

Extension in Action

Volume 2 Issue 1

April 2020



WHAT'S WITH ALL OF THE MILK DUMPING?

Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialists Share Information about the Current Dairy Situation

By Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Farm Business Management Specialist,

and Alycia Drwencke, Dairy Management Specialist, with the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

SOUTHWEST, NEW YORK (April 10, 2020) – The Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program would like to reassure the region’s consumers that there is no reason for concern regarding the safety of our food system or threats of food shortages. This has been supported by the Institute for Food Safety at Cornell University. Farms nationwide, including dairies, have been deemed essential businesses and are still working daily to produce safe, wholesome foods that families can enjoy, even during this uncertain time.

While farms have been out plowing fields to plant new crops, pruning vines to grow grapes for juice, and caring for livestock to produce meat, milk, and eggs – consumers have been visiting grocery stores and buying the staples they need. What we’re experiencing in the form of empty store shelves is a disruption of the supply chain. While many hardworking people are committed to mending this situation, it will take time to balance out.

You may have seen videos or news stories of local dairy farms having to “dump” the milk that they have worked diligently and caringly to produce. This unfortunate situation is happening while dairy cases at retail stores are empty or are limiting quantities available for purchase. This disconnect has raised a lot of questions from both farmers and consumers and does not have a simple solution. The current challenge the market faces is a huge shift in demand and interruptions in distribution caused by the current pandemic. Continued on page 2.....

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SWNYDL	1-3
Board of Directors	4
Office Directory	4
CVP	5
4-H	6-8
EFNEP/SNAP	9
Essential Workers	10-11
Ex.. Director Message	12

***Due to the concerns of COVID-19,
we have cancelled all CCE
in-person events through
April 30th 2020 with the hopes of
rescheduling at later date. Stay in
touch for online meetings.***



WHAT'S WITH ALL OF THE MILK DUMPING? continued from page 1..

Milk, while incredibly nutritious and affordable, is a challenging and perishable product to produce and prepare for sale. As one of the most regulated food products in our country, there is a limited amount of time between milk leaving the farm in large tanker trucks to when it's made into a final product. Because of this perishability, farmers can't hold onto milk when buyers aren't taking orders or store it until prices are high - they have to sell their milk, or dispose of it responsibly, within days of production.

Additionally, milk is a raw product that has to be standardized, homogenized, and pasteurized before it can be sold in supermarkets and consumed. The facilities that perform these activities are currently backed up and operating at their fullest capacities as they work to catch up with the rush of orders from supermarkets.

The milk produced in the U.S. is sold domestically to wholesale buyers (restaurants, schools, coffee shops), retailers (grocery stores), and is exported (usually as dried products). With the current global economic uncertainty, export levels have dropped. As restaurants and schools close their doors, or switch to lower volume deliveries, that demand has also decreased by an estimated 60%. Positively, at the retail level, we have seen demand increases of up to 40% in supermarkets and grocery stores. However, this increase in demand isn't enough to balance the market, and the National Milk Producers Federation estimates that milk supply is exceeding demand by at least 10%.

While we often think of milk as our companion to cookies and our morning cereal, it is also made into things like cheese, yogurt, evaporated milk, and ice cream. These products require additional time and costly infrastructure investments to produce. It's not easy for milk plants and production facilities that were set up to make 50-pound bags of shredded cheese for large scale buyers to quickly convert to packaging one-pound bags for retail. Similarly, fluid milk plants that were producing cartons or large bags of milk for schools and other institutions can't easily switch to bottling one-gallon containers. The shift from bulk packaging to meeting the needs of home consumers is also creating delays in getting milk from farm to fridge.

Dairy farmers work 365 days a year to care for their cows and produce milk using best management practices. Dumping is the last resort. Milk is still a safe, healthy, high-quality product, but farmers can't just "stop" production, even if there is no place for it to go. Cows are not a valve that can be slowed or shut off for periods of time. If there isn't a buyer for the milk right away, the only alternative is to dispose of it properly.

There have been questions about why milk that is being dumped can't be diverted to local food banks. Unfortunately, this raw product can not be donated directly from the farm and has to be bottled first. This is a costly process, and there is currently no extra capacity at existing facilities to bottle milk, for donation or sale, that would have been dumped.

