1. Over the past few months, the Cornell Farmworker Program has been deeply engaged in CFP research and extension efforts related to “Strategies for Improved Workplace Relations and Farmworker Retention in New York State,” a project partially funded by the NY Farm Viability Institute. The overarching goal of this project is to enhance farm labor stability by engaging workers and employers in joint explorations of opportunities for advancement and improving workplace communication. Related to this project the program conducted on-farm workshops for farmworkers on 25 farms, interviews regarding labor topics with 12 dairy producers, and 19 focus group discussions with farmworkers on workplace issues. This summer the program began farm-specific producer/worker joint consultations that will continue throughout the fall.

2. We are currently preparing a continuation proposal to the NY Farm Viability Institute to expand the CFP workplace relations project to include other interested dairy farms. In addition to expanding the number of farms involved in this effort, the CFP and our CCE collaborators are proposing to develop new farm-specific bilingual audio visuals tools and training programs related to dairy production in response to farmer and worker requests during the current project.

3. On July 9, the Cornell Farmworker Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension North West New York Dairy Livestock and Field Crops Team, and Pathstone were invited by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council Community Development Workgroup to share salient observations from our research on The Yogurt Boom, Job Creation, and the Role of Dairy Farmworkers in the Finger Lakes Regional Economy. This collaborative research was partially funded by the New York State Department of State as a project of the New York State Office for New Americans.

4. The Cornell Farmworker Program received a small grant from the New York State Immigration Action Fund to support our role in planning and outreach efforts related to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivees) workshops conducted by the Cornell Law School DREAMer Pro Bono Project. The CFP provided information and outreach to farmworkers and other rural residents about DACA requirements and legal workshops to assist potential applicants.

5. The Cornell Farmworker Program hosted four student interns this summer. Students were involved in on farm research and extension activities including: conducting Emergency Planning Workshops; focus group discussions with workers about labor topics; interviews with farmers about labor concerns; and interviews with farmworkers as part of our ongoing farmworker needs assessment. CFP interns also tutored workers in English as a Second Language, and were involved in on-farm social events. Throughout the summer interns learned about farmworkers, assisted in research and helped analyze data collected during CFP research. They also updated the CFP bilingual searchable service directory database.

6. On June 15, the Cornell Farmworker Program hosted the visit of the Guatemalan Mobile Consulate during which over 100 farmworkers received documents from their country of origin. CFP interns assisted at the event. The CFP is coordinating with farmworker service providers to plan visits of the Mexican Mobile Consulate in Wayne (August) and Ontario (October) counties in the upcoming months.