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Capital Area Ag Report
May 6, 2016

“It is not titles that honor men, but men that honor titles.” — Niccolo Machiavelli

Announcements

Wednesday, May 11, 6 pm—8 PM, FIELD MEETING - Rejuvenating and Renovating Hay Fields, hosted by Rick Ketterer, meet at 4268 Frederick Rd. Altamont, Albany Co. Improving hayfields and a discussion about managing native tall fescue. 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. Two CCA approved. Pesticide credits requested.

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,

http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwpr/
ttf24@cornell.edu. Questions to Aaron Gabriel, 518-380-1496 or adg12@cornell.edu. Two Pesticide & CCA credits approved.

FYI

Our solar webpage has resources and the recordings of the presentations at “Don’t Get Shocked”. Go to: http://bit.ly/NYS_Rural_Solar Get answers to questions about renting land to companies that install solar electric generation.

April’s Dairy Market Watch is now available. The pdf version can be viewed and downloaded here: http://chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu/resources/dairy-market-watch-2016-04-april-2016. You can also bookmark www.cce.cornell.edu/chautauqua/dmw where all of the past editions are posted.

NYSERDA offers energy audits to help eligible farms and on-farm producers identify ways to save energy and money on utility bills. Reports include recommendations for energy efficiency measures. Cal 800-732-1399 or nysera.ny.gov/agriculture.

Here is a list of postings to the Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program (NMSP) website so far this year:


The Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP) at Cornell University announces the availability of the Cornell Crop and Pest Management Guidelines:

Each Cornell Guideline is routinely updated by Cornell University researchers and Extension specialists to provide the latest information on pest management, crop production, and landscape plant maintenance. They are designed as practical guides for agricultural and horticultural crop producers, turf and landscape managers, crop consultants and industry advisers, Extension educators, pesticide dealers, and others working in crop or pest management.

The following Cornell Guideline titles are available:
2016 Cornell Pest Management Guidelines for Berry Crops. Includes crop and pest management information for highbush blueberries, brambles (raspberries and blackberries), strawberries, ribes (currants and gooseberries), cranberries, elderberries, and Juneberries (Saskatoons). Note that this publication does not cover home berry crop production.


2016 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes. Covers pest management strategies for juice and wine grapes. Note that this publication does not cover home grape production.

2016 Cornell Integrated Hops Production Guide. Covers site selection, nutrient management, use of cover crops, variety selection, and management of common hopyard pests.

2016 Cornell Pest Management Guidelines for Commercial Tree Fruit Production. Includes crop and pest management information for apples, pears, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums, and prunes.

2016 Cornell Pest Management Guidelines for Commercial Production and Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs. Covers management methods for insect, weed, disease, and vertebrate pests of trees and shrubs in both nurseries and landscapes. This Guide also covers Christmas tree pests.

2016 Cornell Integrated Crop and Pest Management Guidelines for Commercial Vegetable Production. Includes crop and pest management information for asparagus, beans, beets, cole crops, carrots, cucurbits, eggplant, lettuce/endive, onions, peas, peppers, potatoes, spinach, sweet corn, field tomatoes, and turnips/radishes.


Cornell Pesticide Guidelines for Managing Pests Around the Home. Includes management strategies for common household pests, annoying outdoor pests, pests of indoor and outdoor plants (including houseplants, outdoor annuals/perennials, trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables, and turfgrass), wildlife and weeds.

Cornell Guidelines are available as a print copy, online-only access, or a bundle that combines print and online access. Cornell Guidelines can be purchased from any Cornell Cooperative Extension office or through the Cornell Store at Cornell University. To order from the Cornell Store, visit http://store.cornell.edu/c-875-guidelines.aspx or call (844) 688-7620.
Aaron’s Comments

Winter Rye is almost ready for harvest as a forage; Triticale will be close behind. Rye may be ready now in the lower Hudson Valley. Get your equipment ready and check your fields. For dairy quality forage, harvest at the growth stage called Feekes 9. This is where the flag leaf (the last leaf) is showing, but its sheath is still inside the leaf below it. The seed head is wrapped in the leaf sheaths of the last two leaves.

