

# GROWING HOPE



MARCH 8, 2024

# AGENDA

**8:30** **Registration Check-in**

**8:45** **Welcome & Introductions**  
*Tricia Kerr*

**9:00** **Cayuga-Onondaga FFA Prepared Public Speech**  
*Ava Keller, Cayuga Onondaga FFA, "Overwhelmed Farmer"*

**9:10** **Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES Classroom/Shop Tour**  
*Katie LaFave, Plant & Animal Life Science Teacher*

**9:30** **2022 Agricultural Census Snapshot**  
*Dan Welch, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County*

**9:45** **Cayuga Milk Ingredients**  
*Owen Weikert, Richard Kane and Corinne Aviles*

**10:15** **Panel Discussion: Food & Agricultural Career Pathways**  
*Halee Wasson, Southern Cayuga Ag Instructor - Facilitator*  
*Clair Culver, O'Hara Machinery (Precision Agriculture)*  
*Todd Du Mond, DuMond Grains (Dairy, Biofuels, Trucking)*  
*Anthony Colangelo, Farm Credit East (Business Services)*

**11:00** **Growing Hope Globally**  
*Doug Young, Kaylyn Morse and Curtis Veiock*

**11:30** **Southern Cayuga Central School FFA Growing Projects**  
*Halee Wasson, Southern Cayuga Ag Instructor*

**12:00** **Lunch / Interactive Table Discussion**  
*Facilitated by Southern Cayuga FFA Student Leaders*

**1:00** **Group Discussion & Growing Hope Action Plan**  
*Facilitated by Ed Staehr, Staehr Family Farm*

# SPEAKER BIOS

**Corinne Avilés**, Cayuga Milk Ingredient's (CMI) Human Resources Manager, has been with CMI for over a year. Corinne has 10 years' experience in Human Resources. Prior to CMI, Corinne worked for five years at East Hill Medical Center, most recently, as their HR Director. Corinne holds a master's degree in business administration from Niagara University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from SUNY Fredonia. Corinne is a local, growing up in the town of Fleming, and a Union Springs High School graduate. She currently resides in Auburn, NY and enjoys spending time outdoors in the Finger Lakes.

**Anthony Colangelo** left a career on Wall Street to work with dairy farmers for the love of food and family. Anthony helped run a dairy financial consulting business for before transitioning to his current role as Senior Relationship Manager at Farm Credit East providing credit and financial services to Northeast Farmers and Agribusinesses. Anthony holds a BS in Finance and Marketing from Marist College and graduate of Cornell University's LEAD New York Class 17. Currently Anthony serves as a board member for NYS Ag Society, Witter Ag Museum, and Genesee County Farmland Protection. Originally from Brooklyn, Anthony enjoys spending time with his growing family and sharing his journey from Wall Street to Main Street.

**Clair Culver** was born and raised on a dairy and crop farm in Cayuga County. He earned an Associate's Degree in Agricultural Engineering at SUNY Morrisville and returned to work on the family farm for eight years. After employment at his family's farm, Clair went to work in agricultural equipment and fertilizer for six years. He has been with O'Hara Machinery for the last 24 years, where he provides leadership in precision agriculture equipment sales and service.

**Todd Du Mond** has a lifetime of experience in agriculture – from growing up on the farm to serving over 10 years on the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association and nine-years as New York's representative in the American Soybean Association. Officially taking over the family farm business in 2023, Todd strives to drive the local agriculture industry forward and diversify the business with fresh, innovative ideas. When he's not working, Todd can be found spending time with his wife and kids. He also enjoys skiing, hiking, rock climbing and camping.

**Richard Kane** joined Cayuga Milk Ingredients in November 2023 as the Director of Human Resources. Rich has 25 years of experience with a background spanning all facets of Human Resources. Adept at strategic planning, organizational development, and complex project management. He is an experienced Human Resources Executive with a proven track record of driving results. Rich holds a bachelor's degree in history from Oswego State University, and dual senior certifications in Human Resources. Rich resides with his wife Susan and their two adult children (Richie 25 & John 23) in Syracuse. He is a rabid SU Basketball, Pittsburgh Steelers, and New York Yankees fan and enjoys discovering new craft beer bars.

**Ava Keller** is a senior at Weedsport Central Schools and is the reporter for the Cayuga Onondaga FFA chapter. Ava is also an avid adventurist, loves to hike, enjoy waterfalls, and find new places in nature.

