Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
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Capital Area Ag Report
July 30, 2015

“I’ve learned ... That being kind is more important than being right.” — Andy Rooney

Announcements

Wednesday, August 5, 2015 from 1 pm to 3 pm, Field Meeting- Corn Rootworm Integrated Pest Management
at Gaige Farm, 433 Knox Gallopville Rd., Berne. Taught by Aaron Gabriel, CCE and Ken Wise, NYS IPM Specialist.
No more confusion about corn rootworm control. Two Pesticide Recertification Credits available & CCA credits requested. Free. RSVP to Tove Ford, 518-756-3518, tff24@cornell.edu. Questions to Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu

Tuesday, August 11, 10:00am - 3:00pm, Grazing Assistance Workshop and Pasture Walk - Cool Whisper Farm at 1011 CR 21, Ghent, NY. Free, registration required, (lunch provided). The 150 acre Cool Whisper Farm, Matt and Lisa Schober, raise grass-fed beef, chickens, and swine. Darrell Emmick will share his tremendous wealth of grazing knowledge and research. Morgan Hartman of the Black Queen Angus Farm will lead discussion on how producers may incorporate silvopasture principles in their forested land. Tom Gallagher of the regional CCE Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program, and Mick Bessire of Columbia-Greene CCE will discuss soil health and fertility as affected by grazing management, and present the new Cornell Soil Health Assessment Program for comprehensive soil management. Tom and Donna Murray of the H-M RC&D will present information about the new Beef Cattle Business Summary program now underway in the region. (Cont.)
Weather Data—July 7, 2015

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To register, or for more information, please call Columbia-Greene CCE at 518-828-3346, or 518-622-9820. To register online: [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/grazingworkshop_210](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/grazingworkshop_210)

Thursday, September 3, 2015 from 9:30 am – 3 pm – Soil Health Field Day – Building Better Soil With Cover Crops – at Fox Creek Park, 495 N Main St. (State Rte 30), Schoharie, NY. Hosted by Schoharie Valley Farms and sponsored by CCE, USDA-NRCS, NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee and the Watershed Ag Council. For all farmers. Program includes speakers (Ray Archuleta, NRCS; Emily Reiss, Cornell University; Kitty O’Neil, CCE), cover crop plots, conservation till and no-till equipment, and soil health demonstrations. Cost: $15: Pre-register by August 26th by calling 315-866-7920 or visit [www.cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu](http://www.cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu).

_I am trying to organize one or two tile drainage field meetings._

*It will be short notice—“stay tuned.”*

**FYI**

**Job Opening:** Cornell Cooperative Extension Northern NY Regional Dairy Specialist. The position will be based in Lewis County, but will work across Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties as appropriate. [https://cornellu.taleo.net/careersection/10161/jobdetail.ftl?job=28429&lang=en#.Vak7EHtXn5A.gmail](https://cornellu.taleo.net/careersection/10161/jobdetail.ftl?job=28429&lang=en#.Vak7EHtXn5A.gmail)

**Job Opening:** Grants manager for the New York Farm Viability Institute. Contact David Grusenmeyer at 315-453-3823 x104 or DGrusenmeyer@nyfvi.org. [http://www.nyfvi.org/](http://www.nyfvi.org/)
Aaron’s Comments

**Barley:** To harvest or not to harvest—that is a tough question, and one that makes this crop a tricky one to grow. You want mature grain that is 14% to 18% moisture. It must be stored at 14% moisture. It may require air (<100°F) to dry it down. Bad things include: immature seed (from uneven ripening; green seed); weed seeds or plant parts; seed that is dark from staying on the stalk too long; rain while mature seed is still in the field, as this may cause sprouting and/or fungal growth. So, pay attention to details and do the best you can.

*As you harvest, segregate good quality from poor quality grain.* Be sure to send a sample for analysis (Univ of Vermont is one choice).

**Corn:** **Corn rootworm are emerging.** To control this pest, you have to evaluate fields this year, to know if control measures are needed for next year’s corn fields.

**CRW Sampling Procedure**
- Approach plant quietly and grasp the silks so any beetles on it cannot escape
- Look for beetles on the leaves and leaf axils starting from the bottom, then examining the tassel
- Open your hand and count any beetles on the silks.
- Walk through the field in a “W” pattern.
- Use the sequential sampling procedure or sample 2 plants at 40 locations in the field.

**CRW Control Strategies**
1. 1st Year Corn: No action necessary
2. 2nd year Corn: High Rate of Seed Treatment or Low Rate of Soil Insecticide (Hybrid with no trait for rootworm)
3. 3rd - 4th + year Corn:
   1. High Rate of Seed Treatment or
   2. Soil Insecticide or
   3. Bt – Rootworm Corn *(Do Not Use soil insecticide with Bt – rootworm hybrids)*

*If you have field with many rootworm beetles (average 1 per plant), please call me. I am looking for a field to conduct research.* (Aaron at 518-380-1496)

**Grasses:** This time of year (and earlier) grasses may get leaf spots and blights, especially during wet weather. There is one report of it this year. The easiest measure is to mow/harvest the ugly grass, and let it regrow. There is one or two fungicides that are registered for grass forage.
Soybeans: I have seen good and struggling soybeans. The maturity group and time of planting are critical decisions. At a recent conference, the speaker mentioned how in his area, shorter season beans planted at the right time will be in flower during the longest days of the summer, so that less flowers abort. You can see in this picture at the right, that two of six flowers developed into pods and the other four flowers did not. Getting high soybean yields is a tricky business.

I have not seen any insect or disease issues on soybeans this year. Please check your fields, especially if you can still get application machinery through to apply what might be needed.

Hail Damage: The picture to the right is of corn whose leaves were shredded by hail. The canopy is open, giving light for weeds. To assess hail damage go to: http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/Management/pdfs/NCH01.pdf. One important point is to wait at least a week before making any assessment, so that you know which tissue is actually dead or alive.

Feed Inventory: Now is a good time to assess your feed inventory; make projections of what the corn crop will be; and make arrangements for any surpluses or deficiencies. The “Ag Exchange” is a good way to connect with other farmers that need feed or have extra to sell—http://agexchange.cce.cornell.edu/.

Straw Itch Mites: Tiny mites that feed on insects can develop large populations in hay when the hay has a food source of dead insects. The mites can then bite people. The two websites below offer some information: http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=11153