The best thing consumers can do to support their local dairy farms is to be patient and buy extra dairy products when they are able to do so safely. Consider buying extra milk and butter for a neighbor, choose yogurt as a healthy breakfast option, and enjoy a bowl of ice cream in the evening. Industry leaders are working with corporate grocery chains to remove limits on dairy purchases and restock stores to help make this even easier.

For more information about dairy production and marketing in the Southwest New York region, contact Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Farm Business Management Specialist, at 716-640-0522 or kaw249@cornell.edu or Alycia Drwencke, Dairy Management Specialist, at 517-416-0386 or amd453@cornell.edu. If you visit a retail store that is still limiting the purchase quantities of dairy products, please take a picture, note the location, date and time, and send to Beth Meyer (bmeyer@milk4u.org) who is working on behalf of the American Dairy Association North East with grocery chains to improve the situation.

ALYCIA DRWENCKE JOINS NEW SWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, AND FIELD CROPS PROGRAM

Cornell Cooperative Extension continues to provide programming to assist agricultural producers

Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Farm Business Management Specialist with the SWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program



BATH, NEW YORK (November 27th, 2019) – Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program (SWNYDLFC) is excited to welcome Alycia Drwencke as the Dairy Management Specialist. Alycia will be working on programming related to heifer and calf management, cow comfort, improving efficiency, facilities, and herd health while working to identify the needs of the region. You can reach Alycia by emailing amd453@cornell.edu or by calling 517-416-0386.

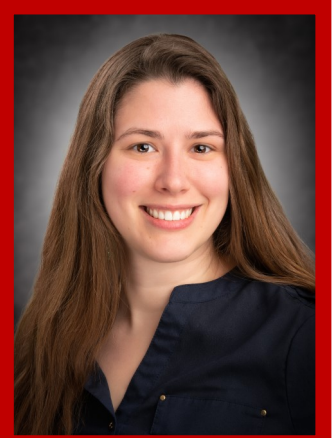
Alycia grew up on small farm in Southeast Michigan. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science with a minor in Agribusiness Management from Michigan State University. Drwencke received her Master’s Degree in Animal Biology from the University of California Davis. While in Davis, Alycia’s research focused on heat abatement for dairy cattle, specifically looking at more energy and water efficient cooling methods. She was able to carry out this research on both the university farm and a commercial dairy. Alycia also assisted with other research projects looking at calf care, disbudding, and beef management. In her free time, Alycia enjoys traveling and hiking. She is looking forward to working with producers in the area and connecting the agricultural industry to Cornell resources.

The Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program is the newest Cornell Cooperative Extension regional program and covers Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben Counties. The Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops regional specialists work with Cornell faculty and Extension educators to address the issues that influence the agricultural industry in New York by offering educational programming and research based information to agricultural producers, growers, and agribusinesses in the Southwestern New York Region.

Welcome aboard Alycia!

AMY BARKLEY JOINS NEW SWNY DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, AND FIELD CROPS PROGRAM

Cornell Cooperative Extension continues to provide programming to assist agricultural producers



EAST AURORA, NEW YORK (February 21st, 2020) – Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program (SWNYDLFC) is excited to welcome Amy Barkley as the Livestock and Beginning Farms Support Specialist. Amy will be working on programming related to beef, sheep, goat, and poultry production; beginning farmer support; and product quality and consistency. You can reach Amy by emailing amb544@cornell.edu or by calling 716-640-0844.

Amy grew up on a small farm in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science with a minor in Poultry and Avian Science from Penn State University. After graduation, she attained her Master’s Degree in Animal Science from Penn State, where her research focused in renewable, alternative bedding materials for broiler production and their impacts on broiler performance, welfare, and the environment. Following graduation, Amy worked in quality assurance for a national egg company, working with farms of all sizes across the nation to ensure compliance in food safety, nutrition, product quality, and animal welfare. Amy and her husband Zach reside in East Concord, NY on a farm which they are excited to make their own. In her free time, she tends to an extensive garden, small orchard, and honeybees, and loves cooking and baking. Amy is looking forward to working with area farmers to ensure their current and continued success.

The Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program is the newest Cornell Cooperative Extension regional program and covers Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben Counties. The Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops regional specialists work with Cornell faculty and Extension educators to address the issues that influence the agricultural industry in New York by offering educational programming and research based information to agricultural producers, growers, and agribusinesses in the Southwestern New York Region.

Welcome aboard Amy!

CCE Board of Directors



If you have ever been involved with the 4H program, or agriculture in general, in Cattaraugus County -- then you most likely know Diane Clayson. For the past 17 years, current Cattaraugus County CCE Board Member, Diane Clayson, has dedicated much time and energy to make sure that both grow and prosper in our region.

