Capital Area Ag Report  
May 22, 2018

Announcements

June 7, 2018, 9:30 am—Noon —Cornell Small Grains Field Day at the Musgrave Research Farm, 1256 Poplar Ridge Rd, Aurora, NY. Info & pre-registration at https:// fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/news-events/events

Wednesday, June 20 from 1 pm to 4 pm—Managing Pasture and Forage Quality to Meet the Nutritional Needs of Meat and Fiber Livestock—Mack Brook Farm, 312 McEaichon Hill Rd., Argyle, Washington County. Free but registration required. See the flyer at the end of this issue.

FYI
The newest Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP) online pesticide applicator recertification courses: Wild Bees, Farms, and Pesticides discusses the importance of pollination, the characteristics of wild bees and types of wild bee species, the threats posed to wild bees by fungicide and insecticide exposure, how pesticides interact with other stressors, and ways to mitigate harm to bees. Available for $22.50 through PMEP’s Distance Learning Center. The course is approved in New York State for 0.75 recertification credits in categories 1a, 3a, 3b, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, and 25 as well as in several New England and mid-Atlantic states. Please see the state-specific information at the Distance Learning Center for further details.

**First Cutting Is Underway**—some grasses are not ready quite yet. Tall fescue is ready in some places, not in other. Reed canarygrass is ready. Bromegrass is almost ready and timothy has another week or more.  

For dairy, take a break from corn planting and harvest haylage. There is no substitute for high-quality forage.

**Corn and Soybean Emergence**—Here is an Iowa State article about early season corn issues, [https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/blog/bob-hartzler-meaghan-anderson/may-maize-maladies](https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/blog/bob-hartzler-meaghan-anderson/may-maize-maladies), and a video about soybean emergence, [http://www.cornandsoybeandigest.com/soybeans/common-soybean-emergence-and-germination-issues-video?NL=SO-08&Issue=SO-08_20180521_SO-08_635&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_3_b&utm_id=CPG0200002564878&utm_campaign=27796&amp_medium=email&amp_elq2=f7708c231a6d4b3b862e9287096af2d1](http://www.cornandsoybeandigest.com/soybeans/common-soybean-emergence-and-germination-issues-video?NL=SO-08&Issue=SO-08_20180521_SO-08_635&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_3_b&utm_id=CPG0200002564878&utm_campaign=27796&utm_medium=email&elq2=f7708c231a6d4b3b862e9287096af2d1). **CoolBean.info** is a nice website with soybean production info.

**Here is what I am seeing this week**—**WHEN YOU SEE A CORN SKIP TAKE TIME TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE**

The photo above is the S-shaped seedling between the two healthy seedlings in the photo to the right. Cold temperatures can cause distorted growth. Our day-time temperatures have been good, but we have had cold nights. Just a small difference in soil moisture or firmness of the soil can affect soil temperature just a couple inches away. We had a nice stretch of dry weather for corn planting, and it had to go in, but there cool night temperatures are a small compromise. The effect of cold temperatures is greater on soybeans. Fortunately, night-time temps will be in the 50’s for the next several days, so we should be safe.

**Soil Temperature Monitoring:**

Hudson silt loam  
- May 20th @ 8:45 pm: air temp 60°F; 2” soil temp 62°F; 4” soil temp 64°F  
- May 21st @ 5:15 am: air temp 40°F; 2” soil temp 46°F; 4” soil temp 52°F  

Hoosic Gravelly Loam  
- May 21st @ 2 pm: air temp 74°F; 2” soil temp 84°F; 4” soil temp 74°F
What do we learn from these temperatures?

- Soil temperature is more variable at 2” than at 4”. For even emergence, planting deeper may be better.
- Shallow-planted seed is more exposed to cold night temperatures than deeper planted seed.
- As air temperatures cool, the soil cooling lags behind air temperature.
- On a sunny day, soil temperatures can be greater than the air temperature.
- *When deciding when to plant corn and soybean, consider the forecast for night-time temperatures.*

**Missing plants can be due to insects.** At the right is a seed corn maggot pupae. I found several in spots with missing plants (and missing seed).

