Capital Area Ag Report
May 19, 2016

“I’ve learned… That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.”
— Paul Harvey

Announcements
Thursday, May 26, 6:30 pm—8:30 pm, FIELD MEETING - Late-May Small Grain Management – Pest management and agronomy of rye, wheat, barley and malting barley, oats. Hosted by Kukon Brothers LLC, 2329 US Route 9, Livingston, Columbia Co. Put on by Aaron Gabriel, Cornell Cooperative Extension. RSVP appreciated, online at https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events.cfm or Tove Ford at 518-765-3518, tff24@cornell.edu. Questions to Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496 or adg12@cornell.edu.
2 Pesticide & 2 CCA credits approved

Wednesday, June 15, 9 am—1:30 pm morning session & optional 1: pm—5 pm tours—4th Annual Hudson Valley Small Grain Field Day—at Hudson Valley Farm Hub, 1875 Hurley Mountain Rd, Hurley, NY. View variety trials of 60 wheat, barley, oats, emmer, einkorn and spelt varieties. Cornell research to speak on variety selection, disease management and a discussion with local bakers about grain quality. Optional afternoon tours. Brochure and registration at http://ulster.cce.cornell.edu/events/2016/06/15/small-grains-field-day-and-optional-afternoon-bus-tour
Or contact Carrie Anne at 845-340-3990 x 311 or cad266@cornell.edu

The NYS IPM Weekly field Crops Pest Report is at
http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwpr/
**Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 pm—8:30 pm, Machinery for Bale Handling and June Field Management** – Hosted by Mark Flach, F & M Farms, meet at 128 Hamilton Rd., Athens, Greene County. Put on by Aaron Gabriel, Cornell Cooperative Extension. RSVP appreciated, online at [https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events.cfm](https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events.cfm) or Tove Ford at 518-765-3518, tff24@cornell.edu. Questions to Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496 or adg12@cornell.edu.

0.5 Pesticide & 2 CCA credits approved

**Thursday, June 16, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, FIELD MEETING - Mid-June Small Grain Management** – Pest management and agronomy of malting barley, barley, rye, wheat, and oats. Hosted by Dietrich Gehring, Indian Ladder Farm, 342 Altamont Rd. (Altamont/Voorheesville). Put on by Aaron Gabriel, Cornell Cooperative Extension. RSVP appreciated, online at [https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events.cfm](https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events.cfm) or Tove Ford at 518-765-3518, tff24@cornell.edu. Questions to Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496 or adg12@cornell.edu.

1.0 Pesticide & 2 CCA credits approved

**FYI**

Recently a Vermont farmer was killed in an accident. The family is looking for someone to operate/lease a fully functioning, certified organic, pasture based, jersey farm with a small milking herd (~40 head) with young stock. If interested please contact Jennifer Alexander, Poultney Mettowee Conservation District, 802-558-6470. [acap.Jennifer@gmail.com](mailto:acap.Jennifer@gmail.com)

I want to share just a few quick notes. It has been fairly dry in most areas, with a warm April (before plant growth was fully underway) and a cool May. So, plant growth is a little slow. Grasses are heading out as usual, since daylength affects their heading more than temperature. Alfalfa maturity is affected mostly by temperature—its growth is slow. Although we are now getting some decent heat. Rye and triticale have been harvested for forage—in the Feekes 9 stage or flag leaf stage.

The typical order of grass maturity is the following order: from earliest to latest: meadow foxtail, Kentucky bluegrass, orchardgrass, tall fescue/brome/ryegrass, timothy, quackgrass. For quality, we like to harvest grasses when their neutral detergent fiber content (NDF) is from 50—55%. That usually occurs during the boot stage or sooner. My guide for time of cutting is to wait for most of the seed heads within the stems to reach a height of 5 inches. Then wait for the first good weather opportunity and cut like a maniac. That way you mow off the seed heads so they do not pop up in the regrowth and you take advantage of good weather, since you never know what the weather will be next week. Grass harvest should begin now for orchardgrass and the earlier grasses. Tall fescue and the other grasses will be ready very soon.
It is time to control weeds in spring-planted small grains.

Spring barley and oats are in the tillering stage and weeds are coming on. Growth regulator herbicides (2,4-D and dicamba) must be applied while their growing points are protected during the tillering stage and before the stems start to elongate. With our dry weather, weeds will rob plants of moisture, not to mention that life at harvest will be easier without weeds.

At our May 4th small grain management meeting, we discussed the importance of early season management to get small grain seed heads to emerge and mature uniformly. When seed heads emerge and mature over a wide window of time, there is a greater chance that they will be exposed to wet weather which can cause head diseases, sprouting in the head, and for malting barley a wider range in seed size. In Europe, they plant varieties that tiller less and they plant more seed in 5 inch rows. Uniform seed depth is also important for uniform emergence. The plant in the picture (and I could only find one crown) is a decent plant. It has some heading variability, but not a lot (in my opinion). There are three tillers in the boot stage, while 11 tillers and the main stem have emerged heads (of slightly different ages). For intensive small grain management, we need to pay attention to what we do at planting, so we can manage grain quality and head diseases more effectively. For example, as I walked one field, I am wondering if applying nitrogen at the late tillering stage may stimulate more tillers at the last minute, which would lengthen the window of head emergence.

I will be setting out a black cutworm trap and a common armyworm trap. These moths are being caught in high numbers in the mid-west, so we are keeping track of them in New York as well.