Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Capital Area Ag Report
September 27, 2012

“Our patterns of the past are not sufficient for the challenges of the future.”
— David A. Bednar

Announcements

This is the last Ag Report for the Season.

Winter Forage Field Days
Learn and see how to grow fall sown oats and winter grains for forage. Which fields are most suited for winter forage? Is it worth planting shorter season corn? Discuss a remarkable 2012 growing season with neighbors.

Call Aaron, 380-1496, for questions and to RSVP so that I can print the correct number of materials.

Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 1 pm, Foothill Farm (Bill Gorsky), Easton, Washington County. At the oat/triticale field east of the barn next to house at 1380 Vly Summit Rd.

Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 1 pm, A. Ooms & Sons, 215 Rte 28A, Valatie, Columbia Co. Look for the CCE sign at an oat field west of the farm on Rte 28A.
Weather Data—September 27, 2012

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Rain Past Week</th>
<th>Rain This Month</th>
<th>Rain Since April 1st</th>
<th>GDD 86/50 Past Week</th>
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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
Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm – Improving Your Business With On-Farm Research – at The Century House, Rte 9 Latham. Learn how to do your own on-farm research and how to participate in state-wide research projects with Cornell faculty. We will discuss the skills, knowledge, and management it takes to do on-farm research and how to do a partial budget to evaluate a new product or practice. Bring an idea for something you want to try and you will outline a plan on how to test it on your farm.

Put on by Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program. Mark your calendars. Registration information is forthcoming. Contact Aaron Gabriel if you have questions, adg12@cornell.edu, 518-380-1496.

December 12, 2012 Field Crop Dealer Meeting—Genesee Grand Hotel, Syracuse, NY, 1 -5pm. This meeting is for industry representatives, consultants and retail dealers to provide information on Cornell field crops research and recommendations. Pre-register for the Field Crop Dealer Meeting online at http://nysaba.com/meeting_registration. There is a $15 registration fee for the meeting. DEC pesticide applicator credits and CCA continuing education credits will be requested. A tentative agenda for the 2012 Field Crop Dealer Meeting can be found at: http://fieldcrops.org/Calendar/Documents/2012%20FCDM%20Agenda.pdf.

Please contact Mary McKellar at mem40@cornell.edu if you have any questions.

The Field Crop Dealer meeting will be recorded. We are determining the best way to make it available: local meeting to view the recording; online; online pesticide recertification course; DVD. I (Aaron) would appreciate your comments. Budgets have made it impossible to continue the traditional offering of the Field Crops Dealer meeting at various locations around the state.

Tuesday, October 2: 11 am-11:50 am, for part one, 12 noon to 1 pm for part two: WEBINAR: Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy (LGM-Dairy) Crop Insurance Intermediate Training Opportunity….Is LGM-Dairy Right for You? Sponsored by the NYS DAM Crop Insurance Education Program, with expert Dr. Brian Gould, Univ. of Wisconsin. The presentation will assume some knowledge of this margin protection crop insurance program, with the first hour providing a sophisticated overview of the crop insurance program. (For those who wish for an introduction or and introductory refresher, log into NYSDAM’s website to watch and listen to the intro webinar by Dr. Gould at www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CropInsuranceSpecialty.html and scroll down to Dairy.)

At 12 noon, in the second half of the training, NYS dairy producer data will be used to demonstrate the online tool that helps farmers and their crop insurance agents decide on the insurance contract to purchase. The University of Wisconsin’s analyzer is available at any time on their website at: http://future.aae.wisc.edu/lgm_analyzer/. Dairy producer questions will be answered throughout.

Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy (LGM-Dairy) is a crop insurance program that is based on milk income over feed costs, which the program calls a "gross margin". The insurance program covers the difference between the expected gross margin (insurance guarantee) and the actual gross margin for the months the producer selects for coverage, based on the amount of milk the producer chooses to insure and feed declared. Enrollment is limited to one contract per month (subject to funding) and occurs after markets close on the last business Friday of that month. The next expected enrollment opportunity for LGM-Dairy is Friday, October 26. Program funding is limited by the program’s pilot status in the current Farm Bill.
and assigned funding was exhausted in the first hour of the October and November sales enrollment opportunities last year. Remaining funding was used in an August enrollment. Producers need to sign up in advance to participate in the webinar on the events page of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets website at: http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CropInsuranceEvents.html

Aaron’s Comments

It is the end of a rather challenging season. Harvest time is a critical time to practice good management so that you do not lose money down the road. Harvesting crops at the proper moisture and storing properly is important. Do not let the challenges discourage you and let your management slide. After every dairy slump, there is a bump. Chop at the proper moisture. Cover bunkers well, with lots of tires. Use inoculants as needed. Clean out grain bins thoroughly and mow grass and weeds around them. There is too much to say about crop storage in one column, so below are some websites to find information. Call me if you want a printed copy.

