Our Mission

“The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices, and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry.”
It’s early July; how clean are your corn fields? Wet weather in May and June was not ideal for planting crops, not to mention applying preemergence corn herbicides. In June, there were a considerable number of corn fields that had yet to be sprayed with an herbicide. We are now at a point in the growing season when this is your last chance to get the weeds controlled in your corn fields.

Before a field of taller corn is sprayed you need to ask the question “How tall can the corn be when you spray?”. Postemergence corn herbicides have restrictions on the maximum height of the corn at the time of application. Once corn reaches 12 inches tall, atrazine and atrazine-containing premixes are not an option. There is even a 30” corn height restriction for glyphosate applied to glyphosate-tolerant (Roundup Ready) corn and a 24” corn height restriction for glufosinate applied to glufosinate-tolerant (Liberty Link) corn.

Late postemergence herbicide choices for conventional corn are somewhat limited once the corn exceeds 20 inches in height. Most, if not all, late total postemergence conventional corn herbicide programs will require more than one product in the tank mix. Correctly identifying the weeds present and actually measuring the heights of both the corn and weeds will be critical. The heights of the weeds will often times dictate the rates of many of these herbicides. Pay close attention to the herbicide labels and the adjuvants necessary to add to the spray tank.

Here is a list of many postemergence herbicides and the over-the-top maximum corn heights as listed on the label for taller corn:

- Accent Q-20” or V6
- Acuron Flexi-30” or V8
- Aim- V8
- Armezon Pro-30” or V8
- Banvel/Clarity- 36”
- Buctril-Before tassel
- Callisto- 30” or V8
- Callisto GT-30” or V8
- Capreno-V6
- Diflexx-V10 or 36” whichever comes first
- Diflexx DUO-36” or V7 (7th leaf collar)
- Halex GT-30” or V8
- Harmony SG-16” or 5 collars
- Impact/Armezon-up to 45 days before harvest
- Laudis-V8
- Peak-30”
- Permit- Layby (about 36” tall corn)
- Permit Plus-6 leaf corn
  - (5 collars)
- Realm Q-20” or V7
- Resolve Q-20” or before V7
- Resource-V10
- Revulin Q-30” or V8
- Shieldex 400SC (Tolpyralate 400SC)-20” or V6 whichever comes first
- Status-36” or V10
- Steadfast Q-20” but before V7
- Stinger-24”
- Yukon-36”

It is not an ideal situation when we are dealing with taller corn and weedy fields. It is difficult to control taller weeds and yield losses can be expected due to the early season competition with the corn. It is important to read and follow all label directions prior to the application of any herbicide. If you have any questions about field corn weed control or would like to schedule a field visit, contact Mike Hunter at 315-788-8450 or Kitty O’Neil at 315-854-1218.
Late Summer Seedings

By Michael Hunter

This past spring may have messed up your grass and alfalfa seeding plans. The wet weather prevented some folks from getting their new seedings established in May. Some growers took the risk and planted them in mid to late June, while others have decided to wait to establish a late summer seeding. I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the management and details necessary for a successful late summer seeding.

A late summer seeding can be a very good way to establish alfalfa, grasses, or mixed legume/grass stands. Like most cropping issues, there are both advantages and risks associated with a summer seeding. Weeds and insect pressures are generally much less than when compared to spring seeding. Your workload may not be as heavy this time of year. Dry weather poses the greatest risk for a late summer seeding failure. Early frost and poor establishment techniques can also affect the success of the seeding.

In northern New York, summer seedings should be established by early to mid-August. Reed canarygrass and birdsfoot trefoil are two exceptions; they are slower to establish and should be seeded in late July. Later establishments could be damaged by an early frost. According to Dr. Jerry Cherney, Cornell University, a late summer seeding of reed canarygrass may be better than a spring seeding.