Photo from Tom Kilcer

New Seedings of grasses and legumes can still be planted. We like to seed hay grasses before May 15th and red clover and alfalfa before May 30. However, the earlier the better. Consider using herbicides when planting alfalfa in May, since weeds are active. It is normal to have weeds in the very first harvest of a new hay seeding—annual weeds. These annuals typically do not compete after the initial harvest.
Black cutworm are being reported in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. This is typically a spotty pest, both in time and location. I have seen that some field are more prone to infestations than others—probably due to areas along hills and ridges that change air pressure and cause moths to drop out of the air currents. Large flights of armyworm have also been reported in the mid-west. Be on the look out.

Herbicides on Wheat (Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension) Most of our wheat is in Feeke’s Stage 6 (jointing) meaning that the first node is above ground. This means that the plant is no longer putting its energy into tillers (vegetative) and is focusing on stem and grain development. Plants are more susceptible to herbicide injury. A good picture review of all the Feeke’s growth stages can be found here, https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-422.pdf.

- Osprey can be applied up until Feeke’s Stage 6 (jointing) so for most fields this is not an option anymore for roughstalk bluegrass or cheat control.
- Applications of 2,4-D, Banvel, Clarity, MCPA can be risky after Feeke’s Stage 6 and is not recommended. Some labels allow up until Feeke’s Stage 9 (Boot Stage) but the risk gradually increases from GS 6 to 9.
- Harmony Extra can be applied up until flag leaf emergence (Feeke’s Stage 8) and is the best product for chickweed control.

Is Buckwheat an Option in 2016? (comments by Dr. Thomas Bjorkman, Cornell) With the low corn prices, interest in buckwheat is exceptionally strong this year. Our local mill (Birkett Mills) is contracting with growers as far as 1000 miles from the plant!

Here are a few quick answers:
All production is on contract, 95% or more of that is with Birkett Mills. There is no spot market.

- The current price is $28.50/cwt for conventional and $33.50 for organic, with normal yields being 8 to 12 cwt/ac for first-timers. Production cost is under $100 per acre, sometimes a lot under.
- Production is on a total-production basis. You buy seed from them and they buy all of your production. Seed saving is not permitted.
- Many production questions can be answered with two Cornell fact sheets. Agronomy Fact Sheet # 50: Buckwheat Production: Planting Agronomy Fact Sheet # 51: Buckwheat Production: Harvesting
There is also an online production guide designed for this region.

- While buckwheat does not require high inputs, it does require careful attention by the producer.
- Buckwheat works in established minimum-till.
- Buckwheat has high rotation value for softening the ground and for suppressing problem weeds like quackgrass. It may even be helpful for managing certain glyphosate-tolerant weeds. Beekeepers look for bee forage in August when buckwheat is blooming. Invite them to put some hives by your buckwheat.
Be on the lookout for a new invasive aphid, *Sipha maydis*, it is in the mid-west and southern US. It feeds on grasses and small grains. It is black, and unlike other aphids, it has tiny spines on its body. ([https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2016/05/03/new-cereal-aphid-sipha-maydis-expands-range-of-distribution/?](https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2016/05/03/new-cereal-aphid-sipha-maydis-expands-range-of-distribution/?))

**Small Grain Management**

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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).

Monday, July 11, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm – FIELD MEETING and GRAIN HANDLING TOUR – Small Grain Harvesting and Cleaning Management – Hosted by Ben Dobson, Stone House Farm, 3161 US Route 9, Livingston, Columbia Co. A look and discussion of harvest machinery and grain cleaning equipment.

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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.

Wednesday, July 20, 6:30 pm—8:30 pm, FIELD MEETING - Surface Drainage and Summer Hay Management (including weeds) – Hosted by Richard Apple, Apple Tree Farm, 989 Pattersonville Rynex Corner Rd., Princetown (Schenectady).

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.

*Pesticide Applicator credits requested. Two CCA credits approved for all meetings.*