need to be supplemented with ongoing mental health care. Primary care physicians can provide referrals (which may be required for insurance purposes, too). The nationwide organization [MentalHealthClinics.org](#) has the single



1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year.



2,802,000 adults in New York have a mental health condition.

That's more than **10X** the population of Buffalo.

It is more important than ever to build a stronger mental health system that provides the care, support and services needed to help people build better lives.



More than half of Americans report that **COVID-19** has had a **negative impact** on their mental health.

In February 2021, **35.8% of adults in New York** reported symptoms of **anxiety or depression**.

20.2% were unable to get needed counseling or therapy.



1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year.

In New York, **591,000 adults** have a **serious mental illness**.



1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6–17 experience a **mental health disorder** each year.

145,000 New Yorkers age 12–17 have depression.

New Yorkers struggle to get the help they need.



More than half of people with a mental health condition in the U.S. **did not receive any treatment** in the last year.

Of the **763,000 adults in New York** who **did not receive needed mental health care**, **36.1%** did not because of cost.

5.3% of people in the state are uninsured.



New Yorkers are over **10x more likely to be forced out-of-network** for mental health care than for primary health care — making it more difficult to find care and less affordable due to higher out-of-pocket costs.

4,102,718 people in New York live in a community that **does not have enough mental health professionals**.

purpose of helping people connect with mental health services. Entering an Erie County zip code in the search box brings up a long list of Erie County clinics and services.

Increasingly, people are looking to web-based mental health counseling services. While generally not free, they can be particularly useful and convenient for farmers who have a difficult time getting away from the farm during typical counseling service office hours. An internet search for “best online mental health counseling” will bring various lists and reviews.

When people are in crisis, it can be frustrating to be told you can’t get an appointment for days, weeks, or even months. The hotline numbers are particularly important for those times. 911 can be the most appropriate option although the new [988 system](#) is specifically designed for suicide prevention and mental health crisis intervention.

Farmers face challenges that are somewhat unique to agriculture. Would you be interested in participating in a FarmNet counselor-facilitated group discussion? CCE-Erie and CCE-Wyoming are planning a group screening of the film “[On the Farm](#)” for area farmers and mental health service providers. The film viewing will be followed by a

guided dialogue. Sessions are also being planned in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties and in other locations across the state. Watch for more details. You can also view the film independently, with family or staff, or with trusted friends and advisors.

This discussion started by asking why it is hard to talk about mental health and why the stigma. According to various sources, 1 in 5 Western New Yorkers live with some form of mental health diagnosis. The regional organization, the [Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition](#) is taking this issue on with opportunities for dialogue and interaction under its, [Let’s Talk Stigma initiative](#). You might even personally take the [“Pledge to End Stigma.”](#)

Additional resources are available through these services:

- [988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) (NYOMH Webpage)
- [Rural Mental Health Information Hub](#)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)
- [Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network - Cultivemos](#) ■

MENTAL HEALTH ALLIES IN ERIE COUNTY

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES DIAL 911
SUICIDE PREVENTION & CRISIS LIFELINE DIAL 988

LOCAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Crisis Services 716-834-3131
 24-hour hotline

ECMC Help Center 716-898-1594
 Virtual visit hours: M-F 8am-9:30pm
 Walk-in hours: M-F 8am-10:30pm

Erie County Warmline 716-248-2941
 (non-crisis calls) text 716-392-2221
 Peer support 5pm-11pm
 A warmline is a confidential line for people who are having difficulty coping with life experiences.

Family Justice Center 716-558-7233
 Domestic violence support

Kids' Helpline 716-834-1144

Mental Health Advocates of WNY 716-886-1242

National Alliance on Mental Wellness (NAMI) of Buffalo & Erie County 716-226-6264

Spectrum CARES for families & children in crisis 716-882-4357

Substance Use 24-Hour Hotline 716-831-7007

FOR YOUR WIRELESS DEVICE

Erie Path is Erie County's new smartphone app that helps parents and caregivers address mental and behavioral health challenges faced by children and adolescents. To explore, scan the code below or visit www.erie.gov/eriepath.



