Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities

Capital Area Ag Report
June 26, 2015

“If you don’t protect freedom of speech, we’ll never know who the real nuts are.” — unknown

Announcements
Thursday, July 2, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm— 3rd Annual CCE-Ulster Hudson Valley Small Grains Field Day at Hudson Valley Farm Hub, 1875 Hurley Mountain Road, Hurley, NY. 9:30 am. Register online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2015-Small-Grains-Field-Day_251. For more information or help registering, contact Carrie at 845-340-3990 ext. 311 or email cad266@cornell.edu.

Tuesday, July 7, 8:30 am—noon—2015 CORNELL SEED GROWERS FIELD DAY—For seed growers, seed treatment applicators, and other seed professionals
Place: NYSIP Foundation Seed Barn, 791 Dryden Rd., Rt. 366, Ithaca, NY

Wednesday, July 8 1:30pm to 4:00pm—Cornell Willsboro Research Farm Open House at 48 Sayward Lane, Willsboro, NY. For more information call 518-963-7492. Tour leaves at 2:00pm sharp, refreshments provided. Free and open to the public.

Thursday Jul. 16th, 2015 Aurora Farm Field Day from 9:00am to 3:00pm at 1256 Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora, NY.
Western Bean Cutworm and other field crop pests, Corn-soybean-wheat clover rotation, Northern leaf blight of corn, Spring malting barley, Nitrogen management topics, Health and Adapt-N, Winter Cereal Cover Crops for Organic No-till
Weather Data June 23, 2015

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Soybean, Superweeds and other myths about herbicide resistance. DEC Pesticide Recertification and CCA credits requested. For more information contact Jenn Thomas-Murphy 607.255.2177, jnt3@cornell.edu

Tuesday, July 28 noon—1pm—Webinar: Corn Rootworm Management— Aaron Gabriel, CCE will be the presenter. More details to follow.

FYI

The latest issue of What’s Cropping Up? is at [http://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/extension-outreach/whats-cropping](http://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/extension-outreach/whats-cropping). Articles include:

- Change in Nutrient Mass Balances Over Time for 54 New York Dairy Farms
- Trends in Nutrient Mass Balances on Four New York Dairy Farms
- Days to Emergence and Early Corn and Soybean Plant Populations Under Conventional and Organic Cropping Systems
- Winter Cereals as Double Crops in Corn Rotations on New York Dairy Farms
- Producer Involvement Crucial to Precision Agriculture Research Success
Corn: Gary Bergstrom (Cornell U.) is reporting that northern corn leaf blight is being found in the Midwest in V6 to V10 corn. This is an early infection that will cause yield loss. Mike Stanyard, CCE in western NY, has also observed a field with NCLB. They have had more rain in western NY, but we need to scout our fields and determine if fungicides are needed.

Small Grainsm- Fusarium head blight commentary, June 22, 2015 -- Gary Bergstrom, Extension Plant Pathologist, Cornell University

Winter cereal fields in New York should be assessed for incidence of Fusarium head blight symptoms at this time to get some idea of the potential for DON contamination in grain. Incidence has been observed from zero to over ten percent in individual fields. Many fields of spring malting barley emerged from the boot over the past week and were sprayed with triazole fungicides at full head emergence. Other spring cereals have not yet emerged from the boot. Predicted risk of FHB is currently high for spring cereals flowering over the next few days in many areas of New York. The triazole products Caramba and Prosaro are the most effective fungicides for suppression of FHB and deoxynivalenol (DON) toxin contamination when applied at full head emergence in barley (anthers begin to appear on barley before heads emerge from the boot) or at wheat flowering (emergence of anthers on heads). 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. Triazole applications at flowering should provide adequate protection against early developing rust, powdery mildew, and fungal leaf blotches on flag leaves. Leaf rusts and other foliar diseases are now fairly widespread on wheat and barley in New York. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/) and your local weather forecast frequently.

Soybeans: Mike Stanyard is seeing a large grasshopper population in western NY that is eating soybean leaves. Take the time to scout beans and all your crops.

Armyworm: I found one lonely armyworm a week ago. Next week, there will be no Ag Report. The last time I skipped an Ag Report on July 4th week, a big outbreak surfaced. Take time to scout fields.

