“It may be that when we no longer know which way to go that we have come to our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.” — Wendell Berry

FYI:

USDA Announces Availability of an August 31 Sales Period for Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy

Spokane, Wash., August 24, 2012 ---- USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced the availability of sales for Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy (LGM-Dairy) for the August 31, sales period.

RMA plans to make available limited remaining underwriting capacity for Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy Cattle (LGM-Dairy) to allow sales for the August 31, sales period. LGM-Dairy used approximately $13.1 million in total underwriting capacity in the October and November 2011 sales periods. At the end of the November sales period, RMA determined that LGM-Dairy sales should stop to facilitate sales of the other seven insurance plans that insure livestock.

Dairy producers are encouraged to visit their livestock insurance agent to learn details of the LGM-Dairy policy. Federal livestock insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private livestock insurance companies and agents. A list of livestock insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers in the United States or on the RMA Web site at http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/.
Weather Data—August 29, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rain</th>
<th>GDD 86/50</th>
<th>GDD 41</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past Week</td>
<td>This Month</td>
<td>Since April 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Past Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitehall</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granville</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyle</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alb. Airport</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilderland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castleton</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redhook</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Will late-June planted corn mature?? The answer is the same each year—“it depends on September”. Some corn was pollinating last week. If the high for the day is 75°F and the low is 50°F, then that is 12 growing degree days. It will take a quite a few days (66) like that to reach the needed 800 GDD from silking to silage maturity. If we get some mid 80°F weather in September, we make just reach silage maturity

Growing Degree Days (86/50) for corn growth stages:

- Emergence – 100 to 120 GDD
- Leaf development 65 GDD each
- Silking to silage harvest (68% moisture) - 800 GDD
- Silking to black layer (full maturity) – 1200 – 1400 GDD
Corn: The decisions you make about corn silage harvest will have an extra big impact on your dairy because of current grain prices and low forage inventories. **Maximize the value of your crop.** The most important decision at this time is harvest moisture. Silage quality is better when harvested between 65% and 68% moisture (not 70%). Take the time to check each field and dry down samples so that you are not guessing at whole-plant moisture. Do not let the milk line fool you about whole-plant moisture. **Kernel processing** will be extra important this year. If you already do it, then be sure machinery is adjusted properly for each field. If you do not usually kernel process, then consider how you may get it done this year. **Check for stalk rots** since drought stress can lead to stalk rots. Squeeze the lower segments of corn stems to see if they are mushy or not. Harvest fields before they lodge. **Pack bunks like a maniac.** Excellent packing is important and will have an extra economic value this year. **In short, do an excellent job with all the basic steps of making silage.** This will help you endure this difficult crop year and insane grain prices.

Northern corn leaf blight has hit a couple fields pretty hard. It seems rather unpredictable. Some BMR corn was hit hard, and other BMR corn is fine, while the conventional variety nearby was hit hard. One field of 1st year corn was hit hard while 2nd year corn next to it had half the NCLB infection. **Take note of each hybrid and how it performs to help you with future hybrid choices.**

**Soybeans:** I have looked at just a couple soybean fields, and they look good—just a couple of aphids, a little disease, decent pollination. However, in other parts of New York, they are finding sudden death syndrome, brown stem rot, white mold, soybean vein necrosis, and more. So, I am afraid that I may be missing something in our region. If you see anything suspicious in your bean fields, please give me a call (Aaron, 380-1496).

I looked at one soybean field that had lambsquarters growing above a nice field of beans. For something odd like this consider what may be the cause to rule out (or to catch) herbicide resistance.

**Grasses:** If you have milkweed and other perennial weeds in your grass fields, you can use Banvel, 2,4-D or other herbicides to control them. The key to good control is to treat plants that are actively growing and have some size to them. September is our last chance to control these weeds in hay.

**NYS IPM Weekly Pest Report**

**View From The Field**
While scouting soybean fields in Dutchess County, I (Ken Wise) found leaflets that look like soybean vein necrosis virus (SVNV). We still need to confirm that this is SVNV though Cornell’s Plant Pathology Diagnostic lab. For more information, refer to last week’s pest report: [http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/fieldcrops/tag/pestrpt/default.asp#SVNV](http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/fieldcrops/tag/pestrpt/default.asp#SVNV)
Soybean Vein Necrosis Virus Symptoms

Reports of several other soybean diseases came in this past week: septoria brown spot, downy mildew, bacterial blight, bacterial pustule, and frogeye leaf spot. These diseases rarely cause economic losses to soybeans in NY. A few reports of soybeans leaves with yellow discoloration suggested potassium deficiency. But closely inspecting the roots revealed an insect — a type of mealybug. Last summer, mealybugs were collected in Yates county on soybean roots and identified as clover root mealy bug (photos below). Potential importance and economic impacts of this insect are poorly understood. This summer, mealybugs have been collected from soybean roots in Delaware and Livingston counties. If you find mealybugs on soybeans showing signs of the potassium deficiency — please collect samples! We would be very interested in hearing from you and learning more about this mysterious pest.

