Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
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Capital Area Ag Report
May 1, 2013

“Worrying works! Ninety percent of the time the things we worry about never happen.”
- unknown

Announcements
Tuesday, May 7, 1—2:30pm — Winter Forage Field Day — at Foothill Farm (Bill Gorsky) on Vly Summit Rd., 1/10 mile north of Rte 40, in Easton, Washington Co. Discuss the challenges of fall ’12 harvested oats; winter triticale before spring harvest; forage quality of winter forages; getting good fermentation; getting more yield per acre; utilizing wet fields. Please RSVP so I can print enough handouts, Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu.

Wednesday, May 8, 1—2:30 pm—Winter Forage Field Day — at Stanton (Dairy) Farms, Coeyman’s Hollow. Triticale field is on Rte 32, just eas of LeGrange Ln, at the intersection of Rte 32 and Winne Ln. Discuss triticale and other winter forages; forage quality; getting more per acre; getting good fermentation; utilizing wet fields. Please RSVP so I can print enough handouts, Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu.

Wednesday, May 8, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Basic Farm Business Management Planning — at CCE-Greene Cty. Acra, NY. Helping your farm business achieve success. Registration is $25. For more info contact Gale at 518-765-3500 or Sandy Buxton 518-380-1498 or sab22@cornell.edu.

Saturday, May 18, 2013, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm—Beef Pro-
Weather Data—May 1, 2013

Although it is dry, the water level in the gravel aquifer in Easton/Greenwich is at a normal level.

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Rain Past Week</th>
<th>Rain This Week</th>
<th>Rain Since April 1st</th>
<th>GDD 86/50 Past Week</th>
<th>GDD 86/50 Since April 1st</th>
<th>GDD 41 Past Week</th>
<th>GDD 41 Since April 1st</th>
<th>GDD 48 Past Week</th>
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**ducers Field Day**—Westendlock Farm, 515 West End Road, Hillsdale, New York 12529. Beef Quality Assurance certification in the morning. Body condition scoring and grading cattle in the afternoon. The cost of this program is $15.00 per person which includes lunch. If you wish to receive your BQA certification you must order a manual in advance for $10.00. Only one manual is required per farm. To register and order your manual contact Gale Kohler at 518-765-3500 or gekk4@cornell.edu. For program details contact Tom Gallagher CAAHP Regional Livestock Specialist at 518-765-3511 or tjg3@cornell.edu.

**Wednesday, June 5, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m—PASTURE GRAZING FOR PROFIT**—at the Ghent Service Center, 1024 Rt. 66, Ghent, NY. Sponsored by NRCS, SWCD, GLCI, RC&D, and CCE. Morning workshop and afternoon farm visit to Grazing Acres. Speakers include Mick Bessire, Karen Hoffmann, Laura Sager, Jim Unser. To register, contact Eileen at CCE of Columbia and Greene Counties, (518) 622-9820. Lunch $10/person day of the workshop.

**FYI:**

To get email notices of new events and information on the Cornell Beef Management website. Go to http://ansci.cornell.edu/wp/beefcattle/, on the right side of the page scroll down to “Subscribe”.

**PRO-DAIRY 2013 Milk Check Project**—More information online at: http://ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy/MCAP/instructions.html

This year, PRO-DAIRY is partnering with Dr. Mark Stephenson at the Center of Dairy Profitability at University of Wisconsin to conduct this project. Milk checks from New York and Wisconsin will be collected and regional differences will be analyzed.

To participate in this year’s study, send
PRO-DAIRY the final settlement check(s) for milk produced in March 2013, including check(s) received in the middle of April. Only final or settlement checks received in April for March production are needed. Checks received for advanced March production are not needed.

Receiving actual copies milk check(s) allows PRO-DAIRY staff to accurately identify prices received by farmers and the associated milk marketing costs. All information will be held in strict confidence, and no individual farm data will be reported in any manner. Study participants will receive a personalized report of their farm’s milk check, with comparisons to farms by location and by milk shipped for the month. Participants will also receive the report on state averages on milk prices, premiums and marketing costs.

Milk checks can be mailed, emailed, uploaded online or faxed. Visit http://ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy/MCAP/instructions.html to print a cover sheet and for further instructions.

The DEC will be cancelling the registrations for alachlor-containing herbicides (Lasso, Bullet, Micro-Tech, Intro, and Lariat). Registrations for these products are to end after the upcoming growing season. Growers or custom applicators who have stocks of alachlor-containing herbicides on hand will need to use them up during the this year’s growing season.