A past President and current Vice President, Diane notes that she has enjoyed her leadership roles and feels fortunate to have met so many dedicated people throughout the region. She said: "We have numerous volunteers who donate their time and share their knowledge to help the youth in our programs. This amounts to thousands of valuable hours of service to the youth and residents of Cattaraugus County. They do this not for monetary compensation but simply for the opportunity to give back to their community, to make Cattaraugus County a better place for our youth to learn and grow."

While Diane has served many roles during her time with Cornell Cooperative Extension, including her leadership roles, the majority of her energy has remained focused on youth programming. She said: "I have enjoyed many roles while being involved in the 4-H program, from helping our 4-H educators during the fair to helping our 4-H Livestock committee raise thousands of dollars for our youth in the Cattaraugus County 4-H program. I have enjoyed working at our 4-H market livestock auction at the county fair and also working with many volunteers at the 4-H snack shack, also raising money for 4-H. It's rewarding to look back at how far we have come and how much we have grown. It takes many volunteers working together to keep such a great program growing."

Diane and her husband, Eric, currently own and operate a 40-acre beef farm in Cattaraugus County. This love of agriculture began early for Diane. She noted: "Growing up in Cattaraugus County on a dairy farm, I'm thankful I, myself, was able to join 4-H and experience the benefits of the program. I hope to see the organization continue to grow for our youth in Cattaraugus County."

Thank you, Diane, for your dedication and many years of service to the CCE of Cattaraugus County!

Office Directory

You can also contact us at: <https://cattaraugus.cce.cornell.edu>

Our fax: 716-699-5701

Name	Email	Ext.	Phone
Abigail Luzier	ajl387@cornell.edu	130	716-699-2377
Alycia Drwencke	amd453@cornell.edu		517-416-0386
Amy Barkley	amb544@cornell.edu		716-640-0844
Carrie Busekist	clb274@cornell.edu	112	716-699-2377
Dick Rivers	rer263@cornell.edu	122	716-699-2377
Gayle Patterson	gsp72@cornell.edu	109	716-699-2377
Jesse Meeder	jpm453@cornell.edu	106	716-699-2377
Joshua Putman	jap473@cornell.edu		716-490-5572
Katelyn Walley-Stoll	kaw249@cornell.edu		716-640-0522
Leann Hodge	lmh292@cornell.edu	107	716-699-2377
Melinda Drabant	msd263@cornell.edu	111	716-699-2377
Tamara Bacho	tsb48@cornell.edu	100	716-699-2377

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.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cattaraugus Co. at 716-699-2377 no later than one week before the beginning of any event to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

Cornell Vegetable Program

CCE Cornell Vegetable Program
Julie Kikkert, Team Leader

From asparagus to zucchini, small farms to large, the CCE Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) helps to keep commercial vegetable farms on the cutting edge of production, marketing, and farm food safety. Did you know that CCE-Cattaraugus is one of 14 Associations in partnership with Cornell University to bring the CVP regional programming to farms in western, NY? That means that growers have access to the 6.5 FTE highly trained specialists on the team, who are experts in their field. Much like in the medical field, where there are cardiologists, oncologists, pulmonologists, or the like, the Extension Associates on the CVP team specialize in a variety of crops and topics. They are also connected to other specialists across the state and nation, bringing all that expertise right to farms in Cattaraugus Co. The CVP specialists are matched with farms and needs, so a given farm may see only one or two of us at a time, but you can trust we are all working on behalf of the vegetable, potato, dry bean, and greenhouse industry across the region.

Over the winter months we have been busy conducting educational programs across the region and at the statewide Producers Expo. Those of particular interest to growers in the southern tier were:

Western S. Tier Produce Meeting (Jan 28) Jamestown, NY

2020 Upper Genesee Valley Produce Growers Meeting (Feb 14) Genesee Valley Produce Auction House, Freedom, NY.

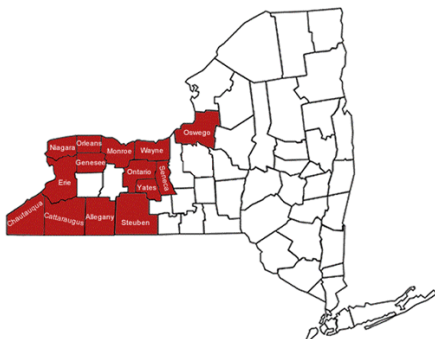
Precision Agriculture Series (Feb 19, Mar 4, Mar 25) East Aurora, NY

