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 McEachron Hill Rd., Argyle, Washington County. Free but registration required. See the flyer at the end of this issue.

FYI
The Fusarium Head Blight Alert program is a great tool to help manage head blight in barley (winter barley is headed out now) and wheat—http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/riskTool.html

Weather Website You Need to Predict Good Drying Weather for Hay Harvest
The National Weather Service has a website that provides the weather data you need to know when good haying weather is here. Of the four weather elements that affect hay drying - sunshine, temperature, wind, and humidity – the two most important are wind and humidity. A four-day forecast for these weather elements and several others can be found by

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Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities
going to https://www.weather.gov/aly/.
- Next, enter your zip code in the upper right, where it says, “Local forecast by “City, St” or Zip code”. **DO NOT USE THE GREEN BOX**, where it says “customize your Weather.gov”. Click “Go”.
- On the next page scroll to the bottom and select “Hourly Weather Forecast”. Now you can see the forecast for not only rain and temperature, but humidity, wind, rain amount, and more. With this information you will be more confident in making a decision to harvest hay.

For a great article on hay drying, go to: http://mbfc.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/7-1-3-Physiology-of-Hay-Drying-Undersander.pdf

Forages— Grasses have been harvested at an amazing rate. Timothy has not yet headed out, but all the other grasses have. **Alfalfa is just starting to bud.** Alfalfa grass mixtures should be harvested followed by pure stands of alfalfa. **Alfalfa weevil** are in low numbers (in the fields I scouted.) This picture at the right shows a AW larva feeding near the top of an alfalfa plant. The picture below, show larvae and one adult in my sweep net. Since alfalfa is being harvested now and AW larvae still have a couple weeks of development, **monitor alfalfa re-growth for AW feeding.** Treat re-growth if 50% of the stems show feeding. If your first cutting has 40% of stems with feeding, harvest it rather than spraying. Most insecticides have a 7 to 14 day waiting period for harvest.

**Potato leafhopper** has arrived. Monitor new seedings of alfalfa. Once you see the yellow leaves, the damage is done. If you do not have a sweep net, look for tiny whitish insects scattering (flying) ahead of you as you walk in the field. That could be PLH>.

**Corn:** Corn is coming up well. I saw another field this week with seed corn maggot (planted after sod). It just takes a little feeding on the embryo part of the seed to kill it. I have found that seed-applied insecticides may not always control seed corn maggot in early corn planted after sod. The seed-applied insecticide used for early corn after sod should be greater than the 250 (low) dose.

I have not seen any black cutworm.
**Barley:** Winter barley is beginning to completely headed out. Spring barley is almost at the stem elongation stage. Occasional plants with yellow leaves (whorl leaf or older leaves) usually have some wireworm feeding. Seed-applied insecticides stop wireworms from feeding, but does not kill them (picture to the right).

The picture below, shows “sandblasting” on barley. Wind-blown sand abraids the leaves and leaves irregular white spots.

I also saw a tiny bit of loose smut on winter barley. Seed-borne diseases are one reason why it is important to use certified seed. The problem could be much worse if certified seed had not been used.

**Smut (probably “loose smut”)**