The NYSDEC has recently approved the registration of the following herbicides containing the new active ingredient acetochlor:

- Degree Xtra Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 524-511) – containing the active ingredients acetochlor and atrazine
- Harness Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 524-473) – containing the active ingredient acetochlor
- Harness Xtra Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 524-480) – containing the active ingredients acetochlor and atrazine
- Harness Xtra 5.6L Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 524-485) – containing the active ingredients acetochlor and atrazine
- Warrant Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 524-591) – containing the active ingredient acetochlor
- Keystone (EPA Reg. No. 62719-368) – containing the active ingredients acetochlor and atrazine
- Surepass EC (EPA Reg. No. 62719-367) – containing the active ingredient acetochlor
- SureStart (EPA Reg. No. 62719-570) – containing the active ingredients acetochlor, flumetsulam, and clopyralid
- TripleFlex Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 62719-570-524) – containing the active ingredients acetochlor, flumetsulam, and clopyralid

The above herbicides are labeled for pre-plant, pre-emergent and/or early post-emergent control of annual broadleaf and grassy weeds in corn (field, silage, seed, sweet, and pop), sorghum, and soybeans. Note the following restrictions for these products:

- All are restricted-use pesticides.
- All products are prohibited from use on Long Island.
- All products have specific setback requirements to protect water resources.

Due to concerns about the impacts of acetochlor-containing herbicides on natural resources, particularly water resources, educational materials and programs will be made available to growers, applicators, and Extension educators in New York State on acetochlor best management practices. Information on how to obtain these will be made available in the near future.

Copies of the approved labels for these products will be available on PIMS (http://pims.psur.cornell.edu) shortly.

As with any pesticide product, always read and follow label directions.
Weeds: Wild garlic (multiple bulbs) and wild onion (single bulb) are early season weeds that do not compete with soybeans and corn, but when they grow in small grains and hay fields, they are a problem, including flavoring milk. The time to control them is during the corn and soybean part of your rotation in the spring and late-summer. Apply herbicides before planting soybeans (Synchrony, Canopy, 2,4-D, glyphosate) and before planting corn (Harmony). Read the labels carefully, since you must apply some of these a certain number of days before planting.

Corn: The last two years, late-planted corn yielded more than early planted corn because dry spells hit when early-planted corn was pollinating. Part of risk management is to spread out the risk, rather than banking on the best recipe for bin busting yields. We have a good stretch of weather for planting, but spreading out planting time and varieties will increase your risk management. Black cutworm (BCW) and armyworm populations are at normal levels in Kentucky and the mid-west. So, hopefully the yearly spring migration of these two pests will not be extraordinary like last year. Remember, that seed-applied insecticides do not control BCW very well. You still need to check your seedling corn for damage and spot spray with a foliar insecticide. Seedcorn maggot (SCM) can be a problem in fields with lots of fresh organic matter (manure, plowed sod or cover crops). Again, try to monitor corn seedlings. With the dry weather, this is a good spring to deep rip before planting corn. Plant over the slot of the straight-shank “zone-builder” tools. This can save time and tillage expense. If fields have a layer of manure on top, then incorporate it so that the soil warms up. A layer of manure is like an insulating blanket, keeping the soil cool.

Alfalfa: Maturity is determined mostly by growing degree days (base temp of 41°F). When 700 GDD have accumulated, alfalfa neutral detergent fiber will be at 40%, our goal for dairy quality alfalfa. So, you need to begin harvesting a couple or few days before that. If you see parts of your field growing slowly or dead. Check the crowns and roots for disease. Let me know if you see something interesting. Send me a digital photo.

Grasses: With our more normal spring this year (cool), grasses are not very tall yet. With the dry weather, they may not get very tall. Grasses will head out based on the calendar, not heat units. So, to get dairy quality forage you need to cut grasses early even if they are short.

This picture shows how the seed head inside the stem moving up the plant and eventually it will “head out” rise above the leaves. To monitor first cutting, slice a few stems with a pocket knife to see if the seed head is 4 inches or higher above the ground. If it is, then harvest these grasses at the first window of good
weather that comes. Harvest at this point, since the next week it could rain for a week or two, and by then the grasses may all be headed out and low quality. If you cut grass before the seed head is 4 inches high within the plant, the mower will cut above it and you will have a lot of seed heads pop out early in second cutting.

**For mixed alfalfa/grass fields**, you need to consider the maturity of the alfalfa and not harvest so early that you damage the alfalfa.

Orchardgrass typically heads out in **mid-May**. So, be ready to harvest by mid-May. After orchardgrass comes bromegrass, fescue, and reed canarygrass, in late-May. Timothy heads out last in early-June. Be ready, and when the seed heads are above the cutter bar, take your harvest at the first good window of weather.

Meadow foxtail is now heading out. (before orchardgrass). It looks like timothy but it isn’t. Meadow foxtail heads are softer and more round at the top and bottom.

**Pasture**: Pastures are now ready (a couple days ago) for grazing. Be sure to graze them down to no less than 3 or 4 inches. Then give them a two week rest. If it stays dry, paddocks may need a longer rest period this month. If you are short on forage, applying nitrogen will boost yields, as long as we get a little rain to get it into the soil.

For information on small grains, see the NYS IPM Weekly Field Crops report:

http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwrpr/