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Managing Risk on Your Pastures and Hay land

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County will host a Crop Insurance meeting to help landowners who produce hay or graze animals in Schoharie County. "Managing Risk on Your Pastures and Hay land" will be held Friday, November 13, Noon – 2:30pm at the Extension Center, 173 South Grand Street in Cobleskill. Lunch will be served at noon; RSVP's requested. Contact David Cox at 518.234.4303 or dgc23@cornell.edu.

The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) product "Pasture Hay land" Rainfall Index is not the typical insurance product and is being piloted in South Central NY for the second year. Fay Benson of Cornell's South Central NY Dairy Team will review what producers need to know in order to make the decision of whether buying insurance is right for them. Policies need to be completed with an agent by November 30, 2009. Once the policy is set, if the rainfall is below the index established by your policy, computers mail a check. No claims adjuster or claims have to be filed. With the RMA supporting 51% - 59% of the costs for the pilot program, it is a good time to try it on some of your acres. This insurance product is available only in Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Steuben, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins and Ulster counties.

At the conclusion of the RMA information, Fay Benson will provide a calendar of tasks for all livestock grazers to complete on their pastures during the year to ensure their longevity as well as Rotational Grazing Management techniques to prevent any runoff from the pastures.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Fay Benson is the Small Farms Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension Cortland County, Project Manager for the NY Organic Dairy Initiative, and a grazing educator with GRAZE NY. Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

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