Alfalfa: Potato leafhopper are damaging some new seedings. If you see the characteristic yellow “V” at the leaflet tips, the damage is done. Even PLH resistant varieties need protection from PLH as seedlings. After the first harvest, PLH resistant varieties can withstand 3X the normal threshold. PLH adults will migrate after a field is harvested. Check regrowth and nearby alfalfa fields after 2nd cutting to see if PLH are on the regrowth or have migrated in
mass to a nearby field (especially a nearby new seeding.) Damage will occur quickly. Please take time to scout your fields.

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<th>Plant Height</th>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 15 inches</td>
<td>&gt; 2.0</td>
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Potato leafhopper nymph & adult.

**Comments for Managing Alfalfa with Special Traits**
Aaron Gabriel, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 6/2015

Plant breeders have brought alfalfa a long way, and developed varieties with many very useful traits. Unfortunately, all the unique traits cannot be combined into one variety. So, farmers must evaluate their management practices and farm situations to prioritize which traits are of most value to them. For example, do you have distant fields that will not be scouted for potato leafhopper? Do you have soils that challenge alfalfa? Are you short on acres so that yield is the top priority? Do you need to increase stand longevity? How timely can you harvest forages? Are you able to grow pure stands of alfalfa, or only stands mixed with grass? Asking these and other questions will help farmers decide which type of alfalfa will best fit their farm.

**Potato Leafhopper Resistant** – Current varieties are highly resistant to PLH, greater than 50% of the plants have resistance. Some varieties showing resistance in 85% of the plants. Enough breeding has been done to develop adaptable high yielding varieties.

Use the same PLH thresholds in new seedings of PLH resistant varieties as for conventional varieties. Subsequent growth can then withstand three-times the normal PLH threshold before controls are needed.

**RoundUp Ready** – This alfalfa is especially useful when you have perennial weeds like milkweed, curly dock, horsenettle etc.

Seedling annual weeds need to be small (about <4”), otherwise glyphosate will not kill them (as they approach the reproductive stage).

Cornell tested quite a few experimental hybrids, and just like the conventional alfalfa, some are well adapted and some are not.

Since 3% - 5% of the plants are glyphosate susceptible, it is important to apply glyphosate when the plants have 5 leaves or so. The resistant seedlings are re-
sistant from emergence.
The late and dry spring of 2015, showed us that if the alfalfa grows slowly and the
weeds get too big, glyphosate may not control the weeds (or nurse crop) very
well.

**Hybrid** – research consistently shows an 8 – 15% yield increase over many varieties.
A 6-year old stand at O. A. Bordens still looks quite good.

**Low-lignin** – Should these varieties be used at a normal cutting interval (bud stage & 28 –
30 days) to get very high quality or should they be used to get better yields and stand
longevity by cutting at early flower and 35-day intervals?

We often cut early to control potato leafhopper and alfalfa weevil. So lengthening
the cutting interval may not work in some years. Perhaps stretching the interval
for one cutting each year is a compromise.

Lengthening first cutting may allow a former pest, the alfalfa blotch leafminer in-
crease to pest levels once again. It went away with shorter cutting intervals.

How do you select a companion grass to low-lignin alfalfa if you lengthen the cut-
ting interval. Most grasses will be well past prime if you harvest them any later.
If you delay first cutting as a practice, you may need to grow pure stands of this
alfalfa.

The new varieties of **ladino clover** may possibly be a good companion to low-
lignin alfalfa (or any alfalfa). Ladino will hold its quality in a long cutting inter-
val since you only harvest the leaves. The stems are called stolons. They run
along the ground to fill in bare spots. Ladino will not do well in wet spots. The
stolons will rot. But if allowed to go to seed, it will re-seed itself. Weeds will
probably still grow as well. Ladino will not do well on droughty soils.

**Branch-Rooted** – Some varieites of this alfalfa will regenerate roots as others become dam-
aged or diseased. In my mind, alfalfa should not be planted in poorly-drained soils
because nitrogen fixation is inhibited in poorly-drained soils.

There is a place for this alfalfa in challenging soils – soils that have variable drain-
age, or less than perfect drainage.

Red Clover is adapted to moderately-drained soils and it less soluble protein than
alfalfa.

