“As soon as you are open and listening and willing to dialogue, people are remarkably receptive and changes speed up rapidly.” — Mort Topfer

Announcements

Wednesday, July 2, 2014 Malting Barley Field Day from 1 to 3 PM at Inverness Farm, Bob and Andy Crowe, 113 Vandusenville Road, Canajoharie NY. Pre-registration: We are asking anyone planning to attend to pre-register by calling 315-866-7920 or Email: herkimer@cornell.edu. Registration allows us to communicate any cancellations or changes in arrangements and to make sure there is a sufficient supply of educational materials.

Malting barley variety trials to see! 22 winter malting barley varieties; 20 spring malting barley varieties and a chance to see 20 oat varieties also planted on the farm.

Directions: From Fort Plain head south six miles on State Route 163, Vandusenville Road will be on the right, the farm immediately on the left. From the Cherry Valley intersection on State Route 20 go two miles north on County Road 32 and Vandusenville Road will be on your right, go one mile to the farm on the right. From Canajoharie go south three miles on State Route 10 and turn right on to State Route 163. Go three miles on State Route 163 and turn left on to Vandusenville Road and then an immediate left to the farm.

Cornell Dairy Executive Program for farmers and dairy professionals. More information on the program can be found online at www.anosci.cornell.edu/prodairy/dairyexec.
Weather Data June 25, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>
<th>GDD 86/50 Since April 1st</th>
<th>GDD 41 Past Week</th>
<th>GDD 41 Since April 1st</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whitehall</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>1376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyle</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>1263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>1295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alb. Airport</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>1455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilderland</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>1365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castleton</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>1409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>1019</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redhook</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>1448</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FYI

**Small Ruminant Toolbox Now Available Online**

Farmers and Extension educators have an expansive new resource available to them in the Small Ruminant Toolbox, a collection of practical, proven materials covering pasture and herd management, marketing, pest management, quality of life, and whole-farm sustainability. The National Center for Appropriate Technology and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) have partnered to offer the materials online and on a USB flash drive. The toolbox includes guidance on how to structure a workshop, dozens of PowerPoint presentations, and other materials. Go to: https://attra.ncat.org/ruminant/ (from Weekly Harvest Newsletter)

**USDA Introduces New Farmers Website**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has unveiled the New Farmers website, including in-depth information for new farmers and ranchers on how to increase access to land and capital, build new market opportunities, participate in conservation opportunities, select and use risk management tools, and access USDA education and technical-support programs. The website also features case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their business operations. (from Weekly Harvest Newsletter)
Not sure what to plant for a summer crop? Burkett Mills (http://thebirkettmills.com/ or (315) 536-3311) in Penn Yan is looking for buckwheat—both conventional and organic. They are paying $28.50 for conventional and $33.50 for organic buckwheat.

Do not forget to read the NYS IPM Weekly Field Crops Pest Report (see the front page for the web address)

Soil Health: This past rain came down hard and fast at times. I got about 2 inches in the rain gauge. The question is how much soaked into the soil?? Rain like this really pounds the soil surface and causes crusting. A lot of the precious water (the greatest determinant of crop yield) can simply run off and never do any good. If you plowed a sod, then soil structure was probably good enough to not crust or seal over. However, after a year of tillage, soil will lose its soil structure strength. As we think about soil management, we need to think about the soil surface and how to maintain a mulch of some sort to break the force of a torrential rain and let water soak into the soil. A surface mulch also shades the soil so that the microbes and soil critters can stay protected and active—recycling nutrients, creating soil structure, and decomposing residues.

Corn: Side-dressing time is here for many fields (6” - 12” corn). I suggest two methods for determining how much nitrogen to apply. To help determine side-dressing rates, there is a Corn N Calculator at http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/software/calculators.html; and there is Adapt-N (developed at Cornell) at http://www.adapt-n.com/.

Summer weeds are getting big. Wait for bindweed vines to be at least 20” long before applying dicamba or other growth regulator type herbicide. (far right picture). You can also use glyphosate, but it works best in the late-summer when vines are sending nutrients to the roots. Nutsedge begins to form the nutlets at the root tips (picture above left) once the days get shorter after the first day of summer—June 21st). It should be controlled before more nuts forms.