Weeds are usually less of a problem in summer seedings. Chemical weed control is not needed because the first frost will kill any of the annual weeds that come in. Perennial weeds, such as quackgrass, must be controlled before you plant the seeding. Any of the glyphosate products will take care of the quackgrass prior to establishment. Do not use any companion crop to try to choke out the weeds. A companion crop will compete for moisture with your forage seeding.

Lack of rainfall and inadequate soil moisture is one of the greatest risks associated with summer seedings. The decision to establish a summer seeding should be based on the current soil moisture and the extended short-term weather forecast. Don't take the gamble and plant into a bone dry seedbed. If it is too dry and it does not look like Mother Nature is going to cooperate, keep the seed in the bag.

Summer seeding establishment principles are the same as spring seedings. Proper soil pH and adjusting starter fertilizer rates according to soil tests are necessary. A good seedbed and correct seed placement also contribute to a successful summer seeding. There is no need to adjust seeding rates at this time of year.

Soil tests take the guesswork out of your lime and fertilizer applications. If your soil needs a boost in pH, hopefully the lime was applied last fall. Alfalfa or alfalfa/grass mixes do not need any nitrogen in the starter fertilizer. Refer to the Cornell Guide for Integrated Crop Management or your current soil test for suggested phosphorus or potassium rates needed for establishment.

The next step in establishing a successful summer seeding is proper seedbed preparation. A very firm seedbed will not dry out as fast as a loose or lumpy seedbed. Test your seedbed by walking across the field. Pack the seedbed firm enough so that your footprints are hardly visible. You should sink in no more than 1/2 of an inch. A cultimulcher or cultipacker is a good tool to use just before planting.

Depending on your seeding equipment, packing the soil after seeding may also be needed. The seed planting depth should be about 1/4" and no more than 1/2" deep. Don't assume that the seed is being planted properly. Get off the tractor soon after you've started and look to see how deep you are planting those tiny little seeds. If you are not seeing a few seeds on the surface, chances are you are planting too deep. Harvesting the seeding this fall is not a recommended practice. Those tender, young plants do not have a strong root system yet. Don't harvest until next spring.

Late summer can be a good time to establish alfalfa, grasses, and legume/grass mixtures. If you are interested in trying a summer seeding and have any further questions or comments, contact Mike Hunter at 315-788-8450 or Kitty O’Neil at 315-854-1218.
PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION EXAM SUMMER TRAININGS

July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23
1:30pm—4:30pm
CCE Clinton County
6064 Route 22, Suite 5
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
ENYCHP Enrolled Members: $50
Non-Enrolled: $60

To register for these trainings, visit:

CCE ENYCHP Horticulture Specialists Mike Basedow and Elisabeth Hodgdon will be offering four afternoons of training to review key concepts and study tips in preparation for the exam.

The pesticide exam will be offered by a DEC representative in Plattsburgh on July 30th at the MHAB conference space, located at 14 Dormitory Drive in Plattsburgh, NY. Attendees wishing to sit for the exam will need to enroll for the exam separately. Attendees should also plan to spend some time outside of class reviewing their manuals and completing review questions.

For more information, contact Mike Basedow at mrb254@cornell.edu or Elisabeth Hodgdon at eh528@cornell.edu.
Cash Rent Expense for Farmland

By Kitty O’Neil and John Hanchar, Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops

Summary

- Cash rent expenses per acre vary considerably across NNY counties and nearest neighbors depending on demand, productivity differences, artificial drainage, field size, certification status, landowner restrictions, and term of the lease.
- Today, results from initial, late 2008 survey efforts by the United States Department of Agriculture/National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS) through the most recent efforts for 2017 are available online.
- Survey results suggest that for 2017, cash rent expense for non-irrigated cropland by county over the 6 county NNY Region varied from $40 to $60 per acre. Pastureland rates ranged from $16 to $27.50 in NNY and nearby areas though data was not available for all counties.

