



# Cornell University Cooperative Extension

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*The Ag Report is produced  
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**The NYS IPM Weekly  
Field Crops Pest Report**  
is at [http://  
blogs.cornell.edu/  
ipmwp/](http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwp/)

**Topics in this issue:**  
Several articles and  
resources  
Check Tile Drainage  
Crop Observations

## **Capital Area Ag Report May 3, 2018**

### **Announcements**

**June - stay tuned for a grazier meeting put on by Hank Bignell and myself.**

**June 7, 2018, 9:30 am—Noon —Cornell Small Grains Field Day at the Musgrave Research Farm, 1256 Poplar Ridge Rd, Aurora, NY**

### **FYI**

A 14-minute Pesticide Resistance Management video from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=8IYld52JNvs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IYld52JNvs)

A website is now available to **track growing degree days (GDDs)** for farmers in the northeast. It allows you to estimate GDDs from planting for your zip code and to compare to 15 or 30 year means. [https://extension.psu.edu/track-  
growing-degree-days-with-this-new-online-tool](https://extension.psu.edu/track-growing-degree-days-with-this-new-online-tool)

**Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide – Mobile App**, \$2.99, at [http://mccc.msu.edu/midwest-cover-crops-field-guide-  
mobile-app/](http://mccc.msu.edu/midwest-cover-crops-field-guide-mobile-app/).

**ProDairy E-Leader newsletter has several timely articles**,  
<https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/about-us/e-leader-newsletter>

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*  
Cornell Cooperative Extension provides  
equal program and employment opportunities

Including:

- Preliminary Report #3 – Dairy Farm Business Summary and Analysis Program
- Farm Employee Compensation Benchmark
- Dairy Environmental Systems Poster on Anaerobic Digesters is Recognized
- Low Price Margin Herd Health Do's and Don'ts
- Resources for Dealing with Spring Planting Delays
- New Rules for Manure-Based Air Emission Reporting
- Looking at Leases: Part 1
- Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY Wednesday Webinars in Spanish
- Advanced Dairy Nutrition and Management Short-course

Ken Wise (NYS Field Crop IPM Specialist) has already caught a few **black cutworm (BCW)** moths in Valatie. Here is a good article on BCW, <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwpr/black-cutworm-bcw-agrotis-ipsilon-in-field-corn/>

**Forage Quality of Spring Growth**, by Jerry Cherney & Debbie Cherney (Cornell University) does a great job discussing factors affecting forage quality including differences between some new grasses—meadow fescue and festolium, <http://blogs.cornell.edu/whatscroppingup/2018/05/01/forage-quality-of-spring-growth/>

**Does Delayed Planting of Spring Wheat Mean Lower Yields?** From Illinois, an excellent article about why we plant spring grains early, yet is show data for wheat, that in many years, yield was still good for late-planted spring wheat. <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/cpr/plant-science/does-delayed-planting-of-spring-wheat-mean-lower-yields-05-03-18>

**Management of Stored Grain Pests in Organic Systems**, a good article from Penn State is at, [https://extension.psu.edu/management-of-stored-grain-pests-in-organic-systems?j=21781&sfmc\\_sub=25490375&l=159\\_HTML&u=4189781&mid=7234940&jb=7](https://extension.psu.edu/management-of-stored-grain-pests-in-organic-systems?j=21781&sfmc_sub=25490375&l=159_HTML&u=4189781&mid=7234940&jb=7)

### Aaron's Comments

**What do you do on a rainy day?**

**Check your drainage lines!** You want to see clear water running out at an appropriate volume and number of days for the amount of rain. Be sure there are rocks under the falling water to prevent erosion and cutting into the bank. The path for surface water should not be the same path as the drainage pipe. Here, there is solid pipe running through the woods and a few feet into the field. This prevents



roots from growing into the drainage pipe. Be sure there is a device on the pipe outlet to prevent animals from going into it.

**First cutting**, has grown little up until now because it has been so cool. Finally the red maples are now budding out. **Grass** maturity is affected by day-length and temperature. So, time for growth in April has been lost. If temperatures in May are cool to normal, I would expect a low yielding first-cutting that is high in quality. If it turns hot, yield will go up, but quality will go down. *It is not too late to put nitrogen on grass.* **Alfalfa** maturity is dependent on heat units—about 700 Growing Degree Days at 40° F base temperature to reach 40% neutral detergent fiber (bud stage). If those 700 GDD are hot, quality will be low. If the 700 GDD accumulate from here out with moderate temperatures, quality will be high.

Check alfalfa fields with heavy soils (clays, less than well-drained soils) for heaving. Here is a prime specimen of a heaved alfalfa plant.



**Winter barley** typically does not overwinter well in our region. It does okay on other parts of New York. Plants will heave out of the soil, like alfalfa. I was seeing new root growth on some heaved barley plants. So maybe they will recover somewhat. You may also find snow mold in any winter grain and grass fields. It is caused by several fungi that rot away the leaves under the snow. There has been a lot of snow mold this spring.

Apply nitrogen ASAP can increase the number of tillers before stem elongation. Axial is a newly herbicide for barley that controls many annual grasses.

**Are you anxious to plant corn? Do not mud it in.** Be patient and plant corn in good conditions. Many a crop has been ruined by planting into wet sticky soil that does not allow the furrow to close properly and smearing the walls of the seed furrow.

**Pastures –Give the pasture a chance to grow and send some energy to the roots before you graze off the leaves.** It should be 8 inches tall (a little shorter for bluegrass). Grazing too early sets back the plants for the rest of the season. Plants need some time to rejuvenate after a long winter. Feed animals outside the paddock. Maybe give them an hour a day to acclimate them to the pasture, since they have spring fever too.