NEED MORE SUPPORT?

WNY Health and Human Services Dial 211
 211 WNY is a 24-hour free and confidential link to health and human services. Connect to services and assistance related to food and nutrition, health and wellness, housing, legal aid, mental health, substance use, support groups, domestic abuse, tax preparation, and more.



The Erie County Office of Health Equity offers **FREE** Mental Health First Aid Training for Adults Interacting with Other Adults AND Adults Interacting with Youth **for individuals and community groups.** For more information, visit www.erie.gov/mhfa. 716-858-2385

THIS FREE RESOURCE IS OFFERED BY THE



Erie County Department of Health



Public Health
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.

OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY
www.erie.gov/health-equity

ENGLISH

MENTAL HEALTH ALLIES NATIONAL HOTLINES

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

DIAL 911

SUICIDE PREVENTION & CRISIS LIFELINE DIAL 988

Crisis Text Line

741741

Free 24-hour text message support.

Disaster Distress Helpline 1-800-985-5990

24-hour support from SAMHSA to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters.

Domestic Violence Line 1-800-799-7233

Free 24-hour support for anyone who is experiencing domestic violence, looking for information or questioning unhealthy aspects of their relationship.

Employee Assistance Program or EAP

Call your employer's Human Resources (HR) Department for more information.

Farm Aid 1-800-FARMAID

Support services to farm families in crisis, including mental health, business support and more.

National Eating Disorders Association Helpline 1-800-931-2237

Support for people struggling with eating disorders and their loved ones.

PREGNANCY & POSTPARTUM SUPPORT



National Maternal Mental Health Hotline 1-833-852-6262

24-hour hotline for calls or texts. Interpreters available for 60 languages.

Postpartum Resource Center of NY 1-855-631-0001

Available 9am-5pm every day.

Teen to Teen 1-877-YOUTHLINE

Peer Counseling Hopeline

LGBTQIA+ SUPPORT



LGBT National Hotline 1-888-843-4564

LGBT National Youth Talkline 1-888-246-7743

LGBT National Senior Hotline 1-888-234-7243

LGBT National Coming Out Support Hotline 1-888-688-5428

Trans Lifeline 1-877-565-8860
Trans Lifeline is a peer support and crisis hotline.

Trevor Project 1-866-488-7386
24-hour confidential LGBTQ crisis text 678-678 hotline for people ages 13-24.

Veterans Crisis Line Dial 988 then Press 1

24-hour confidential support for Veterans and their loved ones. VA benefits or VA healthcare is NOT required.

Virtual Respite 1-833-361-6130

Confidential teleconferencing program for people who are having difficulties coping with life experiences. Operates noon to 10pm every day.

TIP FOR NATIVE LANGUAGE SPEAKERS

Many providers use interpretation services to increase language access. Instead of asking for "Spanish," try asking for the specific place of origin ("Puerto Rico"). This will help the service provide the correct dialect, if available.

updated 11/23

Resources to Minimize the Language Barrier

Mary Lewis, Cornell University

At the 2024 Becker Forum in Syracuse, hosted by the New York State Vegetable Growers Association, farm owners requested some resources from the Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development to help bridge the gap between language barriers. Below are some of the tools to help your workforce overcome some of these common issues on farm:

Translation Tool for Any Language:

[SpanishDict](#): all-encompassing app with translation capabilities and even basic lessons.

[Lingee](#): for translation accuracy; it compares against other previously translated materials.

Camera Translator ([Apple](#)) ([Android](#)) move your camera over words and have them translated in real time.