USDA Cropland and Pastureland Rent Expense Survey Results Available for 2008 to 2017

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) staff often receive calls from individuals asking “What is the going cash rent rate for farmland in my area?” Many in the CCE system have ideas based upon word of mouth and perhaps some limited data for the local area that they serve. Not surprisingly, actual cash rent expenses for farmland vary over some range. Variability in productivity, intended use, and other local supply and demand factors yield a wide range of cash rent values. Prior to 2008, the lack of a consistent data set characterized the situation. The availability of data by county changed when USDA/NASS responded to customer requests and with new requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill. Today, results from initial, late 2008 survey efforts by the USDA/NASS through the most recent efforts for 2017 are available online.

The averages reported in Table 1 were obtained by going to https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/ and using the query menus on the page to make the following selections:

- Program: Survey
- Sector: Economics
- Group: Expenses
- Commodity: Rent
- Data Item: Rent, Cash, Cropland Non-Irrigated... or Rent, Cash, Pastureland...

The pull down menus within the “Select Location” and “Year” sections allow for the selection of desired locations and years, respectively. Select “County” under Geographic Region, and State, Ag District, and County menus will appear. Make further selections to narrow the resulting data. Non-irrigated cropland and pastureland rent expenses for 6 NNY counties and 6 nearby counties are listed in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

Table 1. Cash Rent Expense for Non-Irrigated Cropland by NNY County in Dollars per Acre by Year. (Source: USDA/NASS. https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/, accessed 6/13/2019)

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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Table 2. Cash Rent Expense for Pastureland by NNY County in Dollars per Acre by Year. (Source: USDA/NASS. https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/, accessed 6/13/2019)

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Please note that the values reported in Tables 1 and 2 are averages across each county. Individual rent expenses are likely to vary over a wide range of values depending on factors such as those listed previously.

Additional resources on renting and valuing farm real estate are available at the following websites:

- Cornell’s Dyson School, NY Farmland Sales Web Tool for average farmland sales prices by county. [https://www.farmland.dyson.cornell.edu/](https://www.farmland.dyson.cornell.edu/)
- USDA Summary of Agricultural Land Values, August 2018. [https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/pn89d6567](https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/pn89d6567)
- Cornell’s Small Farms Program, Guide to Farming in NY. [http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2017/05/01/1-finding-a-farm-to-buy-or-lease/](http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2017/05/01/1-finding-a-farm-to-buy-or-lease/)
- CCE NWNY Regional Team website at [https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu](https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu). Click on the “BUSINESS” tab, and enter “renting farm real estate” in the search bar.
- Ag Lease 101 website. [https://aglease101.org/](https://aglease101.org/)
Cornell Cooperative Extension North Country Regional Ag Team
2019 Field Days
By Michael Hunter

**Interseeded Cover Crops in Corn Field Day**

Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 10-11:15 a.m.
Held at Conway Farms, 3999 East Road, Turin, NY 13473
This event is free and open to the public

1 NYS DEC pesticide applicator credit (Categories 1A, 10, 21) and CCA CEU’s will be available.

Dr. Bryan Brown, NYS IPM Program, Jose Venancio Fernandez, Bayer Crop Science and Mike Hunter, Cornell Cooperative Extension will discuss herbicide interactions with interseeded cover crops used in field crop production. They will also share up to date information on the status of herbicide resistant weeds in New York and talk about effective herbicide programs for corn weed control. This field day will provide attendees an opportunity to see several different herbicide programs used in the corn field.

*This project was made possible through a grant funded by the NY Farm Viability Institute*

For more information contact Mike Hunter at 315-788-8450 or email meh27@cornell.edu.

**NNY Soybean Weed Control Field Day**

Thursday, August 1, 2019, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
RAIN DATE: Friday, August 2, 2019.

Hosted by Freeman Farms, Watertown, NY. The field day will be held in a soybean field on the corner of NY State Route 126 and Plank Road (County Route 163) in the town of Rutland. GPS Coordinates for the field are Latitude: 43.95038 Longitude: -75.7576.

