Capital Area Ag Report
September 27, 2017

Announcements

Thursday, October 12, 2017, 9:30am-2:30pm - Cover Crop and Soil Health Field Day at Schoharie Valley Farms (ball field pavilion), 495 N. Main Street, Schoharie, Cost $10.00. For more info go to: https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=821

FYI

Check out the Cornell ProDairy webpage for several dairy conferences, online courses, webinars, and E-Alerts, at https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/

October 17—19, Cornell Nutrition Conference. For details to: https://ansci.cals.cornell.edu/news-events/cornell-nutrition-conference

Winter Grains: We are having unusually warm temperatures, and insects being cold-blooded animals, respond to heat. So, keep an eye on winter grains for insects and other pests. (Map out your weedy areas so you can target the weeds effectively.) In particular, keep an eye out for aphids.

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There are four aphid species in our area that affect small grain:

- **Greenbug** - its saliva is toxic to plants plus it transmits the barley yellow dwarf virus
- **Corn leaf aphid** — only causes feeding damage, no toxic saliva or disease transmission
- **Bird cherry-oat aphid** — It can transmit barley yellow dwarf virus
- **English Grain aphid** — It can transmit barley yellow dwarf virus

Feeding damage alone is not a concern unless there are many aphids per plant. The damage comes from toxic saliva (Greenbug) or virus transmission. It only takes 2 hours or less of feeding for aphids to transmit barley yellow dwarf virus (a disease of wheat, barley, and oats). So, they can transmit the virus before being killed by insecticides. It is best to rely on resistant varieties and natural enemies. Insecticides would only be justified to stop a high aphid infestation from moving within a field or to other fields.

For more information on aphids of small grains and for ID info, go to:

- **Small Grain Insect Pest Management (Minnesota)**, [https://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/small-grains/pest-management/insect-management/](https://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/small-grains/pest-management/insect-management/)