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## — News from NEAFA —

*The mission of the Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance is to advocate, collaborate and educate on behalf of our members, the animal agriculture industry and other stakeholders in New York and the six New England states.*

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Volunteers at the ElmcOR Food Pantry, Queens, NY, prepare food packages filled with produce and dairy products from upstate NY farms.

## Important Words From COVID-19

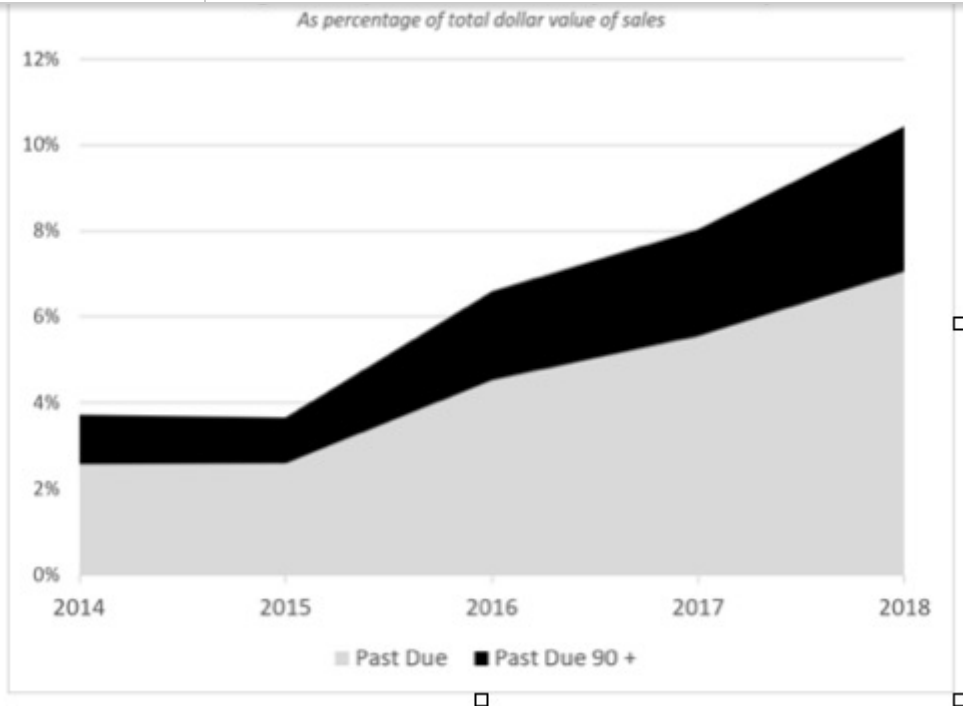
by Rick Zimmerman

Even though we all are growing weary from the massive disruption of our lives, we are becoming accustomed to this new world. B.C. has a new meaning: "Before COVID-19". We know that the future will not completely return us to pre-COVID-19 status, and we will determine what the new normal looks like. This evolutionary process is remarkably rapid, particularly when you reflect on events that occurred just a couple of months ago. This experience will make us stronger, more resilient and the following words have taken on new meaning.

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## Study: Feed Mills Help Finance Northeast Dairy Industry

by Chad Fiechter



Historically, the evaluations of U.S. farm debt have focused on traditional lending institutions like commercial banks, Farm Credit System lenders, Farm Service Agency, and life insurance companies. This focus excludes the role agricultural input suppliers play as creditors for their farm customers, as most agricultural input suppliers are not required to publicly disclose any information on their lending practices. Given the challenges facing the Northeast Dairy Industry, we chose to “lean into” this challenge and see if there was a way to provides timely insights.

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## **DFA Cares to Feed Families during Covid-19 Shutdown**





DFA employees pose for a photo at a Destiny USA dairy drive through event on April 22nd, 2020, in which DFA Cares gave away fluid milk to the community.

The last few months have been a complete upset for many families across the US, leaving them without a job, dwindling savings, and hard pressed to put food on the table as community resources become stretched. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, over 30 million Americans have sought unemployment benefits, many having to wait weeks to hear back from backlogged caseworkers. Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) has worked to fill that need through their DFA Cares fund. The nationwide co-operative represents 13,000 farms across the country, with 3200 members in the Northeast alone.

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## NEDPA Weighs in on USDA's Coronavirus Food Aid Program

Ag & Markets Commissioner Richard Ball for his leadership in influencing necessary changes to the program that will help support the viability of our industry.

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## NEAFA/NY FarmNet Stress Management Webinar a Success



NEAFA, in conjunction with NY FarmNet, hosted a free stress management and mental health awareness webinar April 29th. 190 registrants signed up for the event, which was aimed at dealing with the additional stress Covid-19 has recently placed on the agriculture community. “The webinar that NY FarmNet and NEAFA coordinated was critical in these uncertain times,” said Kate Downes of NY FarmNet, Downes cohosted the event with Brenda O’Brien. “It was a great way to have an open and honest conversation with people across all sectors of agriculture. Talking openly about mental health is a pretty taboo topic for many people, but by sharing language to use, and ways to talk about it without adding to the stigma is incredibly helpful, especially in our agricultural communities. We want to people to realize they can connect with and help each other, in very simple ways.”

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## FMCSA finalizes hours-of-service rules

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 14, 2020 — The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) commended the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for issuing its long-awaited [final rule](#) on changes to driver hours-of-service regulations with reforms that will increase driver flexibility and facilitate the availability of truck transportation, which moves the vast majority of agricultural freight.

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**— Upcoming Events —**

**NEAFA Board of Directors meeting: June 25, 2020 via  
webinar**



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