White grubs are also active, feeding on seedlings.

And of course, we have birds. This seedling survived a bird trying to pull it out. The leaf is ripped off where it grabbed the seedling, but it was rooted in well enough that the leaf just ripped, and the plant stayed in the ground. Some of the neighboring plants did not fare so well.

Thanks to some 4-H volunteers, we have two black cutworm traps and two armyworm traps—to monitor the adult moths. These three armyworms I caught while sweeping a field of grass/alfalfa. We have only trapped a couple black cutworms moths (two weeks ago) but nothing else. Moths are not very active during the cool nights. Pay attention to grasses now (especially reed canarygrass, a favorite) and also to grass re-growth after first cutting to catch any armyworm infestations.

**Winter Barley and Winter Wheat Fusarium Head blight Alert:**

This is a critical week for management of Fusarium head blight (FHB) in winter malting barley. Some winter barley fields in New York are fully headed now and many more will head out this later week. Even though we have had frequent rains, the Fusarium Risk Assessment Map ([http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/riskTool.html](http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/riskTool.html)) shows mostly low risk of Fusarium infection in New York because temperatures have been considered too low for spore production in many areas. A moderate to high risk of FHB is indicated for areas of the Southern Tier, southern Hudson Valley, and Long Island. Maximal suppression of FHB and grain contamination by deoxynivalenol (DON) mycotoxin results when fully emerged heads of winter malting barley
are sprayed with full label rates of Caramba or Prosaro fungicides. A heads emerged spray with these triazole fungicides also helps protect upper leaves against fungal leaf blotches, powdery mildew, and rust. Foliar sprays of Caramba or Prosaro up to seven days after head emergence may still result in significant FHB and DON suppression. Fungicide products containing strobilurins should not be applied to headed wheat or barley as they may result in increased levels of DON in grain.

**Winter wheat** is generally a week or more behind in development from winter barley planted on the same fall date. Winter wheat in New York varies from stem elongation to flag leaf visible stages. We should reach the critical fungicide application window for winter wheat over the next two weeks. The triazole products Caramba and Prosaro are the most effective fungicides for suppression of FHB and DON contamination when applied at flowering (emergence of anthers on heads). A flowering application of triazole fungicide should be based on Fusarium head blight (FHB) risk as well as the risks of powdery mildew, rusts, and fungal leaf blotches in the upper canopy based on scouting of individual fields. There is an application window of approximately 7 days from the beginning of flowering in which reasonable FHB suppression can be expected. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool ([http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/](http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/)) and your local weather forecast frequently as your winter wheat crop approaches heading and flowering.

-- Gary Bergstrom, Extension Plant Pathologist, Cornell University
Managing Pasture and Forage Quality to Meet the Nutritional Needs of Meat and Fiber Livestock

Wednesday, June 20, 2018
Mack Brook Farm, 312 McEachron Hill Road, Argyle, New York
1:00 to 4:00 PM
Admission is free but registration is requested.

Topics Covered

- Legume & grass ID and their particular forage qualities
- Forage quality changes through the season
- Nutritional needs for livestock at different stages of life
- Livestock fly control
- Match hay bales to their forage analysis
- Take a fresh pasture sample
- Use a hay coring tool to take a hay or baleage sample

Presenters

- Aaron Gabriel: Agronomist CAAHP,
- Hank Bignell: Livestock Educator CAAHP,
- Ken Wise: Cornell Field Crop IPM Specialist
- Farm Host: Kevin Jablonski & Karen Christensen

% Dry Matter
% Crude Protein
Soluble Protein, % of CP
Degradable Protein, % of CP
% Lignin
% Acid Detergent Fiber
% Neutral Detergent Fiber
% WSC (Water Sol. Carbs.)
% ESC (Simple Sugars)
% Starch
Starch Digestibility
% Non-Structural Carbo. (NSC)
% Non-Fiber Carbo. (NFC)
% Ash
% TDN
NEM, Mcal/Lb.
NEG, Mcal/Lb.
Relative Feed Value (RFV)
Relative Forage Quality (RFQ)

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