2020 Lake Erie Region Vegetable Meeting (Feb 20) North Collins, NY

Wash Pack School: Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Hygienic Design (April 22) Portland, NY

The CCE CVP team looks forward to working with Cattaraugus Co. growers during the upcoming growing season. Some of our activities will include:

- Veg Edge newsletter with timely crop production info distributed weekly during the season
- Troubleshooting fields for insects, diseases, weeds, and other disorders
- Monthly educational field walks on local host volunteer farms from May to September
- Monthly meetings of women farmers throughout the CVP region. Opportunity for women working on farms to tour farms of leading agricultural women, gather to discuss production and business management techniques, and gain hands-on skills.
- Research project to map spread of a soil-borne disease (Phytophthora blight) and develop farm-by-farm custom mitigation plans.
- Participation in the statewide sweet corn insect trap network to advise local growers on activity of pests. One local grower in Cattaraugus Co. hosts a trap site on their farm.
- Scouting for invasive weed species



VEGEdge
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

<https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu>

Outdoor Education and Recreation

A new 4-H program this year focused on everything the outdoors has to offer. There are many activities that our 4-H youth and parents have participated in with this workshop series to connect us to our environment and all the fun that you can have outdoors.

Youth were able to take advantage of the Nannen Arboretum to collect and identify leaves. We then pressed the leaves to make a leaf collection that they can then enter into the county fair in the Youth Building. We learned about leaves and the different styles of lobes to better identify them. We were also able to observe animals in the Arboretum and then learned about the names of the animals and what we call their young and groupings of animals.

Living in Western New York in the winter means dealing with snow, so we took advantage of a snowy day and learned about how we dress to stay warm in the winter. We had some help from some furry friends on how they deal with the cold winter weather and all of the snow. We also were able to take a winter hike in Allegany State Park and enjoy the different views of a snow covered park. The youth used what they learned to dress warm for our adventure.

Our next adventure will take us to Oswegatchie Education Center in the Adirondack park for a weekend of environmental education and outdoor recreation. This will launch us into the spring where we plan on more outdoor hikes and learning about nature photography.

If you are interested in receiving the 4-H email weekly with our most up to date information and happening, please contact Abby and Carrie at cattaraugus4h@cornell.edu



Public Presentations

This year we had 49 youth participate in Public Presentations at Randolph Central School on a very wintery day in February. Topics ranged from "How to Groom your Horse" to 'Raising Chickens" to "Cupcake Decorating" and so much more.

Congratulations to all those who participated and best of luck to those who are headed off to the next level of competition: District participants include **Anna Nazareth, Kyra Pence, & Quinn Pence** and Regional participants include **Keira Brockhaus, Brenna Mentley, Aryana Sears, Harper Smith.& Haley Stang**





Cornell University

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cattaraugus County

28 Parkside Drive
Ellicottville, NY 14731
t. (716) 699-2377 f. (716) 699-5701
e. cattaraugus@cornell.edu
<http://cce.cornell.edu/cattaraugus>

Monday, April 6, 2020

Dear 4-H Community,

As you know, we are working remotely until further notice. We have actively been doing Facebook Live updates on the Cattaraugus County 4-H page on a wide variety of different topics and activities, as well as continuously looking for ways to provide you educational resources and opportunities.

We are moving along with the hopes that the 2020 Cattaraugus County Fair will be going on; however, please understand that things can change at any moment. Keep in mind that if you don't hear it from the 4-H Office, it may not be true. With this being said, there are a few updates we would like to share with you in regards to future and upcoming programming and events:

1. Cattaraugus County Open Horse Show Series Dates:

- a. Bonanza Horse Show – June 5-7, 2020
Nash Hill Equestrian Center in Gowanda, NY
- b. 4-H Qualifying/Open Horse Show – July 10-12, 2020
Cattaraugus County Fairgrounds in Little Valley, NY
- c. Fall Classic Horse Show – September 25-27, 2020
Nash Hill Equestrian Center in Gowanda, NY