Soybeans: I notice nutsedge in soybeans this week. For control use a mix of glyphosate plus Classic herbicide plus 5—17 lbs of ammonium sulfate per100 gallons of spray. It is now too late to plant soybeans. Monitor plants for aphids. I did see some in the lower Hudson Valley this week. The picture at the right, shows nitrogen fixing nodules forming on these first trifoliate soybean plants.
**Pastures:** Multi-flora rose and honeysuckle bushes are a real drag. If you have a large infestation and the bushes are large (3 ft or better) with a thick stem at the base, you can “bulldoze” the plants out. I take the bucket of my tractor and place it level on top of the ground, then I push the bushes out. On 80% of the bushes, the edge of the bucket will catch the thick stem and rip out the bush by the roots. A fork-type rock picker will also work. Wait for the ground to firm up after this rain, so that you do not cause ruts and compaction. Now is also a good time to apply herbicides (growth regulator type) to perennial weeds like milkweed and horehound.

**Lepto Leaf Spot on Alfalfa** (from Kevin Ganoe, Central NY Dairy/Field Crops Team)
I started seeing Lepto Leaf Spot on alfalfa over the past week on second cutting. The cool conditions with free moisture on the leaves we have had this spring are ideal for the development of this disease. One trend seems to be the earliest cut alfalfa seems to have the disease more than other fields. The disease is caused by the fungus *Leptosphaerulina briosiana* and is spread by air borne spores. The disease can cause yield and quality loss in the cutting it develops in but does not cause death to the plant and is usually gone after that cutting. Fungicide applications have not been proven to be effective. Harvest, removing infected leaves and opening up the canopy, is really the most effective control.

First lesions are small dark spots that look like black pepper. As the lesions grow they become a dark circle with a tan spot in the center with usually a yellow halo around the lesions. Under the right conditions the fungus will develop quickly and lesions will grow to the point the merge and the leaf may fall off the plant. These dead leaves are the source of new infections.

*References*
http://ohioline.osu.edu/ac-fact/0023.html
https://ipm.illinois.edu/diseases/rpds/301.pdf

**Small Grains:** Not all bleached-looking seed heads are from Fusarium head blight. If the seed stalk pulls out easily from the whorl, and is eaten on the bottom, it is from an insect. I found such heads this week. Tiny maggots were in the stem. I am trying to grow them out so I can identify them.

A couple of weeks ago I found reed canarygrass seed heads and flag leaves that were dying. I grew out some tiny black midges. I have not had time to put them under the scope to identify them or send they out to Cornell. That is coming.
Fusarium head blight commentary, June 26, 2014 (Gary Bergstrom, Extension Plant Pathologist, Cornell University):
Most, but not all, spring barley and wheat fields in New York State are now past the flowering and early post-flowering stages. This week remains critical for farmers making fungicide spray decisions for suppression of Fusarium head blight (FHB) and protection of flag leaves from foliar diseases in late flowering spring cereals. The triazole products Caramba and Prosaro are the most effective fungicides for suppression of FHB and deoxynivalenol (DON) toxin contamination when applied at wheat flowering (emergence of anthers on heads) or at full head emergence in barley (anthers begin to appear on barley before heads emerge from the boot). A flowering application of triazole fungicide should be based on Fusarium head blight (FHB) risk as well as the risks of powdery mildew, rust, and fungal leaf blotches in the upper canopy based on scouting of individual fields. There is an application window of approximately 5-6 days from the beginning of flowering in which reasonable FHB suppression can be expected. Fungicide products containing strobilurins should not be applied to headed wheat or barley as they may result in increased levels of DON in grain. The current risk of FHB epidemics is low to moderate for spring wheat and barley over much of the state but precipitation patterns have been highly variable across the state. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool ([http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/](http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/)) and your local weather forecast frequently as your crop approaches flowering. This is an excellent time to scout your winter cereal fields to assess FHB incidence and to identify fields that may be at higher risk for DON toxin contamination.

---

Wheat head on left has Fusarium head blight. The pink color below are Fusarium spores.

The disease pictured below on barley, is most likely “Net Blotch”.