Capital Area Ag Report
April 13, 2016

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

Announcements
April 21, 2016, 7-9pm—Don't Get Shocked! Renting Land for Land-Based Solar Arrays. At locations (to be announced) in Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Washington counties. RSVP online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/solar_meeting_201. Or call 518-765-3500. This is a free, regional discussion.

Save These Dates—Hay and Small Grain Field Meetings

Small Grain Management
May 4—Tentative Early-May small grain field meeting
May 26, 6 pm—8 pm, Late-May Small Grain Management (rye, wheat, barley, oats) hosted by Kukon Brothers LLC, 2329 US Route 9, Germantown.
June 16, 6 pm to 8 pm, Mid-June Small Grain Management (rye, wheat, barley, oats), at Indian Ladder Farm, 342 Altamont Rd. (Altamont/Voorheesville).

Hay Management
May 11, 6 pm—Rejuvenating and Renovating Hay Fields, hosted by Rick Ketterer, meet at 4268 Frederick Rd. Altamont.
June 15, 6 pm—8 pm, Machinery for Bale Handling and Hay Field Management, Mark Flach, F & M Farms, Coxsackie
July 20, 6pm—8 pm, Surface Drainage and Hay Management (including weeds), at Apple Tree Farm, Richard Apple, 989 Rynex Corner Rd., Princetown (Schenectady)
FYI
Recently updated the “Hay Production Resources for New York and Similar Climates” is available on our blog at: http://blogs.cornell.edu/capitalareaagandhortprogram/hay-manual/

Aaron’s Comments

Spring is supposed to return this week—just what we have been waiting for. The recent stretch of cold temperatures has set back field crops trying to emerge, but I do not think it has killed anything. Spring growth will take a little longer since it will have had to start twice. Here are a couple of pictures that I took in Washington Co:

Winter rye leaf tips damaged by cold, but growing.

Reed canarygrass leaf tips and emerging leaves killed by cold.

Alfafla, the oldest leaves have been damaged. I think the buds are okay.

Small Grains: Our small grains germinate and grow at about 40 degrees, so it is time to start or finish planting spring grains. Winter grains can be top-dressed with nitrogen to increase tiller development. For spring barley, apply all the nitrogen at seeding. Uniform seeding depth will increase uniform heading, which will facilitate getting fungicide applications on the right time to prevent Fusarium head blight.

Grasses: Now that growth should continue, it is time to apply spring nitrogen to pastures (about 25 lbs N) and hay fields (up to 75 lbs N). Remember, only apply nitrogen where you have a good chance of harvesting it on time.

Fence Posts: Be sure to debark locust posts before you build your fence. The bark has lots of nutrients that stimulates the rotting organisms.