2. Tagging Day for lamb/goat/hog scheduled for May 2nd is CANCELLED

- a. Entry forms are still due May 2nd via email to AJL387@cornell.edu or postal mail to CCE Cattaraugus County/4-H Program – 28 Parkside Drive – Ellicottville, NY 14731. Entries that are emailed must be received by 11:59 pm on May 2nd and you will get a notification receipt within 24 hours. Entries that are physically mailed must have a post mark date no later than May 2nd.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

- b. 3 pictures must accompany each entry form whether it is a primary entry or spare entry. If it is a Cloverbud animal that is **NOT** being shown by another 4-H member, pictures must be submitted. Please remember to indicate who you are when sending pictures.
 - i. 1 head shot showing all tags, ear notches, and/or tattoos
 - ii. 1 profile (side view) of the animal
 - iii. Any distinguishing marks that would help identify your animal from someone else's.
- c. Pictures must also be emailed for beef and dairy steer entries.
- d. Pictures that are sent via text message to Abby will **NOT** be accepted.
 - i. You can take a picture with your phone and text it to Abby's email – the recipient will therefore be AJL387@cornell.edu not a phone number.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to make things as clear as possible and will update you when things change as needed. Remember, if you do not hear it from the 4-H Office (Carrie & Abby), it may not be the most accurate information.

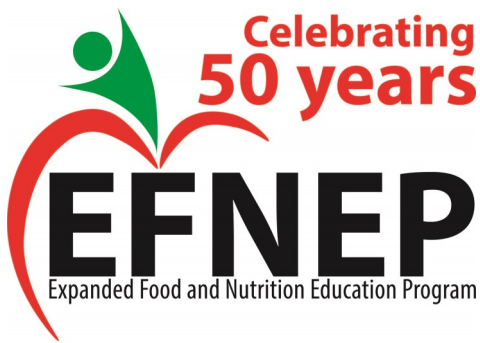
To contact us while we are working remotely, you can email, Facebook message, or call/text our cell phones. We will still be continuing our Friday Newsletter and if you would like to receive those, please let us know.

- Email: clb274@cornell.edu and ajl387@cornell.edu and cattaraugus4h@cornell.edu.
- Facebook – Cattaraugus County 4-H
- Cell Phone – send us a private message on Facebook if this is an easier form of communication for you.

We hope you are all staying safe and healthy!

Carrie & Abby

4-H is a **community** of **young people**
 **across America** who are learning
leadership, citizenship and
life skills.



Hi, my name is Leann Hodge, and I am the new Nutrition Educator for Cattaraugus county. I am excited to be working together with Gayle Patterson and helping our community empower itself in ways of healthy and wise nutritional choices.

A little bit of information about me:

I have worked for Cattaraugus and Wyoming Counties Project Head Start since 1993. Some of my positions there included Assistant Teacher, Early Head Start Family Development Specialist, and Community Outreach Specialist for a Cavity Free Kids program. As

a Community Outreach Specialist I served Cattaraugus, Wyoming, Chautauqua and Allegany counties for three years. I absolutely love working with people of all ages and helping them empower themselves. Unfortunately, I had to resign with my work for Head Start due to an elderly parent becoming ill. When I was able to return to the workforce I was pleased to see a posting for the Cornell Cooperative Extension as a Nutrition Educator. I applied and here I am! I am eager and overwhelmed with excitement to get out in the community and work together as a team to spread the word about healthy and wise nutritional choices!

See you out there !!



Welcome aboard Leann!

If you need help buying food, SNAP can help.



SNAP provides monthly benefits to spend at local grocery stores. **You can get and use SNAP while keeping a safe distance from other people:**

- Everything you need to do to apply for and receive benefits can be done by phone or online—no need to visit a local social service office.
- Use SNAP to purchase food at local grocery stores.
- Shop for food online using SNAP benefits and have groceries delivered or picked up.
 - Amazon.com—available statewide
 - Walmart and ShopRite—available in some zip codes (see their websites)

Help is available:

If you need help applying for SNAP, call or email your Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinator. NOEP Coordinators tell you if you may be eligible for SNAP, answer your questions, and help you complete and submit your application. It is free and confidential.

Apply for SNAP online at www.MyBenefits.ny.gov

or contact your local NOEP Coordinator:

Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.
In Cattaraugus County
Toll Free: (877) 686-9201
Text: (716) 220-3763
Email: afox@ccaction.org

Starting April 1, 2020, there is a temporary Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit suspension due to COVID-19 pandemic. Your Local NOEP Coordinator can help you apply.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SNAP HOUSEHOLDS

All New Yorkers enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will receive **the maximum monthly benefit for March and April**. Those not previously receiving the maximum benefit will receive a **one-time payment** that will vary by household size.

