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Capital Area Ag Report
August 29, 2013

“Most people are as happy as they make up their minds to be.” — Abraham Lincoln

Announcements

There will be two more “Ag Reports” in September, then it will resume next season.

Tuesday, September 10, 1 – 3 pm, Field Meeting - Soybean Integrated Pest Management - at Stone House Farm, 3169 Route 9, Hudson. Learn to identify and manage pre-harvest soybean insects, weeds, and disease. Led by Ken Wise, CCE IPM Specialist & Aaron Gabriel, CCE Agronomist. 2 pesticide re-certification credits. No charge, but please call for a head count, Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu.

Sept. 24-25, 2013 New Strategies for Farm Succession Planning in the Broadway Bistro Room at NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY. This is a noon to noon-ish meeting. Registration is $100 and includes meals and educational materials. Registration deadline is 9/12/2013. For more info call 1-800-547-3276 or email aes6@cornell.edu. Topics include; legal, tax and business strategy and involve Robert Milligan, Sharon Danes, a farmer panel and others. Sponsored by Farm Credit East, Scolaro, Fetter, Grizanti, McGough & King, P.C. and NY FarmNet.
Weather Data—August 29, 2013

<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 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granville</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitehall</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>19.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argyle</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>24.1</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castleton</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redhook</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you want to determine the growing degree days that have accumulated from any particular week (like corn silking), then go back to the “Ag Report” for the starting week and subtract the growing degree days from the current week. For example, there have been about 679 GDD (86/50) in Hudson since July 25.

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

FYI:

- If you have not been getting the email for the NYS IPM Weekly Pest Report, then go to http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwpr/ and subscribe.
Governor Cuomo, in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, has announced the Dairy Acceleration Program. This program is designed to enhance profitability of New York dairy farms and to maintain a commitment to environmentally responsible growth. The program will be delivered in collaboration with Cornell PRO-DAIRY and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Eligible projects assist New York dairy farmers to develop business plans for successful and environmentally responsible growth. Funds may be used for creation of strategic business plans focused on growth, design of new or remodeled facilities, or development of environmental and farmstead plans. Farms must have lactating dairy cattle.

Eligibility:
- Must be a dairy cattle farm
- Must have complete financial records for business planning
- Preference is given to farms with under 300 cows
- Must complete and submit an application (available at the ProDairy website)

Dairy Acceleration Program funding covers 80% of a project’s cost. The farm is responsible for 20%, of the project cost, which is paid directly to the service provider, including any in excess of established limits.

Funding may include:
- Up to $5,000 per farm to write a business plan or to develop a combination of a business and facility growth plan
- Up to $6,000 to develop a new Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) for farms under 300 cows
- Up to $4,500 to update an existing CNMP for farms under 300 cows
- Up to $3,600 for an initial and combined evaluation of financial and environmental needs of the farm for farms under 300 cows

Business planning to account for the cost of environmental improvements associated with growth of the dairy is encouraged.

Agri-business personnel who wish to provide services for the Dairy Acceleration Program should contact Caroline Potter for more information at cjh42@cornell.edu.

For more details visit the DAP Web site at: http://ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy/dairy_acceleration/.
**Crops & Soils…Aaron Gabriel**

**Corn:** Use the growing degree day accumulations from the weather tables in the “Ag Report” to estimate corn maturity. Harvest moisture has a huge influence on silage quality. You can improve YIELD, DIGESTIBILITY, AND FERMENTATION simply by being patient and harvesting corn silage at 65% to 68% moisture, rather than jumping the gun and harvesting at 70% moisture. One decision can have a big impact.

Foiliar diseases are out there. Diseases below the ear typically do cause little yield loss once ears are developing. We do have some late planted fields and disease on the leaves before tasseling and above the ear at tasseling are a concern. At that point, you need to evaluate and determine your options to maintain yield.

**Soybeans:** I was digging the roots of some pale green plants and found that the nodules (when I sliced them open) were green or brown, rather than red. They were not working. Nodules on the healthy looking plants were red and working. I am not sure the reason. The soil was dry, but the plants were not water-stressed. If you seed pale plants, examine the root nodules.

Look for white mold in beans to determine if you need to lengthen out your rotation. The white mold pathogen (*Sclerotinia*) infects the flowers, but shows up latter as a cottony growth on the stems and leaf petioles.

Last week I saw a fair amount of aphids and spider mites. I have not returned to the same fields this week to see if any insect diseases have reduced the populations. Look for fuzzy aphids. Expect a 3 or 4 bushel yield loss from tire tracks if you try to go in and spray.

The brown marmorated stink bug is established in the lower Hudson Valley. I have not yet seen one. You can notice their damage in soybean fields, because plants with BMSB feeding stay green longer at the end of the season. So if you see patches of greener plants among the yellow senescing plants (especially along hedges, where damage is most likely), take a look for the BMSB and give me a call.

**Alfalfa:** Get alfalfa ready for winter by topdressing with phosphorus and potassium as needed according to a soil test. Also, the mowing height of the last cutting should be about 4” high. It is less stressful on the plant, and if we do get snow, the stems will trap it better for a protective blanket.
We are past the recommended seeding date for alfalfa seedings. If September and October weather is good, red clover will establish if seeded before September. If a failure does result, you can frost seed red clover (but it is not recommended to frost seed alfalfa).

Plan ahead for fields that will be seeded in the spring of 2014 and beyond. If lime is needed, be sure to get it applied. My criteria for timing of lime applications, is any time of year the ground is hard (with no snow cover). However, applicators are usually less busy and more available to apply lime after the cropping season.

**Grasses and Pasture:** Phosphorus and potassium can be applied in the late-summer, but not nitrogen. Maintain fertility according to a soil test. Spend money on lime before you spend it on fertilizer.

You can interseed clovers and grasses up to September in your fields and pastures to improve them. Competition from the existing plants must be reduced, by close clipping or grazing. This will only work if there are bare spots. If you do not like what is growing, then you need to eliminate the existing plants and seed your preferred species.

**Winter Forages:** Small grains and annual ryegrass make great use of sunny days during the cool days of late summer, fall, and early spring. You can expect up to 2 tons of dry matter per acre of high quality feed (one ton for annual ryegrass). If you want to plant triticale, then plant it in early September, drilled 1 1/4 inches deep. Winter rye can be planted up to mid-October. Folks have success broadcasting and using a roller, disk, or aeration type tool to get seed-to-soil contact. You can also apply it mixed in with liquid manure. The later you plant the higher the seeding rate, starting with 100—125 lbs of seed early in the planting window to 175 lbs at the end of the planting window.

Fall harvested forage (oats) are a tricky business. If you can graze or greenchop them, then that is good. Trying to wilt them is a gamble. My feeling (and limited experience) is that putting up wet forage even with a preservative, even the same day, is very risky. If you do, you can not get any soil on the forage. Soil will add clostridial bacteria and the result is butyric acid in the fermentation. *The key to fall harvested forage is that the field must be well-drained, so you can get onto it and not make tire tracks or get soil on the forage.*

Another note, if you use annual ryegrass, be sure to harvest it before it goes to seed so that you do not create a weed problem. Again, that means it needs to be planted on well-drained fields where rain will not greatly delay harvest.