**Tricia Kerr** was born and raised in Auburn NY and joined the East Hill Medical Center family in 2023 as a grant writer and marketing specialist. She has broad interests in community and economic development, sustainability, innovation, and applied technology. Trish is passionate about civic engagement and empowering the next generation of leaders to create a more equitable and humane world.

**Katie LaFave** grew up on her family farm in Akron, NY and went on to study Agriculture Business at SUNY Cobleskill. She is currently in her fourth year of teaching Plant, Animal & Life Sciences at Cayuga Onondaga BOCES and enjoys showing beef cattle and helping on her family farm in her free time.

**Kaylyn Morse** is a Regional Director at Growing Hope Globally, working with overseas programs in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Kaylyn also works with Growing Projects in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Southwest Iowa. Born and raised in Colorado, she earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado College and a master's degree in social work from the University of Denver with a concentration in sustainable development and global practice. She and her husband, Tobin, currently reside in Manhattan, Kansas. She has worked with Growing Hope Globally for the past 2 years and enjoys bringing communities together to collaborate on lasting solutions to hunger.

**Ed Staehr** and his wife Rebecca own and operate Staehr Family Farm LLC, where they grow soybeans, corn, alfalfa and grass silage crops, as well as having retail enterprises to sell farm grown Fall produce and poultry. He earned bachelor's and master's Degrees from Cornell University and worked at Cornell for over 30 years. At Cornell, Ed eventually held a faculty position responsible for overseeing a program that helps farm families with business, personal issues and farm business continuity to the next generation. He studied farm business apprenticeships and management transfer as part of a sabbatical study in Germany. A key area of interest for Staehr is helping farm businesses grow to create opportunities for the next generation.

**Curtis Veiock** is the new Regional Director at Growing Hope Globally, based in East Palestine, Ohio. With a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from The Ohio State University, his professional background spans livestock management, dairy and beef cattle nutrition, and controlled environment agriculture. Curtis is an active member of the Ohio Farm Bureau, involved in the local agricultural society, and holds positions in various agricultural organizations. While recent experience focused on controlled environment agriculture, his heart led Curtis back to conventional agriculture and community engagement. Joining Growing Hope Globally perfectly aligns with Curtis's passion for making a difference in world hunger. He is excited to bridge his agricultural expertise with his commitment to faith and community service, partnering with church communities and local FFA groups to address global hunger. Curtis looks forward to contributing to the impactful work of Growing Hope Globally and the fulfilling journey ahead!

**Halee Wasson** has served as the Agricultural Instructor at Southern Cayuga Junior-Senior High School and advisor to the Southern Cayuga Future Farmers of America since 2018. She attended Penn State University, where she received a Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Extension & Education and later received a Masters of Science degree in Agricultural Communication & Leadership from University of Arkansas. Halee was raised on a fifth generation dairy and vegetable farm in Central Pennsylvania and has held many agricultural leadership roles during her lifetime.

**Owen Weikert** has been at CM/CMI in the role of Sustainability Manager for a year a half after decades of work in sustainable cattle genetics. He left the genetics and reproduction space solely to work with the amazing Cayuga farms! Owen recently completed a graduate program in Sustainable Food Systems from Harvard University. He still farms himself and raises Australian shepherds with his twin brother in Cooperstown, NY.

**Dan Welch** Dan Welch is the Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County. In this role he provides overall leadership for programs and operations locally, while also collaborating with local partners and extension faculty and staff in New York State. Dan serves on the Cayuga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency, and the Cayuga-Cortland Workforce Development Board. Previously, he was the Business and Succession Planning Coordinator with the NY FarmNet Program and an Extension Associate in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. Dan is a recipient of the Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. He is a Class 15 Fellow of the Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute (LEAD NY). Dan holds a Master of Science in Education in Vocational-Technical Education degree from the State University of New York at Oswego and Bachelor of Technology in Agribusiness degree from the State University of New York at Cobleskill.

**Doug Young** is a dairy farmer and leader in dairy innovation, research and sustainability. Doug and his wife Janet Young along with Janet's father Dave Camp founded Spruce Haven Farm in 1987 with 120 cows and 75 heifers. The farm currently has 2000 cows, 1800 heifers, 4000 acres of crop acres of corn and alfalfa. Doug strives to produce the highest nutrition with the lowest environmental impact. He has relied on applied research and experts at Cornell Animal Science to help improve the sustainability and profitability of his farm. From utilizing the power from anaerobic digesters to nutrient mass balance assessments, Doug is working hard to reduce his farm's carbon footprint.

# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



FARM CREDIT EAST