[Talkao](#) – voice translator

[Whatsapp](#) – all internationals use this app because it is free (off of using Wi-Fi) to talk globally. Inside of Whatsapp there is a small button that uses GoogleTranslate ([Apple](#)) ([Android](#)) to translate any messages. (Only for Android, Apple will need to copy and paste)

Language Learning Apps for any phone (free versions tend to be limited):

[Duolingo](#)

[Babbel](#)

[Memrise](#)

[AnkiMobile](#) or [AnkiDroid](#) (flashcard apps)

[Tandem Language Exchange](#) (talk to real people in their native language)

[Italki](#) (real teachers, pay per tutoring session)

[Rype](#) (one on one instruction – cost: 8 lessons/

month is \$59.99/month for a six-month subscription)

[L360](#) (Droid/Android) / [L360](#) (Apple) – [News in Slow Spanish](#) – depending on level of the student

Learn Spanish Tools:

Classes:

University of Wisconsin Farm and Industry SPANISH FOR DAIRY INDUSTRY SERIES (Fall 2024, SPRING 2025) Cost around \$200 per series

Agvo Kate: 8-week sessions featuring live Zoom sessions, catered specifically for the Agricultural world. Cost \$598

Spanish Pod 101 – Short Audio & Video Lessons for Fast and Easy Learning

Free Written Materials:

[Spanish for Agribusiness Owners](#) by Michigan State University

[Bilingual Dairy Workers Flashcards](#) by the University of WI-Extension

Podcasts:

[Easy Spanish](#)

[News in Slow Spanish](#)

[CoffeeBreak Spanish](#)

[Duolingo Spanish Podcast](#)

[Learn Spanish con Salsa](#)

[Doorway to Mexico](#)

[Radio Ambulante](#)

[StoryLearning Spanish](#)

Uplevel Dairy Podcast – For dairy owners and managers about business, management and leadership with some sessions in Spanish.

We need your help...

Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development wants to start a list of resources farms have used and enjoyed. And we are looking to compile a list of verified translators all over New York and beyond so that farm owners can access their help for farm meetings and other events. If you are know of any great resources you would like to share with us to add to our current list and if you know of any translators that would like to be on our online contact list, please email Mary Bess Lewis at ml2656@cornell.edu

Share this information in Spanish with your workforce:

Recursos escritos para aprender inglés:

Fragmentos de audio: La Universidad de California ofrece un recurso con audios en su página de web: Learn English Audio

Recursos Escritos:

Recurso bilingüe de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA) sobre Protéjase de los pesticidas PDF

De la Extensión de la Universidad de Tennessee: Rotafolio bilingüe del Estándar de Protección del Trabajador PDF

La Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA) tiene una Guía de traducción al español para el etiquetado de pesticidas PDF

Libreta de ejercicios y CD: Inglés para hispanohablantes

Podcasts para aprender inglés:

Podcasts:

Inglés desde Cero

Tips para mejorar tu INGLÉS /Superholly Dosis Diarias de Inglés

Aprender Inglés: Números 1-101 (The Earbookers) (Apple) (Spotify)

YouTube:

Inglés Pa Mi Gente: Capítulo 1/Las 300 Palabras más usadas en ingles de USA

Aprende ingles con Superholly

Inglesamericano101

APPS: Aplicaciones de aprendizaje de idiomas para cualquier teléfono (las versiones gratuitas tienden a ser limitadas):

Duolingo

Babbel

Memrise

AnkiMobile or AnkiDroid (tarjetas didácticas de aprendizaje)

Tandem Language Exchange (Habla con personas reales en su lengua materna)

Italki (Profesores reales, pago por sesión de tutoría)

Rype (Instrucción individual – Costo: 8 lecciones / mes es \$ 59.99 / mes por una suscripción de seis meses)

Necesitamos su ayuda...

El Departamento de Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral Agrícola de Cornell quiere comenzar una lista de los recursos que los ranchos ven útiles para el desarrollo lingüístico. Y estamos buscando compilar una lista de traductores verificados en todo Nueva York y más allá para que los propietarios del rancho puedan acceder a su ayuda para reuniones y otros eventos. Si conoce algún recurso excelente que le gustaría compartir con nosotros para agregar a nuestra lista actual y si conoce a algún traductor que le gustaría estar en nuestra lista de contactos en nuestro sitio de web, envíe un correo electrónico a María Bess Lewis al ml2656@cornell.edu. ■



Cornell Cooperative Extension

**AGRICULTURAL
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

Are You Monitoring for SWD on Your Farm?