Websites About Grain Storage


Small Grains:  http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/components/7488storage.html

Maintaining Stored Grain Quality:  http://lancaster.unl.edu/ag/crops/inservice/manage-i98.html


Grain Storage Safety:  http://umaine.edu/publications/2291e/


Making Silage Piles

Drive-Over Silage Pile Construction:  http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/A3511.pdf


Lime:  I had a question about lime and the value of wood ash that may be mixed into it. First, whenever you buy lime, you should get a spec sheet guaranteeing the “effective neutralizing value” of the lime, as well as how fine it is ground. When wood ash is added to lime, it typically has potassium and other minerals. All potassium is water soluble so that it will be immediately available (provided there is moisture). Is it wise to spread potassium in the fall? Or will it all leach away. To answer that you want to know the soil texture (the amount of sand, silt, clay, and organic matter), and the soil test level of potassium. Potassium does leach out of soil, but not near as much as nitrogen. It will bind to clay and organic matter,
provided that the soil test level is not very high. You will get the value of all or some of the potassium when it is spread in the fall if the soil has some clay and organic matter to hold it and it is not already very high in potassium.

**Weekly Field Crops Pest Report**
*September 21, 2012, Volume 11 Number 23*

**View from the Field**

Once again there is a line-up of diseases this week. In corn we are finding northern corn leaf blight, northern corn leaf spot, gray leaf spot and various kinds of stalk rots.

One disease found at the Cornell Research Farm this fall was northern corn leaf spot. The symptoms are linear narrow lesion about a 1/8 to ¼ inch wide. They range from a ½ to ¾ inches long. They are grayish-tan and have a pigmented border. The lesions exist between the veins and are linear in appearance. The fungus is *Bipolaris zeicola* (*Helminthosporium carbonum*) and has five different races that can infect the plant. The fungus overwinters on corn crop residue from previous years.

![Northern Corn Leaf Spot. Photo by Ken Wise, NYSIPM.](image)

**Management of Northern Corn Leaf Spot.**

Plant corn hybrids that are resistant to Northern Corn Leaf Spot

Use a shorter rotation of 1 to 2 years for corn

Plow under residue to reduce fungi in the field.

Fungicides are effective at controlling the disease but is rarely economical

In soybeans there are reports of white mold and soybean vein mosaic virus this week. Most of the reports of soybeans with white mold have come from Eastern NY. Soybean vein mosaic virus is being found statewide and in most fields.

Keith Waldron reports finding bean leaf beetles in soybeans near Waterloo, NY. This insect pest is relatively new to New York. For more information on bean leaf beetle please see *View from the Field*, 9-4-12.

I found English grain aphid in triticale this week. English grain aphid is one of the aphids that can transmit barley and wheat yellow dwarf. Triticale can be infected like all other cereal grains and even grasses. Triticale does not always show symptoms like you might see on wheat and barley.

**Western Bean Cutworm, Keith Waldron, NYS IPM**

The Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) trapping season has come to an end for 2012. Counts this week remained essentially the same as last week with most sites still in operation reporting “0” moths.

What’s next for WBC larvae?

As WBC larvae mature they will stop feeding, drop off their hosts and burrow into the soil to overwinter. In late summer and early fall, 6th instar WBC larvae drop off their hosts and burrow into the soil, where they construct earthen chambers where they will overwinter. These soil cells are about 5-10 inches beneath the soil. Sandier soils allow larvae to penetrate deeper into the soil profile. The underground overwintering location provides greater protection from winter temperatures and tillage.
equipment and increases overwintering survival. The larvae remain in their pre-pupa state throughout the winter, then pupate and complete development to moths the following summer. Surviving insects should begin to appear in our moth traps about the last week or so of next June.

**Western Bean Cutworm Monitoring Highlights 2012:**

Total number of WBC (male) moth catches was 3,458, more than 2X last year’s catch.

Peak WBC flight this year was about 1-2 weeks earlier than that observed in 2010 and 2011 (August 2) See figure below. *Earlier emergence and activity probably related to the warm temperatures in spring and early summer.* The majority of WBC moths captured statewide were in very good condition indicating there are locally overwintering populations. These populations appear to be relatively small to moderate in size with the majority of locations catching less than 50 WBC moths / trap.

Several western and northwestern NY sites had very high captures this season (> 150). A high percentage of moths captured in these high count locations had damaged wings suggesting they had travelled some distance and were likely migrants.

Very few egg masses were found this season (Franklin County) and none of those fields were over threshold (field corn: 5% field infestation with egg masses and/or small larvae). There have been reports of WBC larvae in sweet and field corn ears.

So far WBC economic damage has not been detected this season although it is still quite early as dry bean and corn harvest has only just begun.

We are very interested in documenting any economic impacts associated with western bean cutworm this season. If you believe you have WBC larval damage and suspect economic losses we would like to hear from you. Please contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension field crops educator.

**Clipboard Checklis,** 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, stalk rots, ear molds, nutritional deficiencies, vertebrate damage)
* Monitor for weeds, note presence of "who", "how many" and "where"
* Monitor reproductive stage corn fields for foliar diseases, lodging issues, corn ear damage (insect pests and ear molds and other diseases)
* Prepare storage areas to accept upcoming 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:**
* Monitor fields for diseases such as white mold; natural enemies and weed escapes

**Dairy Livestock Barn Fly Management:**
Barn fly issues tend to spike when fall temperatures drop and flies seek warmer locations. To avoid establishment of fly populations pay close attention to barn sanitation and other cultural practices to minimize fly breeding habitat.
* 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:**
Pasture fly issues tend to drop significantly
when fall temperatures drop, particularly after
the first frosts. House, stable and perhaps some
horn flies will seek warmer locations such as
barns.
* 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
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
* Clean grain bins target for use in storing up-
coming soybean or corn harvests

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

**Contact Information**

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Email: klw24@cornell.edu