For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19



A Program of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

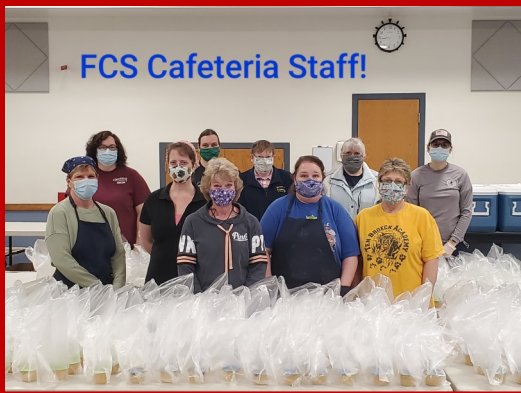


Whether at home or on-the-go, MyPlate can help you find a healthy eating style that works for you. to contact your local SNAP Ed Nutritionist email Melinda Drabant at msd263@cornell.edu or visit choosemyplate.gov

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7CcaUZrUoE&fbclid=IwAR1aB8x9XFjtSiS2HNIFc1FX5GpKjrUaB6N0_OBJQ-gt1F6b4_l8tyarJ4

Spotlight on Essential Food Workers in Our School Districts

By Jesse Meeder



Over the course of an academic year, our local school districts work hard to ensure that every student has access to affordable, nutritious meals in school, often twice a day. Serving balanced meals to hundreds of students for a low cost is an admirable feat under normal circumstances, and this time of unprecedented school closures and social distancing is anything but normal. Even though school facilities are closed to students, cafeteria workers and support staff in both Franklinville and Hinsdale have been continuing to prepare and deliver thousands of meals to families 5 days a week, working to help feed their community's households under challenging new conditions.

When the decisions were originally made in March to close the schools due to COVID-19, each district had to quickly decide on a plan for accomplishing meal preparation and delivery, as well as assessing how to best provide students with educational materials and support from teachers. Jennifer Jaquith, Business Administrator for Hinsdale Central School District notes that "food service is the big thing that is keeping us essential," and on the same day they submitted their plan for meals to the state, Hinsdale was approved. One of the important elements of Hinsdale's operation has been a staffing matrix that rotates all support staff and cafeteria workers through the cafeteria, making sure that the workload is shared amongst staff. They have prioritized boosting the numbers of staff trained in the food service operation, in case of leaves of absence or other unforeseen circumstances. This staffing model is also followed for the other departments in the district, such as office staff and educators. Making sure there is always someone on duty during the week who can answer questions and deal with issues related to the department has been critical to the school's continued function and resilience, and aides in keeping staff morale high.

Hinsdale Cafeteria Manager Lisa Parker has had to adjust to training new staff in the kitchen, and coordinating teams of workers when she is not always scheduled to be on site, due to the staffing matrix. Despite the new schedules, work duties, and early mornings, Lisa says that staff are doing well: "Everyone is pretty grateful for how the school is handling the situation, helping to keep our wages going. The school cares about everyone and is doing its best to treat the staff fairly." Even though there is frustration and concern with the global situation at the moment, the staff remain motivated to help the families in their community have what they need.

In Franklinville Central School District, 12 staff continue to work in the kitchen 5 days a week during the closures, coming in early to have 1000+ meals (500 breakfast and 500 lunches) prepared, packed, and ready to go by 9:00 AM when the school busses arrive to deliver the meals to the students and their families. Cafeteria Manager Jeff Colburn says that it took about a week to work out the logistics of the new food service, but since then things have been flowing pretty smoothly. Jeff points out that the staff has been very positive, happy to be working and continuing their roles in feeding the students of the community. There have been some challenges to overcome, such as sudden difficulty in ordering certain items from distributors (such as plastic containers and lunch bags, which are in high demand). Some food items are also not as readily available, as the supply chain has been somewhat disrupted, and food distributors have changed their delivery schedule and reduced delivery days. Kitchen staff members are prepping the meals while wearing face masks to prevent possible contamination, which can be uncomfortable to wear for long periods of time.