Anna Elizabeth Wallis



Are you monitoring for SWD (Spotted Wing Drosophila) on your farm? We'd like to know! Please complete this brief survey about your SWD monitoring. https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2iBzQU9NpKO1WK0

Traps in the SWD monitoring network are located on commercial farms, and typically serviced by Cornell Extension Personnel or grower collaborators. In addition, some growers have begun servicing their own traps, with our guidance or from reading the online resources. This survey will help us understand berry industry needs and plan monitoring for future seasons. We appreciate you taking the time to help!

2023 Monitoring Results. In 2023, the SWD monitoring network included 118 monitoring locations in 24 counties, maintained by 18 individuals. First trap captures were reported from June 13-July 20, and sustained captures a week later (sustained capture = SWD detected at least two weeks in a row). This is considerably later than average; in many years, first capture occurs in mid-May, almost a month earlier! 2023 was a brilliant example of

how monitoring can be used to delay pesticide applications until insects are present, saving time, labor, and materials.

Acknowledgements. I'd like to extend a huge thanks to Dr. Juliet Carroll and the many collaborators around NY state who have provided support for SWD in this trap comparison project for the past three years, as well as the monitoring network and blog since 2013!

2023 Collaborators:

- Amy Edwards, Burdick Blueberries
- Anya Osatuke, Harvest New York, CCE
- Dan Gilrein, Suffolk County CCE
- Don Gasiewicz, Wyoming County CCE
- Elisabeth Hodgdon, ENYCHP, CCE
- Elizabeth Tee, Lake Ontario Fruit Program (LOF), CCE
- Gary Phelps, Gary's Berries
- James O'Connell, Ulster County CCE
- Janet van Zoeren, Lake Ontario Fruit Program (LOF), CCE
- Jared Dyer, Suffolk County CCE ■

CCE Erie's Pilot Product Development and Marketing Workshop

We had an enthusiastic group of a few dozen people attend our pilot “Product Development and Marketing Workshop” on March 7 at the Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP). Specialists from the Cornell Food Venture Center presented a product development and marketing workshop focused on food safety, regulatory compliance, and supportive resources for small food manufacturers and value-added food processors in Western New York. There was a sense of community in the test kitchen as participants had the opportunity to test their food samples.

The session was sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, Taste NY at the Western NY Welcome Center and Center of Excellence for Food and Agriculture at Cornell AgriTech. ■



All photos by John Whitney

USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program General Signup for 2024

USDA-Farm Service Agency

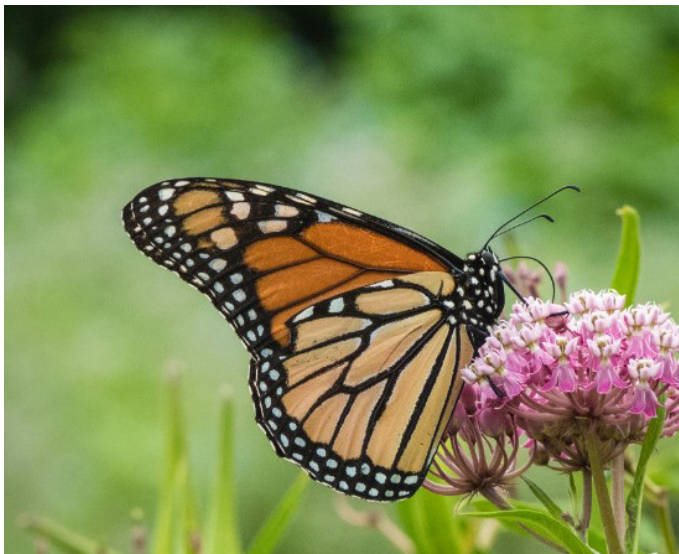


Photo USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin signing up for the general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting March 4 and running through March 29, 2024. This conservation opportunity gives producers tools to conserve wildlife habitat while achieving other conservation benefits, including sequestering carbon and improving water quality and soil health.

