“A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.”
—from the “Farm Report”, Miner Institute

Announcements
Tuesday, June 23rd, 1 pm to 3 pm – “Alfalfa IPM and New Technology” – at the O.A. Borden Farm, 2841 Valley Falls Rd., Easton. A field meeting about RoundUp Ready Alfalfa, Hybrid Alfalfa, Low-lignin Alfalfa, Potato Leafhopper Resistant Alfalfa and how it affects integrated pest management. RSVP and Questions to Aaron Gabriel, Capital Area Agriculture & Horticulture Program, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu. TWO PESTICIDE CREDITS, CCA CREDITS REQUESTED.

FYE
Do you have standing hay to sell, do you need extra forage because of our spring-time drought? Use the “Ag Exchange to reach other farmers in the region at: www.agexchange.cce.cornell.edu. (Please let me know if you cannot connect to this website.)

NEW YORK STATE PROACTIVELY BANS ALL FOWL COMPETITIONS AT THE GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR AND ALL COUNTY FAIRS TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST AVIAN FLU
Current Influenza Strains are No Threat to Humans
Full article is available at: http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AD/release.asp?ReleaseID=3061

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities
Many winter wheat and malting barley fields in New York State are approaching head emergence. The next 10 days will be critical for farmers making fungicide spray decisions for suppression of Fusarium head blight (FHB) and protection of flag leaves from foliar diseases. 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 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. While the current risk of FHB epidemics is low to moderate over most of the state, that risk could increase next week. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/) and your local weather forecast frequently as your crop approaches flowering.

**Barley:** Barley planted at the beginning of May is tillering. Broadleaf weeds are still small. Growth regulator herbicides (2,4-D, dicamba) need to be applied during the tillering stage and before stem elongation. Always read the label. Timing this herbicide correctly is very important. I came across some plants with yellow leaves. The leaves pulled up with a tug, and the bottom was chewed up. After some digging I found wireworms to be the culprit. Typically wireworms do not cause economic damage, and they were damaging just a couple plants in this field.
Cover Crops: Hairy vetch should be killed before it goes to seed. If allowed to seed, it can become a weed, and hairy vetch seeds are very difficult to clean out of small grain seed. This crop will make an excellent forage crop (for ruminants, vetch is toxic to horses). If you just want to plant an annual crops next, you should terminate the cover crop soon, so that it does not take any more soil moisture.

Grasses: Orchardgrass has headed out and hopefully is harvested by now. Reed canarygrass is now in the boot stage and needs harvesting ASAP. Bromegrass has a few more days before heading, as does fescue and timothy.

Alfalfa: Alfalfa height varies, but most is in the bud stage, approaching 40% neutral detergent fiber. This is the prime fiber content for dairy cows. Alfalfa is almost ready to harvest. Alfalfa maturity is influenced most by growing degree days, and not day length.

Red Clover: Some red clover I saw was in the bud stage, another field was early vegetative. First cutting of established red clover should be in the early flower stage. Later cuttings can be in the bud to early flower stage. During the summer, do not harvest short drought-stressed clover even if it is flowering. For clover seedings, take the very first harvest before it reaches full bloom. If it reaches full bloom, the tillers (side shoots) from the crown develop into floral stems, and deplete the root reserves. This will reduce yield in year two.

Corn: There is a lot of corn emerging. Take the time to look for insect damage, planter skips, bird damage, and other issues. It is much easier to identify problems now, rather than later. Then you can make changes next year, or if you have more corn plant this year.

The dry weather has not activated soil applied herbicides. Check for weed pressure, wait for rain, and check again to see if herbicides remain and are active. Do not spray drought-stressed crops with herbicide.