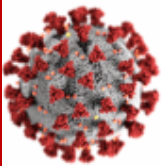
While definitely missing the personal interactions with students, the staff emphasized that it is gratifying to know that they are helping the families in the district. Cafeteria staff are proud of the rapport they have with their students, and are happy to know that the kids are still receiving breakfast and lunch. It is perhaps easy to take cafeteria staff, sometimes referred to as "lunch ladies" for granted, but this difficult time is serving to reveal the essential nature of such workers -- men and women who are not staying at home, but are feeding our families. Continued on page 11....

Spotlight on Essential Food Workers in Our School Districts continued from page 10

Both Lisa and Jeff want to encourage more families to opt in to the food service program if they haven't already. The meals are free to all families, and there is enough food delivered in the busses, vans, and available pickup for anyone in the family ages 1 to 18. "The meals can also be viewed as ingredients to be added or modified as part of another meal. For instance, a cheese sandwich that we send home could be griddled and turned into grilled cheese," says Colburn. He highlights the fact that the food deliveries should be considered a helpful addition to family's meal budgets during this difficult time. Recipients of the meals should be assured that the districts are well equipped to handle the food in the safest possible manner, as safety is a priority during normal times. Additionally, the schools are carefully following and adapting to the latest guidelines and procedures from the state and CDC, which are often updated on a weekly basis.

Perhaps the greatest thing the community can do for school district staff is to find opportunities to express gratitude both now, and when this time has passed. "If you encounter our staff, please say 'thank you' to your school's essential workers, and let them know that their effort is noted," says Jennifer Jaquith. It is during times like these that we often see the true nature of our communities, and the staffs of Franklinville and Hinsdale school districts have shown that they should be a source of pride for their towns and the people who live there.

New York Extension Disaster Education Network



COVID-19 RESOURCES

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) continue to monitor a novel strain of coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. On Feb. 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the novel coronavirus outbreak, COVID-19.

There are simple steps we can all take to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses. New Yorkers can call the Department of Health's coronavirus hotline at 1-888-364-3065 with any concerns about symptoms or travel. In addition, visit the Department of Health's dedicated website for more resources and updates about COVID-19. NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets also provides realtime updates on COVID-19 for the ag community.

For more information please visit: <https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/coronavirus-response/>

We can get through this together!

www.cattaraugus.cce.cornell.edu

28 Parkside Drive

Ellicottville, NY 14731

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

US POSTAGE PAID

SALAMANCA, NY

PERMIT NO. 11

Message from the Executive Director

This newsletter was ready for printing a month ago and then COVID-19 impacted us and we are now working at home. Our planned calendar was no longer accurate and the news article on milk dumping was necessary to be shared. Our Farm2School program reports how the Cafeteria staffs are providing lunches to schools, a very valuable program.

There are several changes in our membership to the Board of Directors. I want to thank those directors leaving for their commitment, expertise and time that they served. They are: Stephanie Carter, Susan Labuhn, Norm Marsh and Kelly Reed. Joining us are Tim Bigham, Richard Helmich, Laurie Hunt and Nathan Nelson. We are very excited that they have chosen to be involved with our Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). The Board, under the leadership of President Don Wild has been busy determining the best options for locating our offices when our current lease expires in 2022. More to follow in our next newsletter.

The Cornell Vegetable Program article shows just one of the many resources that are available to you. If you want to find out more details and how you can enroll in the program, please let us know and information will be shared with you. The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program is also available.

We have been awarded our second Regional Navigators grant. Last year we were able to provide nine workshops to promote agriculture here in Cattaraugus County. Included were a pasture walk, beef quality assurance program, and a woodlot management tour. This year we will be providing more specific programs for Farms in Transition, "So You Want to be a Farmer" and Business Plan Development. More information to follow later..

Of concern to all of us is the Covid-19 outbreak. We at Cornell Cooperative Extension are very fortunate that there is a statewide Task Force plan for CCE. This includes staff from Cornell who are planning a course of action that is being implemented. We have the research expertise of Cornell as well as planning with the State of New York. Please abide by the requirements of using personal protection for yourself and your family.

Dick



2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

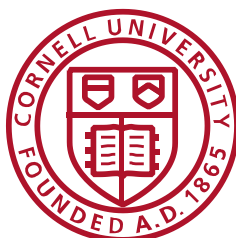
Don Wild, President

Diane Clayson, Vice President

Erin Lamouret, Treasurer

Jessica Golley– Halftown,
Secretary

Nathan Blesy



Renee Smith

State Extension Specialist

Tim Bigham

Laurie Hunt

Richard Helmich

Nathan Nelson

Lisa Pawlowski

Don Telaak