“The USDA has a long track record of fostering and supporting the vital relationship between agriculture and conservation, and the Conservation Reserve Program helps our producers be good stewards of their lands and boost wildlife populations at the same time,” said Jim Barber, FSA State Executive Director in New York. “These efforts demonstrate the power of

USDA’s Farm Bill conservation programs to conserve wildlife habitat, protect clean water and address climate change in partnership with farmers, ranchers, forest owners and conservation organizations across the country.”

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through Sept. 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including CRP, to continue operating.

As one of the largest private lands conservation programs in the United States, CRP offers a range of conservation options to farmers, ranchers, and landowners. It has been an especially strong opportunity for farmers with less productive or marginal cropland, helping them re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat.

Producers and landowners enrolled about 926,000 acres in General CRP in 2023, bringing the total of enrolled acres in General CRP to 7.78 million. This, combined with all other acres in CRP through other enrollment opportunities, such as Grassland and Continuous CRP, bring the current total of enrolled acres to 24.8 million.

General CRP

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

General CRP is one of several ways agricultural producers and private landowners can participate in the program.

Other CRP Options

This past January FSA began accepting applications for the Continuous CRP signup. Under this enrollment, producers and landowners can enroll in CRP throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

The USDA also offers financial assistance to producers and landowners enrolled in CRP to improve the health of their forests through the Forest Management Incentive (FMI), which can help participants with forest management practices, such as brush management and prescribed burning.

FSA will announce the dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a

beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

How to Sign Up

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines.

More Information

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits. ■



Photo Aurthr Pawlak from Pixabay

Management Practices for High Organic Matter Soils

Lori Koenick, Cornell Vegetable Program



Photo from Cornell Vegetable Program, Cornell Harvest NY

As seed catalogs are being read at the kitchen table, let's take a moment to talk about soil health. We are exploring management practices for vegetable farmers with high organic matter soils. These soils are usually found in urban growing areas as urban farmers typically grow in imported soil mixtures that have been constructed over time and in high tunnels where leaching events are limited. In both cases, we see that soil pH and calcium levels can increase due to alkaline irrigation water and with grower inputs such as high levels of compost and/or fertilizer. We commonly see limited plant nutrient uptake due to high soil pH. We have produced four "Management Practices for Urban Soil Health" case studies sharing project updates in our urban cover crop, pH adjustment, and bulk density adjustment work. In each case study, we are looking at the effect of the management

practice on soil and crop health. Summaries of each are below and you can find full text at our website: <https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/>

Management Practices for Urban Soil Health: Cover Cropping

Here are findings from a demonstration trial on an urban farm in Erie County looking at the effect of growing oats and an oats/hairy vetch mixture cover crop on soil and crop health compared to bare ground controls. Cover crops offer numerous management benefits and have been shown to enhance soil carbon and nitrogen in rural settings. Yet, they have not been sufficiently evaluated in urban agriculture. Urban growers can be limited to cover crops that are suitable for intensively managed spaces. Further deterring adoption,

many growers do not possess the equipment needed to terminate and incorporate a cover crop compared to their rural counterparts. In this case study, we describe cover crop planting and management strategies. Soil test results are mixed, yet we found some evidence of cover crop benefits on urban farms.

Management Practices for Urban Soil Health: pH Adjustment

Here we share findings from a demonstration trial on an urban farm in Erie County looking at the effect of pH adjustment in high tunnels using elemental sulfur applications. A critical component of the chemical dimension of soil, pH affects what nutrients are available for crop uptake. The majority of urban agricultural soils in New York State exhibit a pH between 7.1 and 8.1, well above recommended ranges for most vegetable crops. In this demonstration trial, we had a treatment plot where elemental sulfur was applied twice over a three-year period and a control plot. In our soil and foliar test results, we found some evidence of elemental sulfur lowering soil pH. Further work looking at the duration of the effect and application rates are warranted. We also noted high soil calcium levels which we speculate could impact the effects of sulfur application on soil pH and high salt levels which could stress plants and affect yields. Management strategies are discussed.