**Rhizomatous** – This alfalfa, like quackgrass, has roots (rhizomes) that spread out
(typically 3 ft is the limit) and develops new crowns along the roots to fill in dead spots.
I have no experience with this alfalfa.

**Sunken Crown** – The crown structure of this alfalfa does make it more resistant to damage
from traffic or hooves.

One study showing this is “Effect of wheel traffic and green manure treatments on
June 18, 2015

To New York’s Poultry Owners:

The Department of Agriculture and Markets shares your concern about the current outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza that has caused so much devastation in other states. The outbreak has been most severe in the Upper Midwest, especially in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. To date, nearly 50 million birds have either died from this virus or will soon die. While the U.S. Department of Agriculture and state governments in the affected states struggle to contain the outbreak there, work is needed closer to home, too. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has been working to build our level of preparedness should the virus come this way, and we’ve taken measures which we hope will reduce the overall risk for the state. We’ve enacted emergency regulations that require screening against avian influenza for incoming poultry and we have banned poultry exhibits at our county and state fairs for the 2015 season.

Efforts by government are not enough. Every poultry owner must be conscious of the threat of avian influenza and must take all reasonable efforts to protect his or her flock. We’ve prepared two fact sheets using information already available from a variety of experts on poultry health. The first sheet is a self-assessment you can use to raise the level of biosecurity on your farm. The second is aimed at visitors to your farm and provides very basic instructions for persons unfamiliar with farming and animal disease prevention. We hope you and others can use it to educate farm visitors and reduce their potential for spreading all types of avian disease, not just highly pathogenic avian influenza.

These fact sheets are available on our website at www.agriculture.ny.gov.

Together, we all must strive to protect avian health in New York and the livelihoods of all who depend on New York’s poultry industry.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Ball
Commissioner
2015 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak: Biosecurity for Poultry Farms: Questions to ask yourself:

1. Do you have footwear disinfection stations, site-provided footwear, or site-provided foot covers available outside all external entrances and is everyone, including visitors/contract workers, required to clean and disinfect their footwear?

2. Are external entrances to chicken houses and the processing plant kept locked during nonbusiness hours?

3. Do you ask everyone entering your farm if they've had any kind of avian contact in the past 5 days?

4. Does farm policy require that employees and visitors/contract workers do not own other birds—including pet birds, domestic chickens, fighting chickens, ducks, geese, waterfowl, exotic birds, quail, partridge or pheasants? Do these persons sign a document stating this?

5. Are hand-washing or hand-sanitizing stations available and is everyone, including visitors and contractors, required to wash/sanitize their hands before entering and after leaving poultry houses or egg processing areas?

6. If truck drivers are required to make multiple stops at more than one individual farm in any given day, are they prohibited from entering poultry houses or egg processing areas?

7. Does your farm strongly discourage unnecessary outside visitors? Are biosecurity signs posted warning people not to enter any of the buildings on the premises?

8. Do you have a dedicated parking area for visitors away from poultry housing and work traffic? Is there signage in the parking area to tell visitors how to call for assistance and to stay in their vehicles until they are escorted by management?

9. Does your farm require visitors to wear clean clothes and footwear? Do visitors change into dedicated clothing and boots if possible?

10. Does your farm avoid sharing equipment or supplies with other farms? If tools or equipment must be brought in, are they cleaned and disinfected as they enter?

If you find yourself answering no to these questions, you may need to increase your level of protection!
Biosecurity for Farm Visitors During the 2015 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak

- Do not enter any farm without permission from the owner or management.

- Whenever possible, make an appointment prior to traveling to the farm.

- Wear clean clothes and shoes on the day of the visit.

- When you arrive, park your vehicle at the end of the farm drive or on the roadside and use your cell phone to notify the owners or managers of your presence and to receive instructions for entry.

- Let farm management know if in the previous 5 days you have been on another poultry farm or if you’ve had contact with wild birds. Also let management know if you personally own or care for birds or poultry.

- Observe all of the farm’s instructions regarding biosecurity procedures.

- Do not enter animal housing areas without express permission from farm management.

- Do not touch animals unless that is part of your tasks on the farm.

- Immediately report anything unusual to farm management, especially sick or dead birds.

Your attention to these precautions is critical to protecting avian health and our farm economy!