This event is free and open to the public

1.25 NYS DEC pesticide applicator credits (Categories 1A, 10, 21) and CCA CEU’s will be available.

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Regional Field Crop Specialist, Mike Hunter, to discuss soybean weed control programs and take a guided walking tour through the soybean herbicide plots in the field. There will be over 25 pre, post, and two pass herbicide programs to view. This field day will provide attendees a chance to compare the various herbicide programs, learn about herbicide sites of action, and herbicide resistance management strategies.

*This on-farm research project was made possible through funding from the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program*

For more information or in case of inclement weather on August 1, please contact Mike Hunter (315-778-8602 or meh27@cornell) to confirm if field day will be moved to the following day.
Beware of the Dangers of Hot Hay

By Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State University Extension

Farmers often know the hay they are baling is wetter than they'd like, but they are taking a chance, hoping to save a better-quality product versus letting the rain cause the crop to deteriorate in the field. Unfortunately, moist hay can quickly become hot hay which can ignite through spontaneous combustion.

Most farmers strive to bale hay that is field dried to 20 percent or less in moisture. At this moisture content, the baled hay can cure properly and maintain quality. With moisture content higher than 20%, hay under storage conditions will generate more heat than can safely be dissipated into the atmosphere. As temperatures rise, dangers of spontaneous combustion increase. Farmers need to be diligent in checking their hay, especially if they know they baled hay that was wetter than normal. Smoldering hay gives off a strong, pungent odor. This odor is an indication that a fire is occurring. If even the slightest smell is present, farmers should take temperature readings of the stack.

Reaching inside a hay stack will give an initial clue. If it feels warm or hot to the touch, that's a good indication that problems may exist. Knowing the temperature of the hay is the only real way of determining how serious the potential fire problem is before flames ignite.

Hay temperature and related actions:

- Temperature 125°F -- No action needed.
- Temperature 150°F -- Entering the danger zone. Temperatures should be checked twice daily. If possible, stacked hay should be disassembled to allow more air to move around heated bales for cooling.
- Temperature 160°F -- Reaching the danger zone. Temperature should be checked every two hours. If possible, stacked hay should be disassembled to allow more air to move around heated bales for cooling.
- Temperature 175°F -- Hot spots or fire pockets are likely. If possible, stop all air movement around hay. Alert fire service of a possible hay fire incident.
- Temperature 190°F -- Remove hot hay. This should be done with the assistance of the fire service. The fire service should be prepared for hay to burst into flames as it contacts fresh air.

Keeping a watchful eye on heating hay can save your barn or storage building. Checking the temperature of suspected or hot hay can help you make critical decisions. If you see the temperature rising toward the 150°F range, you might consider moving the hay to a remote location, away from any buildings or combustible material. Use caution when moving heated bales, because they can burst into flames when they are exposed to fresh air. Wetting hot bales down before moving them can help control this hazard.

Source: [https://extension.psu.edu/beware-of-the-dangers-of-hot-hay](https://extension.psu.edu/beware-of-the-dangers-of-hot-hay)
I recently attended the Dairy Cattle Welfare Symposium in Kissimmee, FL, which included talks on judicious antibiotic usage, CRISPR technology, the ethics of animal welfare, and the benefits of group housing for calves. About 75% of calves are housed individually on dairies in the US, with the majority housed outside in individual hutches (USDA NAHMS, 2014). A lot of producers use individual housing to try to reduce the spread of disease, and they are worried about the risks of larger groups. Larger group size has been associated with more respiratory problems, and can create a management and labor issue as it becomes harder to identify sick calves immediately, and there is usually more competition for nipples and milk making it harder for a sick animal to access feed. However, group housing does not mean you need a robotic feeder and a group of 20 animals. Group (or social) housing is anything more than one calf, so even pair housing counts.