Management Practices for Urban Soil Health: pH Adjustment in NYC

Here we discuss more findings on the effect of pH adjustment using elemental sulfur applications in a demonstration trial at a New York City urban farm. At this farm, farmers were interested in sulfur applications to lower soil pH to increase crop yields and to manage pillbug root feeding damage on radish. In this demonstration trial, we had two treatment plots where elemental sulfur was applied twice over a two-year period and two control plots. In our soil test results, we found evidence of elemental sulfur lowering soil pH. Farmers reported increased yields and reduced pillbug damage in treated areas.

We plan to continue exploring the effects of pH adjustment at this site with foliar testing.

Management Practices for Urban Soil Health: Correcting Nutrient Test Results for Soils with High Organic Matter

In this case study, we describe our work assessing whether bulk density adjustments can substantially change the recommendations that accompany a soil test, especially for soils where large amounts of compost and purchased soil mixes are used. These soils with especially high levels of organic matter often have much lower bulk densities than predominantly mineral soils. We measured the bulk density of soils at nine urban farms along with standard soil nutrient tests and, where possible, foliar tests to measure nutrient levels present in the plants. We found that before adjusting for bulk density, the majority of our soil tests showed potassium falling in the “optimal” range. After the adjustment, the majority showed potassium at “below optimal.” This discrepancy can be the difference between recommending no additional potassium to recommending considerable rates of potassium soil amendments. For anyone puzzling over a disconnect between soil test results and nutrient deficiencies in the field, with a soil that’s high in organic matter, this approach might be worth a try.

Interested in learning more?

Contact project team members Sam Anderson (swa39@cornell.edu) of CCE Harvest NY, Lori Koenick (lbk75@cornell.edu) or Judson Reid (jer11@cornell.edu) of the CCE Cornell Vegetable Program.

This work is funded by a USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant “Best Management Strategies for High Organic Soils in Urban and Rural Vegetable Production.” ■

Early Season Peas in the High Tunnel

Natasha Field, Program Aide, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program



Photos: Bush peas growing on a vertical plastic mesh (Left) and Sugar Snap and bush peas in a Florida weave trellis (Right). Photo credit: Natasha Field

Growing peas in a high tunnel in the spring is an effective way to bring them to market three to four weeks earlier than field grown peas. In the Capital District of NY, peas generally are planted in mid-April and begin bearing late June in the field. But planting them in a high tunnel in March allows for the plants to grow and reach harvest starting around the last week of May and first week of June.

Benefits

- Harvest three to four weeks earlier
- Seed corn maggot avoidance - peas germinate before first flight of seed corn maggot emerges

- Decreased risk of disease - reduced leaf wetness lessens disease pressure compared to field grown peas

Cultural Recommendations

In our trials, peas were placed in single rows, two feet apart. We recommend trellising, both because of the narrow spacing and because the plants may be double the height in the tunnel that they are outside. Peas can be trellised with either vertical floral netting or a Florida weave with twine and t-posts. Both short (24-36 inch tall) and tall (48-60 inch tall) varieties can be grown in this system provided sufficient trellising is in place.

Managing the temperatures in the high tunnel should be a priority. After the temperatures get above 80F and the humidity is high, disease issues can begin to appear.

Harvesting twice a week is recommended for best quality, especially once the weather begins to get hot. Excessive heat can cause off-flavor issues in the peas. Some varieties may produce pods until mid-July but it might not be economically worthwhile to keep high tunnel peas beyond the end of June, depending on your markets and outdoor pea production.

For high tunnels that have been in production for many years, following an early pea crop with a late summer cover crop after may be an option for improving soil health and helping to reduce disease pressure in other cash crops, like tomato or cucumber.

Additional resources:

[2020 Pea Variety Trial](#) | Natasha Field and Crystal Stewart-Courtens. CCE ENYCHP | 2020

[2021 Pea Variety Trial](#) | Natasha Field and Crystal Stewart-Courtens. CCE ENYCHP | 2021

Erie Grown
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Agritourism in Western NY and the Niagara Region - 2024 Update

Compiled by John Whitney, CCE Erie Agriculture Educator

No compilation is ever 100% complete and some listings are out of date shortly after they are printed. Still, we hope these references and links will help you explore the many agritourism opportunities in the region in addition to many general references on the topic. Other options include searching for “Farm Stay” locations, checking out the web pages and social media sites of individual businesses, or just stopping by farm stands and markets when they are open and visiting with the operators. Links at the end of this list are a few that may be useful if you are considering adding agritourism to your marketing mix or expanding your agritourism activities.