Keith Waldron found dodder, an orange spaghetti-like weed, (Cuscuta spp.) in Chemung, NY. This parasitic weed is occasionally found in alfalfa and other broadleaf species. Dodder in the photo below was on “touch-me-not” growing along a roadside. Dodder gets most of its nutrients from the plants it grows on, being almost incapable of photosynthesis. As the mass of dodder vines expand, it coils around and attacks to new hosts. If you find dodder on your farm, destroy as quickly as possible to curb the chance it will infest other fields.
Parasitic Dodder, *Cuscuta* spp.
Spider mites have done considerable damage to field corn at the Cornell Research Farm in Valatie. And reports of spider mite damage on soybeans in areas of western NY are still coming in.
Lately I’ve seen some defoliation on soybeans. Most is due to Japanese beetles, Mexican bean beetles, and grasshoppers. While these are minor pests, defoliation sends up red flags for growers. How much leaf defoliation is too much in soybeans? The good news: soybeans can withstand much defoliation without losing yield. The threshold from V1 to just before bloom: 35 percent of leaf area eaten or missing. From bloom through pod-fill, the threshold is 20 percent.

While conducting a barn fly IPM meeting in Oneida County we discovered a large population of stable flies. Stable flies bite and take blood from the legs of cattle. The economic threshold is an average of 10 flies per 4 legs on at least 15 animals. While the average was around 20 per cow, we found as many as 50 on one animal. For more information see article below.

**Western Bean Cutworm Update**
Keith Waldron, NYS IPM
Western bean cutworm captures declined again this week; a number of traps caught none. So far, 73 WBC moths were caught in the 50 traps reporting this week — less than half the number caught last week. Catches ranged from 0 to 16. The majority of our accumulated NY trap catch numbers are relatively low, indicating no cause for economic concern. Interestingly, 13 traps have caught less than a total 10 WBC moths so far this season. The high WBC count this week was 16 in Eden (Erie County).

**Average number of western bean cutworm moths captured per trap.**

Meanwhile, WBC larvae were collected in Lowville (Lewis county) this week. In the weeks ahead be on the lookout for signs of larval feeding in corn ears. WBC infested ear could contain more than one larva. Larvae could enter through the silk channel at the ear tip or bore through the husk or ear shank. Excessive bird activity and damage could indicate insect larvae are in the ears. Damage can open ears to risk of ear molds.
More WBC monitoring information is available at:
Western Bean Cutworm identification card – including larval stages.
Cornell Sweet Corn Monitoring Network
Penn State Pest Watch (Includes WBC data from NY, New England and other state)
Ontario WBC Trap Network
Cornell Field Crop Extension Homepage: “fieldcrops.org” “blog” section.
Western Bean Cutworm - Corn scouting videos: Ontario, Wisconsin
Clipboard Checklist, Keith Waldron, NYS IPM

General:
* Emergency contact information ("911", local hospital, Chem.Spill emergency contact, other) posted in central posting area
* Maintain crop records by field, including variety, planting date, pesticides used, nutrient inputs including manure, etc.
* Watch for any patches of herbicide resistant weeds, weed escapes

Corn:
* Monitor fields for plant vigor, growth stage, late season pest issues (European corn borer, foliar diseases, nutritional deficiencies, vertebrate damage)
* Monitor for weeds, note presence of "who", "how many" and "where"
* Monitor reproductive stage corn fields for foliar diseases, stalk standability issues, corn ear damage (insect pests and diseases)
* Prepare storage areas to accept upcoming silage harvest

Alfalfa & Hay:
* Monitor alfalfa seedings for weeds, insects & diseases.
* Check regrowth of established alfalfa stands for potato leafhopper, weed and disease problems.
* Storage areas cleaned and ready to accept incoming harvest

Soybeans:
* Evaluate stand growth, development and condition
* Monitor fields for soybean aphid, foliar diseases, white mold, natural enemies, defoliating insects, spider mites, bean leaf beetles and weed escapes

Dairy Livestock Barn Fly Management:
* Sanitation, sanitation, sanitation - clean animal resting areas, feed throughs, minimize source of moist organic matter i.e. fly breeding areas in barn and in adjacent animal loafing yard
* Check water sources, drainage, roof gutters for leaks and potential overspill
* Continue fly monitoring: install "3X5" index card fly speck monitoring cards throughout barn
* Install/refresh/replenish as needed: fly tapes, insecticide baits, natural enemies (parasitoids)

Dairy Livestock Pasture Fly Management:
* Monitor animals for presence of pasture fly pests. Treatment guidelines: Horn flies (50 per dairy animal side, 100 per side for beef cattle), face flies(10 per animal face), stable flies (10 per 4 legs). See IPM’s Livestock page.
* Consider installing biting fly traps to reduce horse, deer and stable fly populations.

Storage:
* Check temperature, moisture, pest status of recent bin stored small grains
* Keep areas around storage bins and silos clean and mowed
* Check areas around storage bins and silos for vertebrate tunneling
* Check temperature of recently baled hay in hay mow

Equipment:
* Note any repairs needed for recently used equipment: tractors, tillage implements, planters, sprayers, etc. as they are cleaned and serviced.
* Service hay harvesting equipment as needed.
* Calibrate manure spreaders - maintain records on amount spread per field

Contact Information
Keith Waldron: NYS Livestock and Field Crops IPM Coordinator
Phone: (315) 787 - 2432
Fax: (315) 787-2360
Email: jkw5@cornell.edu