More research is being done to better understand the benefits of social housing for calves. Some significant benefits include:

1. Increased solid feed intake before weaning and increased weight gain.

2. Improved social learning, more adaptable calves, and reduced fearfulness.
   - Pair-housed calves had less of a behavioral response (less vocalizations) during weaning than individually-housed calves (Bolt et al., 2017).
   - Socially housed calves were less reactive when encountering an unknown calf (De Paula Vieira et al., 2012), and more likely to eat a novel feed (Costa et al., 2014).
   - Socially housed calves were quicker at adapting and relearning a cognitive task (Gaillard et al., 2014).

3. More useable space.
   - Even though you are providing the same amount of space per calf, the calves now have more useable space to play, exercise, and socialize.

4. Consumer perspective.
   - During a consumer panel at the conference, the consumers were asked about cow/calf separation, and most of them said they would be ok with it if they knew the calves were well taken care of, happy, and had socialization. Social and pair housing is a way to help address this concern.

The good news is that you don’t necessarily need to build a new barn, or make a big investment to implement social housing on your dairy. For example, a producer at the conference, Jamie from New Mexico, utilizes what he calls a “buddy hutch” system. He puts calves into an individual hutch for a few days (until they are eating well alone) and then he pairs them with the hutch beside them and connects the fencing around both hutches. He said it works very well, his calves do great, and they almost always share one hutch (which is good for sharing body heat during our frigid winters).
The conference also had a producer panel on calf housing, and one farmer that uses social housing recommended providing no less than 45 sq ft/calf. Calves must be fed an adequate amount of milk or milk replacer (not just 10% of body weight!) and this helps keep calves healthy, and reduces cross-sucking.

Some good rules to follow with social housing:

- Keep the number of calves per group low (<10 calves/pen).
- Keep the age range from the youngest to the oldest calf in each group low (<2 weeks).
- Provide enough space per calf (>45 sq ft).
- Ensure adequate access to feed and water for all animals in the group.
- Your herd size will play a role as it’s hard to make a group of 8 in under 2 weeks when you only have 1 heifer calf born each week.

Ultimately, you need to develop a system that works on your farm with your team, whether that’s hutches, pair-housing, or larger groups with automatic feeders.
Preventing Sexual Harassment on Farms - Tools for Employers:
Updates and Resources for the NYS Sexual Harassment Regulations.

Dates: July 29th & July 30th
Cost: $10 (to be paid to each office directly)
Time: 10:00AM-1:00PM

Locations: Speakers will be located across the state and connected via Zoom. Each extension office listed will have the Zoom Meeting Projected and a light lunch provided. Farmers will be able to ask real time questions and engage with other farmers.

July 29th:
Lewis County Cooperative Extension Office
St Lawrence County Cooperative Extension Office
Clinton County Cooperative Extension Office
Onondaga County - Location TBD
Orleans County Cooperative Extension Office
Yates County Cooperative Extension Office
Schoharie County Cooperative Extension Office
Chemung County Cooperative Extension Office
Herkimer County Cooperative Extension Office

July 30th:
Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Office
Essex County Cooperative Extension Office
Franklin County Cooperative Extension
Cortland County - Dryden Fire Hall, 26 North St, Dryden, NY 13053
Wayne County Cooperative Extension Office
Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office
Chenango County Cooperative Extension Office
Tioga County Cooperative Extension Office
Saratoga County Cooperative Extension Office
Fulton/Montgomery Cooperative Extension Office
Madison County Cooperative Extension Office

Registration Link:
https://forms.gle/duASeZ35ogP1e28M9

Recording of this will be made available on July 31st.
10:00-10:15 - MARY-KATE WHEELER Introduction to the New Rules: Overview, deadlines, and dates.
10:15-11:00 - RICHARD STUP Resources Available from Extension: How to use reviewed case studies.
11:00-11:30 - KELSEY O’SHEA Legal Concerns: Compliance, implications, and risks.
11:30-12:00 - Lunch/Break
12:00-12:30 - LIBBY EHOLZER Outside Materials: Other agencies resources, risks and concerns.
12:30-1:00 - NICOLE TOMMELL Closing Remarks: Summarizing action items, updates on other labor research.