New York State Senator Patrick Gallivan’s Agritourism Guide

https://www.scribd.com/document/320083106/Gallivan-Agritourism-Guide-JUNE-2016#from_embed

Visit Buffalo/Niagara – Niagara Wine Trail

<https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/business-type/niagara-wine-trail/>

Western New York Beer Trail

<https://wnybeertrail.com/>

Wyoming County Agritourism

<https://www.gowyomingcountyny.com/explore/experience/agri-tourism>

Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Office of Agriculture – ErieGrown Passport & Agritourism Map

<https://www3.erie.gov/eriegrown/erie-grown-passport>

<https://www2.erie.gov/environment/sites/www2.erie.gov/environment/files/uploads/Final%20AgriTourism%20Map%202017.pdf>

WKBW Channel 7 – A Guide to Farm Markets Across Western New York 2022

<https://www.wkbw.com/news/local-news/a-guide-to-farmers-markets-across-western-new-york-for-2022>

Edible Western New York – A Guide to Farmers Markets in Western New York

<https://ediblewesternny.ediblecommunities.com/shop/guide-farmers-markets-western-ny>

Find Your Farmer in Western New York (Facebook Group)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/893902477748081>

Genesee Country Magazine – Things to Do

<https://www.westernny.com/things.html>

Step Out Buffalo – Guide to Farm Markets 2021 / U-pick Farms

<https://stepoutbuffalo.com/guide-to-farmers-markets-in-wny-2021/>

<https://stepoutbuffalo.com/u-pick-farms-check-season-wny/>



Photo: Pixabay

Taste New York Market at the Western New York Welcome Center

<https://taste.ny.gov/location/western-new-york-welcome-center>

Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau – Farms & Farmers Markets

<https://www.tourchautauqua.com/explore/farms-and-markets>

Farmer Stands and Farm Markets in Western New York (Facebook Group)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/798098007240731>

Western New York Deals and ToDos

<https://www.wnydealsandtodos.com/wny-farms-and-u-pick/>

WNY Maple

<https://wnymaple.com/>

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets – Find a Farmers’ Market

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/farmersmarkets>

References & Guidelines (CCE-Tioga County)

<http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/for-farmers/agritourism>

Getting Started in Agritourism Handbook (CCE- Monroe County)

<http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/resources/getting-started-in-agritourism>

New York State COVID-19 Response

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets – Guidance for Safety in Agricultural Tourism Act

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/news/state-agriculture-commissioner-releases-guidance-safety-agricultural-tourism-act>

Cornell Small Farms Program – Best Management Practices for Agritourism During the COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/best-management-practices-for-agritourism-covid/>

Recently, Cornell Cooperative Extension established a statewide Program Work Team (PWT) focused on agritourism. The PWT holds nearly monthly, online agritourism workshops. Those workshops are recorded and available on the PWT’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@cceagritourism> ■

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Erie County**

21 South Grove Street
East Aurora, NY 14729
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Erie County Ag News

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County

**ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN FARMS,
FARMLAND, AND FOOD PRODUCTION IN
ERIE COUNTY IS INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE IN:**

ERIE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN PUBLIC FORUMS

Tuesday, April 2nd | 6-8pm
Clarence Town Hall
One Town Place, Clarence

Tuesday, April 16th | 6-8pm
Holland Town Hall
47 Pearl Street, Holland

Tuesday, April 9th | 6-8pm
North Collins Senior Center
11065 Gowanda State Rd.
N. Collins

Thursday, April 18th | 6-8pm
Delavan-Grider Community Ctr.
877 E. Delavan Ave.,
Buffalo

Friday, April 12th | 12-1pm
Virtual | bit.ly/agplanmeeting1 | Registration is required.

CONTACT

Sarah Gatti, Principal Planner, at agriculture@erie.gov



Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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