“Intelligence is like underwear; it’s important that you have it but not necessary that you show it off.”
- Farm Report, Miner Institute

Announcements
There are no scheduled crop scouting sessions at this time. If you would like me to check your fields of corn, hay, soybeans, grains, or pasture, just give me a call (518-380-1496)

The weather has improved, maybe a little bit. Weather for making dry hay is still hard to find. Now that the dew is lingering, we need WIND & LOW HUMIDITY to make hay. Those two factors have a greater effect in drying hay than heat and sunshine. Hay will dry in a cool day, if there is a nice dry wind. We can only hope.

Can you improve the nutritional value of old coarse hay? There are hay and haylage inoculants that contain fiber digesting enzymes. I have not found research on this subject. I suggest that you definitely use inoculants for balage and haylage, and try some with “fibrolytic enzymes” (fiber digesting enzymes) and some without. Then do a forage analysis on the forage with and without the enzyme-containing inoculants.

Agronomy—Aaron Gabriel
Resources to Help in a Difficult Crop Year


FOLIAR DISEASES IN CORN YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR: Corn Diseases and Plant Health—[https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/production-management/resources]

TABLE WITH FUNGICIDE EFFICACY: Corn Disease Management Recommendations—[https://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/corn/diseases-corn/corn-disease-management]

Grain Bin Safety

Here are a couple websites about grain bin safety. Each year too many people are killed and injured. Take time to learn safety and train your family and workers.

http://grainsafety.org/


https://www.ngfa.org/focusonsafety/

One of many Youtube videos: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqbUubNAVE0]

What Variety of Rye Will You Plant?

There are a couple named varieties of winter rye that perform much better than “VNS” rye (variety not stated). There is also hybrid rye that yields exceptionally well. Hybrid rye cannot be used for cover crop seed. It is for the brewing and baking markets and for feed. Here are some variety trial results:

Cornel Hybrid Rye Variety Trials—[https://plbrgen.cals.cornell.edu/research-extension/small-grains/cultivar-testing]

Vermont Winter Rye Variety Trials—[http://www.uvm.edu/extension/cropsoil/grains]

Fall-planted and Harvested Forages

We have an opportunity to plant spring grains and legumes in August and September for high-quality forage to be harvested in October & November (depending on the weather). Oats, spring triticale, field peas are candidates. Rust can be a problem on fall-planted grains. New-dak and Hayden oats have some resistance to crown rust. Also, use only well-drained fields for fall forage and avoid soiling the crop at harvest.

Oats with Crown Rust
It is time to scout corn fields for corn rootworms. If you average one western or two northern CRW per plant, then next year that field will have CRW damage unless you do something (soil insecticide, high rate of Poncho/Cruiser, RW-corn hybrid).

This is a “gravid” female—her abdomen is enlarged because it is filled with eggs.

You will see more than just rootworms as you scout your corn. The arrow is pointing to the pupa of a “flower fly”. The larvae eat aphids on the corn.