The North Country Regional Ag Team is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties.

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.
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
WILLSBORO FARM

OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, JULY 10
1:30pm to 4:00pm
Tour leaves the main office at 2:00pm

48 Sayward Lane, Willsboro, NY (just past Willsboro Central School on the right)
Admission is free and open to the public

Research projects featured:

- Industrial Hemp trials
- High Tunnel Goldenberry and Huskcherry Production
- Juneberry nursery and test plots
- Honeyberry and Aronia variety evaluations
- Soil Health Cover Crop plots
- Reduced tillage demonstration plots
- Forage soybean and sorghum sudangrass plantings
- Winter triticale, winter rye, and winter barley tests

For more information call 518-963-7492
Other Cornell Cooperative Extension 2019 Field Days

2019 Aurora Farm Field Day, July 11, 2019 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cornell Musgrave Research Farm, 1256 Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora, NY
Free and open to the public
2 NYS DEC (categories 1A, 10, 21) and CCA credits will be offered
Pre-registration is required
http://events.cornell.edu/event/2019_aurora_farm_field_day

From No-Till to New Cultivars: Improving Organic Corn and Soybean Production (in partnership with NOFA-NY)
July 16, 2019 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Cornell Musgrave Research Farm, 1256 Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora, NY
Free and open to the public
Pre-registration is required
http://events.cornell.edu/event/from_no-till_to_new_cultivars_improving_organic_corn_and_soybean_production

Weed Resistance Management Demonstration and Plot Tour, July 23, 2019 1 to 3 p.m.
Quinten Good’s farm, 1036 State Route 318, Waterloo, NY
Free and open to the public
2 NYS DEC (categories 1A, 21, 23) and CCA credits will be offered
Hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

Herbicide Resistant Weed Control 2019, July 24, 2019 1 to 2:30 p.m.
VanHatten Farm, 7810 Putnam Road, Barneveld, NY
Free and open to the public
1.5 NYS DEC (categories 1A, 10, 21, 22, 23) and CCA credits will be offered
Please pre-register by July 22 by calling Linda at 315-736-3394 ext. 124
Hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County
http://cceoneida.com/events/2019/07/24/-roundup-resistant-weed-control-field-event

2019 Corn and Soybean Summer Crop Tour, July 30, 2019 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Merrimac Farms, 3920 E. Groveland Road, Mount Morris, NY
Hosted by the NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association

River Breeze Dairy Farm, Chase Mills, NY
Day will include speakers, a farmer discussion panel and demonstrations.
To sign up contact Kitty O’Neil at 315-379-9192 or kao32@cornell.edu
Save the Date!

Soil Health Field Day
Focused on Management for Dairy Farms

August 7, 2019

To be held at the McKnight Farm in Chase Mills
Learn about Soil Health Management techniques from experts in the field
Local farmers sharing their experiences
Equipment demos
Follow St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District on Facebook for more information or call the office 315-386-3582

It’s that time of year to RENEW your subscription or sign up to receive a paper version of the North Country Ag Advisor

Subscribe to the paper version of the North Country Ag Advisor for the low cost of $15/year. Return this filled out form along with a check or money order for $15 to Tatum Langworthy, Cornell Cooperative Extension, North Country Regional Ag Team, 203 North Hamilton Street, Watertown, NY 13601. We’ll send you the newsletter each month. Subscriptions expire a year to date.

Name: _______________________________________________________________________________

Farm Name: __________________________________________________________________________

Street Address: ________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ________________

Zip code: ___________________ Phone number: __________________________
What’s Happening in the Ag Community

Cornell Cooperative Extension North Country Regional Ag Team 2019 Field Days, see page 8 for more information.

Preventing Sexual Harassment on Farms—Tools for Employers, see page 12 for more information.

Cornell University Willsboro Farm Open House, see page 13 for more information.

Other Cornell Cooperative Extension Field Days for 2019, see page 14 for more information.

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